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Preview by Adam Majendie



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April 1 (Bloomberg) -- Gary Sng, who set up **Collectors Contemporary Pte.** in Singapore with Alvin Koh, casts a puzzled eye at the dozens of screen prints by **Andy Warhol**, trying to answer that irksome question: Which is your favorite?

"Every day I change my mind," he said in an interview on March 30. "I always liked the electric-chair series. For me, when I look at it, it's so happy. The power of the color completely takes away the gloom."

Warhol's "Electric Chairs," from 1971, show the death chamber in New York's Sing Sing prison in 1953, where Julius and **Ethel Rosenberg** were executed on charges of spying for the Soviet Union. (Ethel survived the first 57-second shock and had to be restrapped into the chair for two more jolts.)

The 10 screen prints on paper are part of the exhibition "100 Warhols (Plus Twenty Servings of Soup on the Side)" that opened on March 27 and runs through June 5 at the gallery, tucked away in a light-industrial park in the west of the city.

The soup, of course, refers to two screen-print series of Warhol's iconic "Campbell's Soup" pictures, which greet visitors as they enter the gallery.

Both sets have 10 prints with one of the famous red-and-white tins in each picture, differentiated by flavor. The first, from 1968, is priced at \$680,000. The second, from a year later, is \$435,000. Don't bother to ask if you can just buy one can. Sng won't break up the sets.

Signed Magazines

This is the main opening show for Sng and Koh's first gallery. The Warhols took about nine years to collect, Sng said. Most are screen-print series, but the exhibition has the feeling of a retrospective, with other ephemera on display such as signed copies of Interview magazine, started by Warhol.

There is also a 1967 disposable paper "Souper Dress" offered to customers by Campbell's in exchange for a dollar and two soup labels.

Prices range from about \$7,000 for signed posters, to \$2.5 million for the paint and silkscreen ink on canvas "Rebel Without a Cause" (1985), showing **James Dean** in a Japanese promotional ad for the film.

Collectors Contemporary is at 5 Jalan Kilang Barat. Information: +65-6878-0103 or <http://www.collectors.com.sg>.

Xu Retrospective

The **Singapore Art Museum** opens a solo exhibition of works by **Xu Beihong** (1895-1953) on April 4. Xu bridged traditional Chinese ink and Western techniques that he acquired studying oil painting in Paris in the 1920s.

While he continued to make mostly traditional Chinese ink works -- horses were a particular favorite -- Xu produced numerous works from his travels in Europe, Japan and Southeast Asia. Xu's oil "Put Down Your Whip," painted in 1939 during his stay in Singapore, sold for HK\$72 million (\$9.2 million) a year ago at **Christie's International** in Hong Kong, an auction record for a Chinese painting at the time.

The exhibition at SAM, in partnership with the Xu Beihong Museum in Beijing, has 90 works drawn from public and private collections around the world.

"Xu Beihong in Nanyang" runs through July 13. Information: +65-6332-3222, or go to <http://www.nhb.gov.sg/SAM/Home/>.

(Adam Majendie writes for Bloomberg News. The opinions expressed are his own.)

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