



Aspen Insurance Holdings Ltd, London, United Kingdom

“Our longstanding interest in art has evolved with our business and we are passionate about supporting artists whose creativity and innovation are an integral part of their work. With the emphasis of our collection on contemporary art, we are proudly now also helping an emerging generation of artists through our online art award at a time when support of the arts by business is vitally important.”

Chris O’Kane, Group CEO of Aspen

FIONA RAE
I Feel Comfortable with my Heart Exhilarated, 2004
Oil and acrylic on canvas
231 x 190 cm

Year of foundation / 2002
Curator / Fabienne Nicholas and Helen Nisbet at Contemporary Art Society
Location / London Head office and in Aspen's offices around the world
Size of the Collection / 275 works, 150 artists
Key artists / ALEX KATZ, FIONA RAE, GABRIEL OROZCO, CHRIS OFILI, NAN GOLDIN, MARK DION, PETER DOIG, FISCHLI/WEISS, JOHN BALDESSARI
Focus / International Contemporary Art, emphasis on landscape and place
Website / www.aspenart.co

In 2002, Aspen Insurance Holdings Ltd was founded in Bermuda. One year later, the fast-moving company, which operates within the global markets for property and casualty insurance (Aspen Insurance), as well as in reinsurance (Aspen Re), already floated on the New York Stock Exchange. As of 31 December 2013, the company had roughly 7.4 billion euros in total assets and 945 employees in 31 wholly-owned subsidiaries and offices across the globe. The Aspen Art Collection is equally impressive and fast-growing, with currently more than 275 works by nearly 150 internationally acclaimed and emerging artists. The works are displayed in Aspen's offices across the globe, from Bermuda to Singapore, the United Kingdom and Ireland to the United States, as well as in France, Germany and Switzerland. The collection takes an "expanded concept of landscape and place" as its starting point, offering a window onto the world through a broad range of media, including painting, sculpture, photography and the moving image – and, most recently, also online.

Each Aspen office presents works by artists who live and work in the respective area as a way of exploring the ideas and sensibilities of place. The local collections thus reflect the idiosyncrasies of the host countries. At the same time, this strategy helps the company support and create sustainable connections to the local art scene – a true symbiosis of "art and economy" and a living symbol of responsible Corporate Citizenship. In addition to giving something back to the local community, the Aspen Art Collection also stimulates creativity within the company itself, demonstrating its commitment to opening itself up to new cultural experiences and helping the company as a whole move forward within the new globalized society and economy of the 21st century.

The Aspen Art Collection places works by some of the world's most important contemporary artists

alongside that of younger, less experienced artists, identified for their promise and critical recognition. Paintings, sculptures and video works by the likes of such established masters of contemporary art as the American conceptual painter JOHN BALDESSARI, the French-American "Grand Dame" of contemporary sculpture LOUISE BOURGEOIS, who died in 2010 at the ripe old age of 98, and the post-Pop portrait painter Alex Katz, as well as artists of the mid-generation, such as the Swiss duo PETER FISCHLI & DAVID WEISS, the Mexican conceptual artist GABRIEL OROZCO and the Hong Kong-born British painter FIONA RAE, as well as the Trinidad-based UK artists PETER DOIG and CHRIS OFILI. Works by these and other internationally acclaimed artists are natural role models when it comes to making the best of the new globalised society and are exhibited in conjunction with works by exciting emerging artists, such as the young Swiss shooting star, CLAUDIA COMTE (b. 1982 in Grancy, lives and works in Berlin), or SAM PULITZER (b. 1984 in New Hampshire), one of New York's perhaps most controversial young artists, who is also active as a writer and uncompromising art critic. In this way, Aspen invests in the cultural future of people, aligning the company's ethos to a supportive approach to art and creativity. This strategy of placing works by both established and emerging artists side-by-side is a reflection of Aspen's Corporate Culture: In the various offices, young business talents also work together with long-standing experts in the field.

The collection was initiated immediately following the company's founding and works are added on a regular basis in order to remain current and relevant. In 2008, the London-based Contemporary Art Society (CAS) was appointed as advisor and the collection has continued to expand exponentially ever since. The choice of CAS as advisor was motivated not only by



HOPE GANGLOFF
Lininus, 2010
Acrylic on canvas
152 x 266 cm



ZOE WALKER & NEIL BROMWICH
Celestial Radio – Day, 2004
(London Meeting Room)

“We take great pride and pleasure in the development of the Aspen Art Collection. The collection enriches both the office environment, giving creative inspiration to the Aspen team, and adds a unique dimension to the company identity.”

Fabienne Nicholas,
Head of Art Consultancy, Contemporary Art Society

their undisputed expertise in the field of international contemporary art, but also by the way the CAS functions as a non-profit organisation. As a charity, the money earned by CAS from curating Aspen's collection is thus invested in the organisation's mission, namely to purchase contemporary artworks for museums and galleries across the United Kingdom. The main points of contact and primary advisors at CAS are Fabienne Nicholas, Head of Consultancy, and Helen Nisbet, responsible for developing and implementing projects. Internally, the Aspen Art Collection is driven

primarily by the Group CEO, Chris O'Kane, who has a keen personal passion for contemporary art and a strong belief in the relevance and benefits of art in the workplace. “Together,” O'Kane emphasizes, “Aspen and CAS have built up and moulded a collection that articulates mutual ideas of perspective and innovation, of seeing the world and its risks in new ways and responding with new solutions.” Staff are encouraged to engage with the collection on various levels. In addition to catalogues made available in all offices, the Aspen Art website provides information on all works in the collection, complemented by news features on what the artists represented are up to, and online exhibitions bringing together works from Aspen's various offices around the world. Furthermore, in cooperation with the Contemporary Art Society, Aspen also hosts numerous talks, guided tours and discussions revolving around issues touched upon by the works in the collection. All staff are encouraged to attend such events and participate actively in the

fascinating dialogue between contemporary art, social responsibility and the global economy. Furthermore, senior staff members are also invited to art fairs and studios to research potential artists and artworks for future acquisitions.

In 2014, the Contemporary Art Society initiated the Aspen Online Art Award, which is endowed with £ 5,000 for an emerging artist working in the rapidly growing field of digital art. The winner is invited to create a new work specifically for the Aspen website. The inaugural prize went to the London-based Taiwanese artist YI-CHUN LIN, who draws his inspiration from traditional Chinese landscape painting and oriental philosophy. “We are passionate about supporting artists whose creativity and innovation are an integral part of their work,” O'Kane explains. For the CEO and passionate art enthusiast, Aspen's success owes a great deal to creativity and “thinking out of the box”. “Regardless of the apparently technical nature of underwriting, actuarial and operational work, there is an element of imagination required to figure out the problems that need solutions – and make the solutions relevant to today's world.”



KEVIN LANDERS
Untitled (Chinatown Trash Bags), 1999
C print
51 x 61 cm