

OUR CITIES

A Masterpiece in the Art of Hospitality

2018 witnessed yet more exciting developments in the ongoing partnership between The Hongkong and Shanghai Hotels and the dynamic world of contemporary art. We believe our discerning guests appreciate beauty and we are pleased to support local contemporary artists in the communities in which we operate, as well as celebrating timeless classics.

Coinciding with The Peninsula Hong Kong's 90th anniversary, a veritable treasure trove of 18 paintings and sculptures by Colombian artist Fernando Botero took up residence at the hotel for most of the year, garnering a significant amount of attention from both guests and visitors alike.

Botero's romance with The Peninsula actually began in November 2015, when the artist staged an exhibition of large proportions – "Botero in China" – at the National Museum of China in Beijing, near Tiananmen Square. The exhibition then moved south to the China Art Palace in Shanghai in January 2016, and it was at this time that The Peninsula Shanghai partnered with UBS to present the exhibition, additionally hosting a series of events in the artist's honour.

Following the overwhelming success of the "Botero Sojourn" at The Peninsula Hong Kong throughout 2018, the hotel has announced the extension of this iconic artist's exhibition in June 2019, which will feature 13 different pieces.

With the continuing success of Art Basel, Art Central and other major art fairs in Hong Kong, local artists and galleries are actively connecting with art-loving audiences. The Peninsula Hong Kong's "An Art Dialogue with Hong Kong" Academy programme allows guests to actively engage with the city's thriving contemporary art scene by visiting artists' studios, galleries and conversing with a local art expert.

“The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls”
– Pablo Picasso



Our Cities



At The Peninsula Beijing, the hotel's art gallery displays innovative exhibitions showcasing works by the current resident artist. Meetings in the top floor art studio with the artist-in-residence can be arranged for a closer look at the creative process and one-on-one discussions.

Not only does the hotel host a variety of art-appreciation cocktail parties at the gallery, it also has deep connections to the key players in Beijing's contemporary art scene. Private tours to notable institutions and invitations to exclusive art dinners and exhibition previews can all be arranged through The Peninsula Beijing's "Keys to the City" programme.

2018 marked Turkish Tourism Year in China and with The Peninsula Istanbul under construction it was fitting that The Peninsula Beijing supported this occasion through art. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, the Turkish Embassy in Beijing and Turkish Airlines, the hotel welcomed four renowned Turkish artists – Devrim Erbil, Yalcin Gokcebag, Ahmet Yesil, and Metin Kalkizoglu – to take up art residencies at the hotel.

Through its Academy programme "A Window on Chinese Contemporary Art", The Peninsula Beijing gives guests the opportunity to visit two selected art studios in the city to watch the artists at work, ask questions and learn more about their techniques and inspirations. Artists include Peng Wei (multi-media), Wu Qiong (painting), Gao Xiao Wu (sculpture), and Zhou Ying Chao (painting).

2018 saw a successful partnership between The Peninsula Bangkok and the inaugural Bangkok Art Biennale, which in its first edition aimed to promote art as an inclusive expression of human emotions and to celebrate the power of paintings, installations, video and performance art to inspire pleasure and positivity in challenging times. Throughout the four-month event, The Peninsula was an official partner venue, and showcased an eclectic collection of art pieces, enabling hotel guests to interact with thought-provoking installations by both local and international artists.

In the US, as part of its 30th anniversary celebrations in 2018, The Peninsula New York presented a specially-curated art



exhibition featuring exceptionally prominent artists of the 1980s. From the moment guests arrive to the hotel, they were greeted with museum-quality works of art which included original pieces by Andy Warhol, Keith Haring, Jean-Michael Basquiat, Barbara Krueger, Francesco Clemente and Michael Halsband. Notable pieces in the show included Keith Haring's *Untitled*, a work from 1984, along with Andy Warhol's collection of *10 Campbell's Soup Cans*, previously on view in the upper lobby seating area of the hotel.

The exhibition was part of Circa 1881's ongoing partnership with The Peninsula Hotels to present rotating art exhibitions of world-class contemporary art, consisting of inventory from private collections that the company has under management. In addition, The Peninsula New York partnered with Martos Gallery and a variety of additional private collectors.

For the fourth consecutive year, The Peninsula Chicago hosted a contemporary art exhibition to coincide with the seventh edition of Expo Chicago, the International Exposition of Contemporary & Modern Art.

Entitled "But I'm on The Guest List!", the exhibition was curated by The FLAG Art Foundation and brought together the work of contemporary artists including Jennifer Dalton, Elmgreen & Dragset, Ewan Gibbs, Awol Erizku, Josephine Meckseper, Tom Sachs, Cindy Sherman, Yuken Teruya and Chicago's own Carlos Rolón. The selection of artworks playfully peppered the hotel's public spaces, mingling form and function, high and low culture, and humorously commenting on the trappings of VIP status.

Chicago-based Rolón had two site-specific installations, one of which was his gold leaf and oil painting, *Gild the Lily (Decadence upon Decadence IV)*. The second was an intimate Caribbean seating area entitled *Bochinche* after a Spanish slang term for "gossip," responding to the aesthetic beauty and functionality of the space.

"I was truly delighted to present my recent work at The Peninsula Chicago," said Rolón. "As a Chicago-based artist, it gave me so much pleasure to show in my hometown, and the beautiful environment of the hotel served as the perfect backdrop."