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Strong Sales and Visitor Figures mark Inaugural Edition of TRESOR contemporary craft

Basel, 25th September 2017: The first edition of TRESOR contemporary craft, Europe's new fair for high-end craft and contemporary applied arts, came to a close on Sunday, 24th September having welcomed over 5,400 visitors through its doors. Collectors rallied around the fair in its first year, with significant sales pointing towards a growing appreciation for contemporary craft. The fair featured 42 exhibitors and over 280 artists from Switzerland, Europe and Asia as well as special artist commissions, curated exhibitions and a dynamic film and talks programme.

Participating galleries reported strong sales within the first hours of the fair's professional and collector preview on Wednesday 19th September. Major sales included a white mother-of-pearl and lacquer *Pebble* by Korean artist **Hwang Samyong** which was sold by Crosspoint Gallery (South Korea) for 68,000 CHF. Another South Korean gallery, PHY, sold an installation of polygonal bottles and jars made from porcelain celadon by **Park Seo Hee** for 12,600 CHF. A large-scale *Balloon Chandelier* by renowned glass artist **Matteo Gonet** sold for 20,900 CHF. TASTE contemporary craft (Switzerland) placed works by **Anne Marie Laureys, Aneta Regel, Marit Tingleff** and **Elisabeth von Krogh**. Vessel Gallery (Great Britain) sold pieces by **Louis Thompson, James Lethbridge** and glass artist **Laura Hart**, including a large *Floralia Orchid Installation* for 12,900 CHF. The fair also saw strong sales in art jewellery.: a stainless steel and 20ct gold bracelet by **Okinari Kurokawa** sold for 3,950 CHF at Galerie Marzee (The Netherlands).

Significant pieces were sold to private collectors but also to notable cultural institutions. The "Verein Historisches Museum Basel" acquired a number of works by local artists including two silver mounted bowls by Swiss silversmith **Barbara Amstutz** and a translucent porcelain vessel by internationally acclaimed ceramicist **Arnold Annen**. The Musée Ariana acquired works by **Gitte Jungersen** and **Pernille Braun**, represented by Køppe Contemporary Objects, as well as two grogged porcelain vessels by **Laurin Schaub** and a glazed porcelain object by **Estelle Gassman**, both on view in the Fair's Discovery section.

Nadine Vischer-Klein, founder of the fair remarked: "The market for contemporary craft is still largely undiscovered; it is possible to find museum-quality work at very affordable prices. TRESOR aims to fill this niche and allow collectors and the wider public to discover the extraordinary range, quality and originality of the contemporary object."

Juliet Mayo of Vessel Gallery observed: "I particularly appreciated the intimate scale of the fair, the focus on quality over quantity and the open-plan architecture which encourages visitors to spend time and engage with the works."

Simone ten Hoppel, who presented a booth with artists Rebecca de Quin, Ane Christensen, Adi Toch and Juliette Bigley dedicated to work in metal, remarked: "TRESOR gave us the opportunity to exhibit together for the first time as a collective of makers who share the language of metal. They were open-minded and gave us free rein to enable this project."

British artist Paul March, whose monumental ceramic sculpture *Another Part of the World* was commissioned and presented for the first time at TRESOR, said: "It is so important that the fair is enabling the production of unusual and ambitious

projects that wouldn't have existed otherwise and introducing this work to a larger audience."

The inaugural **TRESOR Discovery Award** was awarded by public vote to Irish maker Alan Meredith for his presentation of sculptural oak furniture and turned vessels. The annual **TRESOR Discovery** section showcases the work of artists not yet represented internationally by commercial galleries, with the aim of giving them access to a broader collector base and helping them build sustainable careers.

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