#ARTSHOW: Modern Abstraction With An Asian Sensibility

On exhibit now until March 6th, at the non-profit Para Site Art Space in Hong Kong, is a unique curation by Executive Director/Curator, Cosmin Costinas, and frequent collaborator, Inti Guerrero, of various works by notable 20th Century Abstract artists from around the globe. The exhibition, titled “The World is Our Home. A Poem On Abstraction”, juxtaposes the works of American artist Robert Motherwell (b.1915-1991), Thai artist Tang Chang (b. 1934-1990), Japanese/Brazilian artist Tomie Ohtake (b.1913-2015), and American artist Bruce Nauman (b.1941), within the space as a gesture by Para Site to seek a formal thread among the works of these four artists, which in effect re-frames the historical narrative as one maybe tied to an overt Asian sensibility, and to re-present the context of the works via this new frame.
The show will cater to fans of 20th century abstract painting in general, while simultaneously speaking to those who adore classic Chinese or Japanese Calligraphy and Scroll vignettes. Walking through the exhibition, I got excited at looking at the various ways in which paint has been applied to surface by brush.

Additionally, the subject matter and execution is wide, and for some artists like Ohtake, there’s much variation even within her selection of works. Overt associations with the Asian-ness of the works is pretty obvious, hence why this exhibition is a great fit in this city.

Via Para Site:

“The world is our home” is part of Para Site’s series of groundbreaking exhibitions employing a speculative approach to the art histories that need to be written around our regions. The exhibition takes as its point of departure a moment in the abstract movement of the post-war era, when dominant international vocabularies became entangled with traditional Asian painting in the work of a few artists, working independently and in disparate contexts. The show gathers a small but consistent body of works by Motherwell, Ohtake, and Tang, three abstract painters active outside of East Asia whose experimental practices incorporated artistic traditions of this region. The juxtaposition of these artists brings into light formal similarities as well as distinctiveness in their appropriation of ink painting and calligraphy. At the same time, it points out how their respective contexts each incorporated the aesthetic and political paradigms delivered by the Cold War, and how each of the artists carved their own position amidst these circumstances.”

In other news, we congratulate Para Site Art Space, for winning a Prudential Eye Award last week. It’s a much deserved award for them.