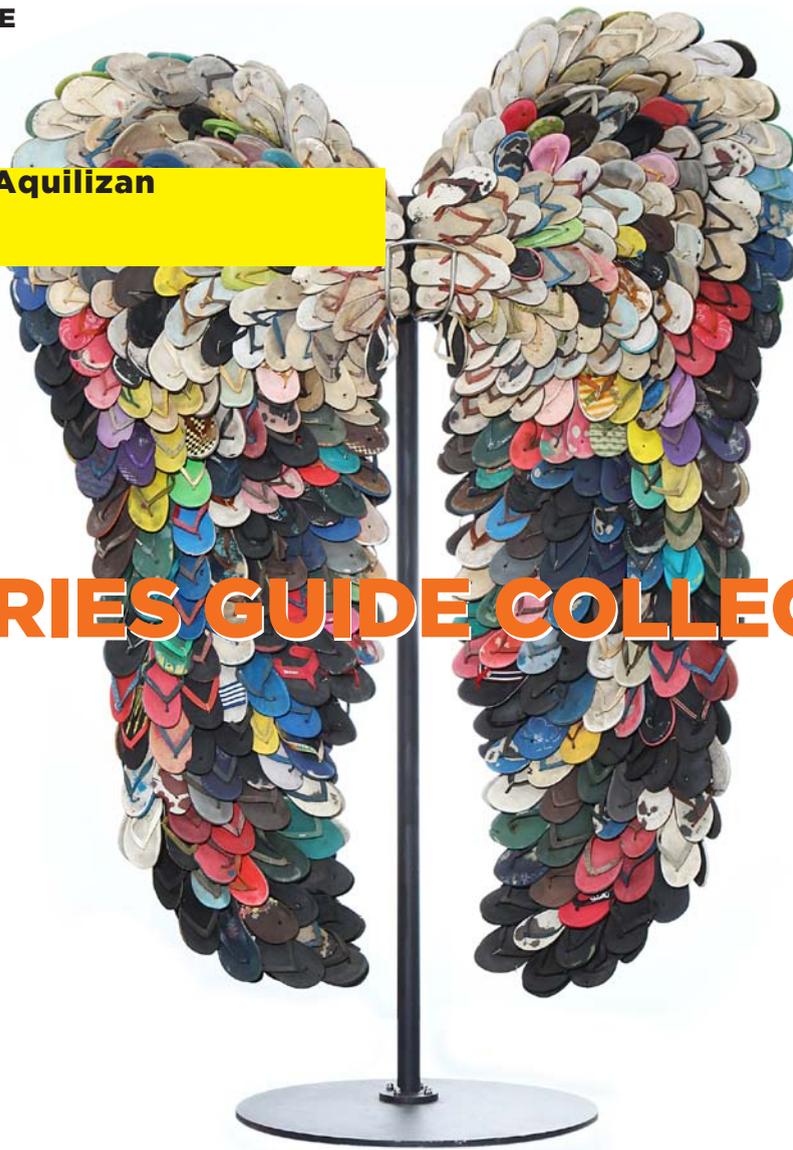


Wings III_ Aquilizan



GALLERIES GUIDE COLLECTORS

Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, Wings III, 2009 in a collection that breaks through cultural boundaries

By Bonnie Engel

As collectors become more international so too are the artists and galleries that serve them.

“Artists living outside their cultures form a third culture of their own,” Sundaram Tagore of Sundaram Tagore Galleries and Tagore Foundation International told *FinanceAsia* ahead of the 56th Venice Biennale, which opens on May 9.

A descendent of Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore, Tagore runs two galleries in New York: one in Hong Kong on Hollywood Road and one in Singapore at Gillman Barracks, which is now home to 17 international art galleries.

“Galleries need to be located in different countries and cultures because that is where the collectors are,” Tagore said. “We have to be comfortable with people of all nationalities, in the gallery, at the art fair and over dinner. The art world is absolutely interdependent these days.”

Tagore’s new exhibition “Frontiers Reimagined” is timed to coincide with the opening of the Venice Biennale and epitomises this global approach. Located at the Museo di Palazzo Grimani, the non-commercial programme is co-curated with Marius Kwint, an American-born art historian who teaches Visual Culture at the University of Portsmouth in the U.K.

Showcasing the work of 44

“Galleries need to keep up by becoming more international”

—Sundaram Tagore, Sundaram Tagore Galleries

artists, “Frontiers Reimagined” was solicited by new Venice Biennale curator, Nigerian-born Okwui Enwezor. The exhibition explores the theme of cultural boundaries through new and recent works, some of which were created specifically for the presentation by emerging artists from Asia, Africa, and Latin America as well as in Europe and North America.

Morgan Wong, a conceptual artist from Hong Kong, is among the 44 artists

represented, as are Korean Kim Joon, and Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan of the Philippines.

“Galleries are the only free institutions in the art market, unlike museums and art fairs, which are usually sponsored,” Tagore said.

“If gallery owners like collectors they offer free catalogues and advice, guide them to emerging artists and have private discussions and screenings of new art,” he said.