
PRESS RELEASE
BASEL | JUNE 16 | 2019

The 2019 edition of Art Basel attracted a truly global audience, catalyzing excellent sales at all levels

- **The 2019 edition of Art Basel closed on Sunday, June 16, 2019, amid reports of buoyant sales to private collections and institutions by galleries across all market sectors**
- **The fair attracted collectors from over 80 countries and an overall attendance of 93,000**
- **Art Basel presented 'Aggregate' (2017-2019) by Alexandra Pirici on Messeplatz to great acclaim**
- **A new sliding-scale pricing system was successfully introduced, providing additional support for smaller and mid-size galleries**
- **The show, whose Lead Partner is UBS, took place at Messe Basel from June 13 to June 16, 2019**

Art Basel brought together 290 premier galleries, presenting works ranging from early 20th century Modern art to the most contemporary pieces. While galleries from Europe continued to be strongly represented, the show featured returning and new exhibitors from across the globe, including Asia, Europe, North and South America, the Middle East, and Africa.

19 galleries participated for the first time, including: Barro Arte Contemporáneo from Argentina; Galeria Jaqueline Martins from Brazil; Temnikova & Kasela from Estonia; Galerie Crèvecoeur and Galerie Christophe Gaillard from France; SpazioA from Italy; Vadehra Art Gallery from India; Marfa' from Lebanon; Galerie Knoell from Switzerland; and Commonwealth and Council, Durham Press, and David Lewis from the United States, among others. For the full gallery list, please visit artbasel.com/basel/galleries.

Among the fair's most talked-about highlights was 'Aggregate' (2017-2019) by Romanian artist Alexandra Pirici. Conceived as a time capsule, in which fragments from nature, vernacular culture, art history, and everyday life are given new embodiments, the work was presented on Messeplatz in a purpose-built pavilion designed by Andrei Dinu, a frequent collaborator of Pirici's.

Leading private collectors from Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East attended this year, as well as representatives from over 400 museums and institutions, including: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Dallas Museum of Art; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; Museo de Arte de Lima; Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires; Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit; Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium; National Gallery Singapore; New Museum, New York; Norval Foundation, Cape Town; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Serpentine Galleries, London; and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

With this fair, Art Basel successfully introduced a sliding-scale pricing model for its Basel show, designed to benefit galleries with smaller stands. For the second year, Art Basel

curated a VIP Weekend program, which was attended by more than 120 collectors from over 25 countries across all regions.

Shortly before the fair, Art Basel announced the Global Guide, a new digital initiative designed to further support galleries by driving visitors and collectors to Art Basel's galleries year-round and furthering Art Basel's mission to connect patrons with great galleries on a year-round basis.

Galleries exhibiting in all sectors of Art Basel expressed their delight at this year's show:

'This marks the fourth year we've participated in the Basel fair, the most important art fair in the world. It is a precious opportunity to open new fronts, whether for exhibitions, special projects, and, of course, new clients – both institutional and private – from all over the world.'

Thiago Gomide, Co-Founder, Bergamin & Gomide (São Paulo)

'We sold out our booth on the first day, and it has been very exciting to have met so many curators. The fair has been better than we could've hoped for.'

Vanessa Carlos, Co-Founder, Carlos/Ishikawa (London)

'2019 at Art Basel brought our most successful fair yet, with over 40 sales by the end of the opening day alone. The momentum leading up to the fair was particularly strong this year, but nothing can replace the experience of Messeplatz and the energy on the ground.'

Iwan Wirth, President and Co-Founder, Hauser & Wirth (Zurich, London, Somerset, Los Angeles, New York, Hong Kong, St. Moritz)

'Having participated in Art Basel for the last ten years, I have seen how the fair has diversified with young collectors in their 20s and 30s travelling to Basel from all over the world. Art Basel is a fair beloved across generations.'

Takayuki Ishii, Owner/Director, Taka Ishii Gallery (Tokyo)

'We sold out the entirety of our booth within one day. It has been a joy to watch the evolution of the fair's curatorial rigor and the strength of its collector base, reminding us why it remains a key date in our calendar.'

Jack Shainman, Owner, Jack Shainman Gallery (New York)

'This year's Basel show has been another successful fair for us. We have seen more Southeast Asian collectors this year, especially from Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines. I am pleasantly surprised by the level of interest we received from museums in Europe.'

