

**The Straits Times** 12 January, 2012

## ARTWORKS SNAPPED UP BEFORE PUBLIC VIEWING IN SINGAPORE

By Deepika Shetty



Even before it opened its doors to the public, Singapore's most high-profile art fair, Art Stage Singapore, had sold several expensive works after a by-invitation-only evening last night.

These included one of controversial British artist Tracey Emin's neon works brought in by New York gallery Lehmann Maupin and priced at more than £55,000 (US\$84,000). Indian new media artist Ranbir Kaleka's four-channel video projections on paintings were acquired by the private Kiran Nadar Museum of Art in New Delhi for an undisclosed sum, while Singapore gallery Gajah sold two paintings including one by leading Indonesian artist I Nyoman Masriadi for US\$350,000.

But it was not just a matter of selling the work, it was also about finding the right collector for it.

Mr Tushar Jiwrajka, of Volte Gallery which sold Kaleka's work, said he was "very happy that an important work by the artist has been acquired by one of the most important contemporary art museums in India".

The second edition of the art fair has 130 galleries representing 600 artists and aims to draw 32,000 visitors.

The fair is backed by the Government in its bid to make Singapore a top arts city and to focus on "softer" aspects of growth.

Art Stage is supported by the Economic Development Board, Singapore Tourism Board, National Heritage Board and the National Arts Council. Its budget remains undisclosed.