



JAPAN LIFE - THINGS TO DO IN TOKYO - ART & CULTURE

Contemporary Artists To Watch in 2025 From Art Fair Tokyo

Asia's oldest art fair presents an exciting selection of today's artists, acclaimed worldwide for their bold compositions and rich metaphors

BY EUGENIE SHIN

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It is an unusually frigid March morning in the Yurakucho business district, but the majestic halls of Tokyo International Forum are abuzz with anticipation as dealers and journalists gather to survey this year's art market. [Art Fair Tokyo](#), the largest art fair in Japan and the oldest in Asia, is presenting 139 galleries this year from March 7-9, aiming to introduce the city's vibrant art scene to the world.

The fair covers a broad spectrum of genres and periods, from antiques and crafts to nihonga painting, modern art and contemporary works. Notably, the event offers a rare opportunity to explore Japan's most prominent galleries and vanguard artworks at once. Last year's fair drew a record ¥328 million in sales, painting a promising future ahead for the country's mature art market and boundless creative spirit.

Particularly robust among this year's pool of creatives is the incredible selection of contemporary artists. Boldly experimental in formal innovation and transcending geographical and temporal context through intertextuality, the artists represented below continue to make their mark on today's prismatic, cosmopolitan art market.



"THE MAN SLEEPING" (2025), RAO FU | ACRYLIC ON CANVAS 70X101X4 CM | PERROTIN

Rao Fu

Synthesizing the intense, emotional color experience of the German Expressionist tradition and the fluid energy of Chinese calligraphy, [Rao Fu](#) is a singular painter known for his enigmatic landscapes. His bicultural background certainly influences his unique approach — born in Beijing, Fu studied at the Dresden Academy of Fine Arts and is now based in the vibrant artistic city.

Fu's dreamlike compositions are at once intimidatingly foreign and hypnotically resonant; the jarring gaze and eerie forms of his subjects distance spectators, yet his pieces also possess a deeply human, psychological quality that transcends this estrangement. Magnetic and peculiarly touching, Fu's paintings demand an extended gaze. At this year's Art Fair Tokyo, Fu is represented by [Perrotin](#).

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COURTESY OF ART FAIR TOKYO

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