Lilian Wu, Gallery Director, ShanghART Gallery (Beijing, Shanghai, Singapore)

'Art Basel is where we choose to present rare, museum-quality works each year. We think of it more as an institutional exhibition space.'

Philomene Magers, Co-owner, Sprüth Magers (Berlin, London, Los Angeles)

'As a new exhibitor, we have been impressed by the level of collectors and museums visiting our booth, translating in sales and hopefully in museum exhibitions! The organization of the fair was exceptional and very helpful.'

Silvia Ortiz and Inés López-Quesada, Founders, Travesía Cuatro (Guadalajara, Madrid)

'We are thrilled with the positive response we have received to our Feature presentation and placed a number of works in important private collections in Europe and the United

States. There has been significant interest from institutions around the world. This is the first time these rare works are entering the market, and Art Basel has been a great platform.'

Parul Vadehra, Director, Vadehra Art Gallery (New Delhi)

For further quotes, please click [here](#).

Galleries

The show's main sector comprised of 232 leading galleries from across the globe, showing painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, photography, video, and editioned works of the highest quality. Spanish gallery Travesía Cuatro joined the show for the first time, while Galerie Thomas returned to Basel following a brief hiatus. Seven new galleries that previously exhibited in Feature or Statements entered the sector for the first time and showcased the full range of their programs, further rejuvenating the sector: Galerie Pietro Spartà from France; Peres Projects, Société, and Wentrup from Germany; Hollybush Gardens and Sprovieri from the United Kingdom; and P.P.O.W from the United States. For the full list of exhibitors in Galleries, please visit artbasel.com/basel/galleries.

Feature

The sector presented 24 ambitiously curated projects by both historical and contemporary artists, with 11 galleries completely new to the show. Highlights included Croy Nielsen's presentation of work by Austrian artist **Elke Silvia Krystufek**, a focus on **Cameron Rowland's** 'Rental Project' at Essex Street, and **Karl Haendel's** hand-drawn works on paper at Sommer Contemporary Art. For the full list of exhibitors in Feature, please visit artbasel.com/basel/feature.

Statements

Showcasing 18 solo presentations by young international galleries, Statements offered visitors and collectors the opportunity to discover quality work by emerging artists. The sector welcomed six galleries exhibiting at the Basel show for the first time, including Barro Arte Contemporáneo, Commonwealth and Council, Galerie Crèvecoeur, Marfa', SpazioA, and Temnikova & Kasela. For the full list of exhibitors in Statements, please visit artbasel.com/basel/statements.

The 21st Baloise Art Prize was awarded to **Xinyi Cheng** at Balice Hertling and **Giulia Cenci** at SpazioA. A jury of international experts awarded CHF 30,000 to each artist, and their works were acquired by the Baloise Group and donated to Mudam Luxembourg and the Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin.

Edition

The sector presented 14 global leaders in the field of prints and editioned works, including Durham Press, who participated in the Art Basel show for the first time, Niels Borch Jensen Gallery and Editions, Alan Cristea Gallery, mfc-michèle didier, Atelier-Editions Fanal, Gemini G.E.L., Sabine Knust, Lelong Editions, Carolina Nitsch, Paragon, Polígrafa Obra Gráfica, Susan Sheehan Gallery, STPI, and Two Palms. In addition to its stand presentation, mfc - michèle didier was selected to present 'Colby Sign' by **Allen Ruppersberg** on the Spotlight wall facing the Rundhof. For the full list of exhibitors in Edition, please visit artbasel.com/basel/edition.

Unlimited

Unlimited once again offered galleries the opportunity to showcase monumental installations, sculptures, video projections, wall paintings, photographic series, and performance art that transcend the traditional art fair stand. Renowned masters as well as emerging artists were featured, including: **Larry Bell, Huma Bhabha, Andrea Bowers, Jonathas de Andrade, VALIE EXPORT, Alicia Framis, Abdunasser Gharem, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Kapwani Kiwanga, Daniel Knorr, Jannis Kounellis, Lawrence Lek, Zoe**

Leonard, Sarah Lucas, Kerry James Marshall, Rivane Neuenschwander, Hélio Oiticica, Jacoby Satterwhite, Joan Semmel, Do Ho Suh, Fiona Tan, Franz West, and Pae White. Once again, galleries reported strong sales from the sector. Unlimited was curated for the eighth and final year by **Gianni Jetzer**, Curator-at-Large at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C. Next year, the sector will be curated by **Giovanni Carmine**, Director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen. For the full list of exhibitors in Unlimited, please visit artbasel.com/basel/unlimited.

