

Where are Asia's contemporary sculpture parks featuring Asian artists? 22 gardens, 13 countries

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Discover some of Asia's public parks and gardens that feature contemporary work by Asian artists.

With parks and sculpture gardens in the Asian region totaling over fifty, there is bound to be one or two in the country or city you are visiting next. From Japan to Israel, we take a look at nineteen parks that focus on work by contemporary Asian sculptors.



One of approximately 40 works in the Desert Sculpture Park, in the Negev, Israel. Navigable only by 4x4, the park is built on the rim of Ramon Crater, the world's largest karst erosion cirque.

Whether you fancy a desert hike while on vacation or a lunch-break stroll away from city centre, there is plenty of interesting outdoor art to discover in Asia. Listed alphabetically by country, beginning with Brunei, click on the park name to read more about it.

Brunei

ASEAN Square in Persiaran Damuan - Damuan Recreational Park, Darassalam, Brunei – opened 1986

Shows works by a sculpture from each of the original six ASEAN member countries: Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. The sculptutres, which have as their theme, "Harmony in Diversity", symbolise ASEAN solidarity and the aspirations of its member countries, which is love, peace, freedom and mutual respect.

China

Pan He Sculpture Park - Guangzhou, China – opened 2008



'The Helmsman' by Pan He reputed to be 'The Michaelangelo of China', as seen in Pan He Sculpture Garden, Guangzhou, China. Image courtesy of Leona Craig Gallery.

Yin Jichang Sculpture Park - Guangzhou, China – opened 2006

Contains work by prominent Chinese artists and features monuments commemorating Guangzhou as the "City of Five Rams" which according to legend, five celestial creatures riding on rams arrived in town with rice stems which they presented to locals as a sign of nutritional abundance from heaven.

Hong Kong

Tung Chung Artwalk - Tung Chung, Hong Kong – opened 2000

Established by Hong Kong Housing Authority at Yat Tung Estate, 26 sculptures were installed in order to promote public art in housing estates.

India

Dhanraj Bhagat Sculpture Park - Chandigarh, India – established in 2010

Showing sculpture by renowned Indian sculptor, Pradmashir Dhanraj Bhagat, for whom the Dhanraj Bhagat Sculpture Garden is named.

The Nek Chand Rock Garden - Chandigarh, India – opened 1976

A garden full of thousands of 'rock sculptures' by Nek Chand, former government roads inspector, who started building the works in secret on government land in 1968. The garden was closed/vandalised repeatedly until the founder gained permission and financial support to keep it open in 1976.

Indonesia

NuArt Sculpture park - West Java, Indonesia – opened 2000

Built on three hectares, this park is dedicated to the career of Indonesian sculptor Nyoman Nuarta.

Israel

Desert Sculpture Park - Mitzpe Ramon, Negev Desert, Israel – opened 1963

On the site of the former town waste/rubbish heap, in 1963, Israeli artist Ezra Orion invited Israeli as well as a few international artists to create large-scale works along the rim of the Mitzpe Crater, the largest known karst erosion cirque in the world.

Open Museums Sculpture Gardens - Galilee and Negev regions, Israel – opened 2006

*The three sculpture gardens listed below are managed by **Open Museums** in the Galilee and Negev regions in Israel, located in the Tefen, Tel-Hai and Omer Industrial Parks. Designed by Stef Wertheimer, the gardens work to ensure an equilibrium between the industrial park center and periphery is maintained.*

Sculpture in the Park - Hula Valley, Israel – opened 2006

The Sculpture Garden Dalton - Dalton Industrial Park, Israel – opened 2006

The Omer Open Museum Sculpture Garden - Beersheba, Israel – opened 2006



'Birds/Negotiation' by Ahmad Canaan, a Palestinian artist whose work is shown at Omer Open Museum, Beersheba, Israel.

Japan

Moerenuma Park – Sapporo, Japan – opened 2004

Designed by sculpture Isamu Noguchi as a park to be "considered as one complete sculpture". Nine main sculptural facilities are built on the site of a former waste treatment plant.

Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum – Takamatsu, Japan – opened 1985

Isamu Noguchi's work space was built into an exhibition space as an extension of the museum of the same name in New York. Contains 150 sculptures by this renowned Japanese-American artist and landscape architect.

