

CULTURE+TRAVEL

Must-See New Public Art Across the Globe

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Shanghai: "Tribute to Mandela" by Phil Akashi

In the [Shanghai Graffiti Park](#) (No. 709 Lingshi Road, inside the Electric Industrial Park), Belgian-born [Shanghai](#)-based artist **Phil Akashi** has created a mural of Nelson Mandela using a boxing glove to which he attached a seal engraved with the Chinese characters for "freedom." After dipping the glove in black cinnabar paste, Akashi punched the wall 27,000 times to print a monumental portrait, called "**Tribute to Mandela**." Inspired by Mandela's lifelong stand for freedom and equality, Akashi's seal painting can be considered a way to promote democracy through art in politically restrictive China. — *Yiquan Wang*



Yrsula von Rydingsvard "Ona" at the Barclay's Center in Brooklyn, NYC -- Photo by Piotr Redlinski



New York City: Barclays Center

The contemporary art commissions at Brooklyn's **Barclays Center** keep on coming as the behemoth arena recently installed **Brooklyn-based** artist **Ursula von Rydingsvard's** 20-foot bronze sculpture "Ona" out in front. "Ona," which in Polish means "her," is constructed from 50 individually-cast bronze sections. The installation of the sculpture comes just before the screening of a new Brooklyn-themed video work by artist collective **OpenEndedGroup** to mark Barclays's one year anniversary. The new video, "All Day," which is set to debut on the entrance's outdoor video screen October 10, is the group's second Barclays outing, as their video "After Ghostcatching" inaugurated the new building in 2012 along with a **Mickalene Thomas** mural and a 70-foot-long painting by Miami-born, Brooklyn-based artist **José Parlá**. Barclays board-member **David Berliner**, who is responsible for the contemporary art programming, appears to be positioning the arena as not only a sports, shopping,



Singapore: "Planet" by Marc Quinn

It's a big baby by a big-name artist set in **Singapore's** hottest tourist destination: the manicured **Gardens by the Bay**. Inspired by the artist's son, **Marc Quinn's** "Planet" is a 30-foot, 7-ton behemoth on permanent display, but appears to be light as air, floating like a balloon off the ground. Critically, opinion has been **pretty mixed**, but as far as the visitors are concerned, it's still a fantastic photo opportunity amidst the horticultural genius of the 250-acre garden, reminding one about the fragility and wonder of life (helps that the **Marina Bay Sands** is in the background, too). The sculpture is also a favorite of bridal photography companies, probably to give Asian couples on an "auspicious" start to their family-making efforts. —*Adeline Chia*



Marc Quinn "Planet" in Singapore -- Courtesy of OzMark17 via Flickr



Japan: Ark Nova by Anish Kapoor

Working together with renowned Metabolist architect Arata Isozaki, **Anish Kapoor** has designed **Ark Nova**, the world's first inflatable concert hall, which will tour parts of Japan's Tohoku region that were devastated by the quake and tsunami of March 2011. The Ark will initially be stationed in Matsushima City, where it will host a Japanese version of the **Swiss Lucerne Festival**, featuring kabuki artists, a range of both traditional and contemporary concerts, performances by the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra, and youth ensembles directed by Ryuichi Sakamoto and Yoshihide Otomo. The sinuous, organic curves that have become a Kapoor trademark have been deftly translated into a vivid purple balloon-like membrane that projects a softly luminous glow from the interior when sunlight from the outside is refracted through its translucent surface. The 500-capacity mobile artwork is particularly poignant in the context of post-Fukushima Japan, where recent projects by contemporary artists have struggled to engage the question of what art can do in the face of the sobering physical realities that have been brought about by the disaster. —*Darryl Jingwen Wee*



Anish Kapoor's Ark Nova inflatable symphony hall in Tohoku, Japan -- Photos © Lucerne Festival Ark Nova 2013