



BY BUTTERBOOM WRITERS / MARCH 13, 2014

Australian born **Jules Lambe** started **Gaffer Ltd**(<http://www.gaffer.com.hk/>) in 2003. Julie was a pioneer in bringing glass art to Hong Kong. With Gaffer Ltd she brought art works from Australian glass artists to Hong Kong. Her work in art has evolved from a gallery representing artists to an art consultancy firm with an portfolio of big hotel brands like Peninsula, Four Seasons, Hyatt, Mandarin Oriental and Venetian Macau.

She actively champions Australian based Asian artists like Chinese painter – Song Ling who's been at Christies and introducing them to the Hong Kong, Asia and International art scenes with exhibitions in Asia and Los Angeles and at the Venice Biennale. Always stylish, Jules talks art with Butterboom with insight on emerging Asian artists.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and how you got into Art..

I grew up in Adelaide in Australia and moved to Melbourne when I was 21. I'm a bit of a nomad, I moved to Hong Kong in 2001, I lived in Dublin and Tokyo. I studied art, design and photography but didn't start my art business till later.

I started out working as an apprentice pastry chef for an executive party chef which led to a Michelin star restaurant in Dublin. However my passion was always in Art, I had always collected art. I was on holiday in Hong Kong and saw how the art scene was just taking off, I decided to jump into the market for their work in Hong Kong and this led to my first art fair in 2003. I also love the fact that with the art business, I get to fulfill my love of travelling, visiting artists and exhibiting their work at art fairs in lots of the major cities in Asia, Los Angeles and London too.



Art is...

My passion and my professional career.

A quote that inspires you..

Be kind to yourself and in return you be kind and generous to your friends and loved ones.

Asian Artists are a good investment because...

Investing is buying anything with the view of potential growth to resell at profit. You are really just on the same basis principle when investing in art. Asia's growth over the decade and moving forward has been a natural upside and with more wealth being created in this part of the world, work by Asian artists naturally has a higher potential for growth.

If you are interested in investment, start by visiting gallery exhibitions. Young emerging artists that are consistently exhibiting locally and internationally in solo, groups, biennales or museum shows or have a wider international audience of collectors are a safer bet for resale on the secondary market. However, you should always buy artwork you like first and foremost.



Best advice you can give to someone who is looking to start collecting art..

1. Visit lots of art galleries, museum, art auctions and exhibitions.
2. Don't be afraid to ask lots of questions.
3. Read as much as you can. In fact subscribe to art publications like Asia Art News, they have been writing about Asian Art for over 20 years.
4. Do your research. Visit Asian Art Archive, they have an amazing library of Asian art.
5. More importantly, buy the work you like.

What have you bought and why did you buy them?

I bought an oil and red pencil canvas piece from **Terri Brooks**. She is a Melbourne based artist exhibited in London, Germany and Australia.

I also have a collection of small original ink and pencil on paper by Chinese artist- **Graham Kuo** Sydney. His work is collected by MOMO and is in numerous museum collections. His work is an eastern and western abstraction that I relate to.

I also own a collection of blue and white North Korean ceramics I brought when on holiday in 2000.

Top 10 Asian artists to watch...

I have always thought that Thai artists are under-rated. There's **Jakkai Siributi** and **Kamin Lertchai** are at top on my list of artists to watch out for. The Guggenheim have a vast collection of his work exhibited at the Venice and Sydney Biennale.

Other Thai artists to watch are **Niti Wattuya**, Designer **Korakot** who exhibited at the Milan design week. Marina Bay Sands in Singapore has bought some pieces of his work.

Chinese oil painter **Chen Ping** has exhibited in the 2013 Venice Biennale and has staged major shows in Beijing mid 2014.

Song Ling his 85 New Wave works have been widely published in various books on Chinese Contemporary Art. When he came to Melbourne in 1988 he was unknown in the Chinese art world until he sold his work at Sothebys in 2012. Song Ling will have his first retrospective exhibition featuring artworks across Australia including loaned works from Yuz Foundation & Long museum in Shanghai.

Hanoi based **Glen Clarke** is also someone to watch, his work has attracted the attention from international curators and collectors.

Also look at Indonesia artists such as **Eddie Hara**, **Alfi Jumaldi**.

Annie Hsiao-Wen Wang who's a Taiwanese had two sell out exhibition in Taiwan and Sydney in 2011 and was selected into the Wynne Prize held in the art gallery of New South Wales.



Top 3 Emerging Artists...

- Vietnamese artist **Truong Tan**.
- Chinese contemporary ink **Wang Tiande**.
- Korean master modernism artist **Park Seo Bo**, he is considered the grand- father of Contemporary Korean art.

Top 10 galleries in Hong Kong to visit..

- White Cube(<http://whitecube.com/>), contemporary art gallery own by Jay Jopling famous for the leading British artist of our times like Damien Hirst,Tracy Emin.

- [Art Statements](http://www.artstatements.com/) – Gallery director Dominique has amazing staff and Asian artists including Dale Frank.
- [Rossi & Rossi](http://www.rossirossi.com/) has an interesting stable of Middle Eastern, Asian art and antiques.
- [Grotto](http://www.grottofineart.com/) host lots of exhibition of some of Hong Kong best artists.
- [Sin Sin](http://www.sinsin.com.hk/) offers a good stable of work by Indonesia artists.
- [Feast Projects](http://www.feastprojects.com/) has an amazing space in Ap Lei Chau.
- [Studio Rouge](http://www.studiorouge.cn/) Hollywood Road where I exhibit artists I represent.
- [Plum Blossoms](http://www.plumblossoms.com/) new gallery in Wong Chuk Hang.
- [Pekin Fine Arts](http://www.pekinfinearts.com/) again in Wong Chuk Hang.

Most important art fair to attend...

- Venice Biennale
- Sydney Biennale
- Milan Design Fair
- Sculpture by the Sea, Sydney
- Art Basel in Basel



Describe your style...

Classic and tailored.

What does your work wardrobe consist of mostly?

I like to mix and match high street fashion with the luxury brand pieces I have. It can be a simple I would accessorized with Hermes or Loewe belts. They are timeless pieces to invest in. My clothing is stylish and comfortable as working in art industry means I am packing and unpacking works of art.

A style mantra..

I have a few..coming from Australia where the sun is very strong, I am paranoid about my skin. I use sunscreen and invest in good skin care products. Find a good tailor to tweak off the rack clothes. Find a good hair dresser. I go to Pauline at The Firm who's been cutting my hair since 2002.

3 Online shops I shop at...

- [ASOS](http://ad.zanox.com/ppc/?27450910C401223136T&ULP=)(<http://ad.zanox.com/ppc/?27450910C401223136T&ULP=>) has a wide variety of styles and sales are great
- Victoria Secret for their undies and swimwear
- Ella Bache for my sunscreen

Top sites to buy art online ...

- Amazon art online is amazing, it has over 55,000 galleries now and it is growing every day
- Artnet online auctions
- Visiting the gallery website becoming popular for galleries to include online buying now

Photographer: Joyce Yung(<http://www.joyceyung.com/>)

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