

‘Bonsai’ blockbuster

Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and more superstar artists in STPI’s summer show

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A FUNCTIONAL hairdryer, a big inflatable balloon flower and a brass gilded fly swatter are just some of the things you’ll find scattered around the Singapore Tyler Print Institute.

But they’re no ordinary objects. These are works of art created by some of the biggest names in contemporary art today: Damien Hirst, Jeff Koons and Ai Weiwei.

What Goes Up Must Come Down, *Inflatable Balloon Flower* and *Swatter* are just three of the 205 artworks to be found in *200 Artworks, 25 Years: Artists’ Editions For Parkett*, STPI’s annual blockbuster summer show presented by SC Global.

The truly impressive list also includes Andy Warhol, Anish Kapoor, Mathew Barney, John Baldessari, Maurizio Cattelan, Yayoi Kusama, Tracey Emin, among others.

STPI director Emi Eu described the exhibition as a “small museum but a big library”.

“It’s a mini survey of a quarter of a century of contemporary art and the perfect opportunity for Singaporeans to see all these contemporary artists.”

The must-see show is a veritable coup for the institute, which has close ties with *Parkett*, the international arts journal responsible for the works seen.

The collection, estimated to be worth a total of US\$1.5 million (\$2 million), is a travelling show. Prior to Singapore, it was

exhibited in Nagoya, Japan.

The works were created by the artists in collaboration with *Parkett*.

Published three times a year, the journal features around three artists per issue and collaborates with them on creating art works made specifically for the publication in editions ranging from 40 to 60.

With a print run of 10,000, the exclusive magazine can only be found in 500 specialised art bookstores worldwide. Its most recent issue, its 87th, was published last month.

Incidentally, *Parkett* co-founder and editor-in-chief Bice Curiger was just recently appointed director of the 54th Venice Biennale in 2011.

The first issue was published in 1984. “In the early ’80s, art was more local. We felt there was an interesting bridge opportunity between Europe and the US,” said publisher Dieter Von Graffenried.

Since the early ’90s, Asian artists have been included in the illustrious list of who’s who in the international scene. And while the initial edition works were confined

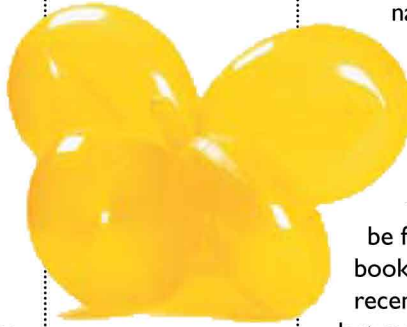
to the parameters of the magazine’s space — with reproductions

inserted into the issues, the artists’ works have eventually jumped out of the pages, to include sculptures, “toys”,

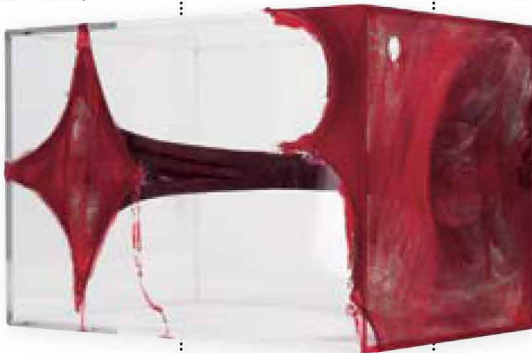
mini-figurines and even jewellery.

“(These) are scaled down, bonsai versions of the artist’s work,” said Von Graffenried.

200 Artworks, 25 Years: Artists’ Editions for Parkett opens is from tomorrow until July 17, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, 41 Robertson Quay. Von Graffenried will hold a walkthrough tomorrow at 2.30pm.



Inflatable Balloon Flower
by Jeff Koons



Untitled
by Anish Kapoor



Swatter
by Ai Weiwei