



As director of the Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts (Ashkal Alwan), the arts nonprofit she cofounded in 1994, Christine Tohme is the driving force behind Beirut's Home Works Forum. Ashkal Alwan staged Home Works I in 2002, gathering artists, cultural activists and writers for ten days of exhibitions, performances, lectures, video screenings, artists' talks, workshops and publication launches. Since then, five editions of the forum have run 'about every other year' – unexpected wars and such can throw a spanner into scheduled international arts events – making it the Beirut Biennial in all but name. In 2006, Tohme was awarded the Prince Claus Award in recognition of her contributions to Lebanese culture. In addition to staging Home Works 5, Tohme's 2010 has been devoted to mobilising financial and professional resources for the Home Works Academy, her latest Beirut project. This multipurpose space devoted to artistic practices and interdisciplinary arts education is scheduled to open in spring 2011.

GREGOR PODNAR

Category: Gallerist – Nationality: Slovenian – Last Year: New



Gregor Podnar started out as a curator in the early 1990s, founded his gallery in Slovenia in 2003 as part of the cultural production organisation Association DUM and eventually opened a second and more conventionally commercial space in Berlin, now his primary base, in 2007. In moving to a commercial gallery, Podnar wanted to provide Eastern European artists who had institutional success with commercial support that was then lacking. His programme remains focused on artists from Eastern Europe, among them Attila Csörgö, Vadim Fiškin, Alexander Gutke, the Slovenian collective IRWIN, Dan Perjovschi, Goran Petercol and Tobias Putrih, but also includes young international artists such as Magnus Larsson and Ariel Schlesinger.

ELIZABETH DEE

Category: Gallerist – Nationality: American – Last Year: New

There are certainly galleries in New York that turn over more money than Elizabeth Dee – ones that have bigger artists and can guarantee themselves a presence at Art Basel – but Dee has nevertheless had a busy year wielding influence in an altogether less establishment manner. The X Initiative in the old Dia building wrapped up at the end of 2009, having provided a temporary creative hub for New York's art scene to gather round: a positive project during a pessimistic year. In 2010, Dee and Darren Flook, of London's Hotel gallery, used the same space to offer an alternative to the Armory in the hybrid form of Independent, an art fair that aped an exhibition and attracted participation from an international array of commercial galleries. Back at her Chelsea space, meanwhile – and talking of hipsters – OMG it has been *all* about Ryan Trecartin this year. Like, *literally*.

RICHARD CHANG

Category: Collector – Nationality: American – Last Year: New

Tate Modern's Frances Morris was there, so too the Guggenheim's Richard Armstrong and businessman David Tang. A quick look through the guest list for the VIP opening of *Roundtrip: Beijing–New York Now*, a selection of works (among them commissioned pieces by Terence Koh and Matthew Day Jackson) from Richard Chang's Domus Collection, which was at the Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art in Beijing last May, is enough to tell you that this Chinese-American collector is one to watch. Chang, who splits his time between New York and Beijing, sees his collection, which features a mix of leading Western and Chinese artists, as helping to foster a two-way dialogue between artists and audiences in both regions. A MoMA trustee for PS1, he also cosponsored this year's edition of *Greater New York* at the museum. Chang sits on the International Council and Asia Pacific Acquisitions Committee at the Tate, and made his presence in London further felt when he acted as lead sponsor for Anish Kapoor's popular Royal Academy exhibition.