Lebanon

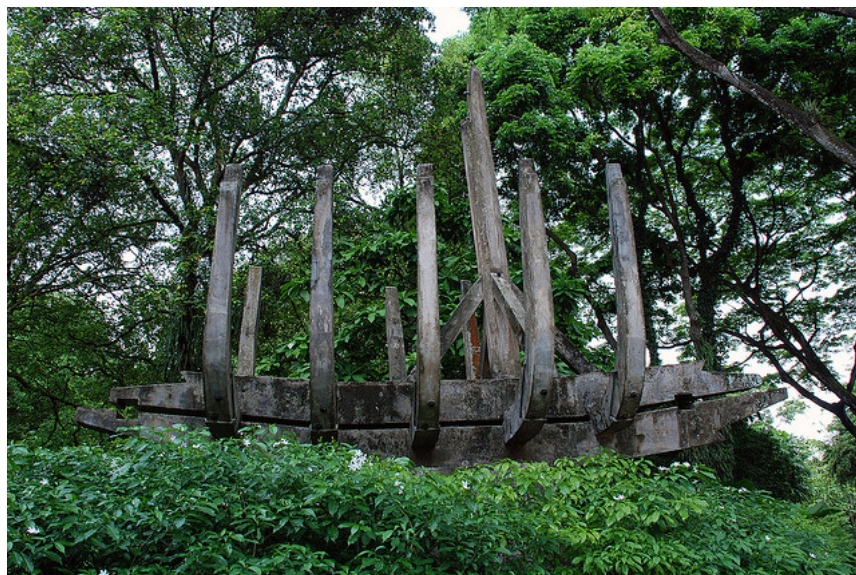
Anachar Basbous – Rachana, Lebanon – opened 1981

Established by the Basbous brothers, three sculptors who committed themselves to "transforming the Rachana into an outdoor museum of sculpture".

Singapore

Fort Canning Hill: ASEAN Sculpture – Fort Canning Hill, Singapore – opened 1982

Designed with primary school students in mind (although all ages are welcome), Singapore History Consultants have devised Sculpture Walks – these tours combine history and art through engagement with the sculptures around Fort Canning Hill Park. Click the link to learn more.



Napoleon Veloso Abueva's 'Fredesvinda' sculpture at the Fort Canning Hill Park, represents a symbol of regional cooperation. The area has undergone numerous transformations over its history, from the former site of Malay's ruling class in 17th century, to its current status as a national park.

Sengkang Sculpture Park – Sengkang New Town, Singapore

This blog takes the reader on a visual tour of the park, filled with sculpture that encourages the visitor to interact as well as view the works in Sengkang, in the north-east part of Singapore.

South Korea

Lee Il-Ho and Baemikkumi Sculpture Park – Modo Island, Seoul, Korea – established 1990s

Surrealist sculptor Lee Il-Ho's work is featured here, made famous in Gi-Deok Kim's 2006 film, Sigan (Time).

Che Ju [Jeju] Sculpture Park - Che Ju [Jeju], Korea – opened 1987

Showing Jang Kong-Ik's dolhareubang (stone grandfathers). These are exchanged between Jeju and sister cities all over the world as a gesture of friendship.

Taiwan

New Era Sculpture Park – Puli, Taiwan – opened 1986



New Era Sculpture Park features work by international artists as well as stone carvings by Lin Yuan, a former farmer who started sculpting at age 69 to ease the tedium of retirement.

Ju Ming Museum - New Taipei City, Taiwan – opened 1999

Approximately 25 acres are devoted to over 1000 works by sculptor Ju Ming as well as pieces by his mentor Yu Yu Ming, Andy Warhol, Joan Miro and Pablo Picasso.

Thailand

Benjasiri Park – Bangkok, Thailand – opened 1992

Built to commemorate the 60th birthday of Queen Sirikit of Thailand, this 11.6 acre park contains 12 sculptures by Thai artists, situated around an ornamental lake.

Turkey

Aspat Castle Sculpture Park and Cultural Centre - Bodrum, Turkey – projected to open soon

60 artworks were created over the past 10 years, by primarily Turkish artists as well as international artists and will installed as part of a new sculpture park and cultural centre in this resort town.

The list of sculpture parks in Asia is by no means comprehensive; we selected parks that focused primarily on contemporary art by Asian artists – either from the country where they are currently working, or containing work by Asian artists more broadly.

Did we miss a favourite sculpture park? Please add the name in a comment below.

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