Messeplatz

For the Messeplatz project this year, Romanian artist **Alexandra Pirici** presented a performative environment titled 'Aggregate' (2017-2019). For this new iteration of 'Aggregate', curated by **Cecilia Alemani**, Pirici brought together over 60 performers that formed a vast collective body through the accumulation of individual gestures, enveloping the viewers in intricate choreographies and rehearsed compositions.

Parcours

This year marked the 10th edition of Parcours, which features site-specific artworks displayed throughout Basel's historic center. Presented under the title 'The Impossibility of Being a Sculpture' and curated for the fourth consecutive year by **Samuel Leuenberger**, Director and Curator of SALTS in Birsfelden, Switzerland, this year's presentation included 20 site-specific artworks by artists including: **Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Paweł Althamer, Mathis Altmann, Pierre Bismuth, Jos de Gruyter & Harald Thys, Matias Faldbakken, Dan Graham, Laurent Grasso, Irena Haiduk, Camille Henrot, Caitlin Keogh, Germaine Kruij, Ad Minoliti, Antonio Obá, Reto Pulfer, Hassan Sharif, Ron Terada, Daniel Turner, Rinus Van de Velde, and Cathy Wilkes.** Throughout the week, Parcours was attended by about 11,000 people. For the full artist and exhibitor list of Parcours, please visit artbasel.com/basel/parcours.

Film

Consisting of nine film and video works presented by the show's participating galleries, the diverse and challenging program reflected on the complex role of media today. The program was screened at the Stadtkino Basel and was attended by almost 500 visitors. Art Basel's Film program was for the last time curated by **Maxa Zoller**, in collaboration with **Marian Masone**. Next year, the Film program will be curated by **Filipa Ramos**, Editor-in-Chief of art agenda. For the full program, please visit artbasel.com/basel/film.

Conversations

Art Basel's renowned talks series brought together leading artists, gallerists, collectors, art historians, curators, museum directors, and critics from across the world. Programmed for the first time by the Berlin-based artist **Julieta Aranda**, this year's program featured 15 talks, a 1 sonic lecture and 1 film screening and served as a platform for dialogues and discussions on current topics from career and motherhood to the carbon footprint of the art world, and offered perspectives on producing, collecting, and exhibiting art. This year's Premiere Artist Talk was devoted to **William Kentridge**. Conversations was free and open to the public and was attended by almost 3,000 people.

Exhibitions in Basel

Visitors to Basel were offered a range of outstanding exhibitions by the city's leading museums. Major exhibitions coinciding with Art Basel included:

- **Fondation Beyeler**
 - 'Picasso – Blue and Rose Periods'
 - 'Rudolf Stingel'
 - 'Louise Bourgeois'

- **Kunstmuseum Basel**
 'Kosmos Kubismus. From Picasso to Léger'
 'William Kentridge: A Poem That Is Not Our Own'
 'Leiko Ikemura. Toward New Seas'
 'Helmut Federle: 19 E. 21 St., 6 Large Paintings'
- **Kunsthalle Basel**
 'Geumhyung Jeong'
 'Dora Budor'
- **Kunsthaus Baselland**
 'Björn Braun'
 'Clément Cogitore (Part II)'
 'Simone Forti'
 'Gina Folly: Fashion, Sex and Death – Science – Sports, Gardens and Conspicuous Consumption'
- **Museum Tinguely**
 'Lois Weinberger – Debris Field'
 'Rebecca Horn. Körperphantasien'
- **Vitra Design Museum**
 'Balkrishna Doshi: Architecture for the People'
 'Living in a Box: Design in Comic and Cartoon'
 'Lake Verea: Paparazza Moderna'
 'Food Shaping Kyoto'

Design Miami Basel

Design Miami Basel, the global forum for collectible design, ran from June 11 to June 16, 2019, with the Collectors Preview and Vernissage on Monday, June 10 (by invitation only). The fair returned to Hall 1 Süd on Messeplatz. The 14th edition presented more than 47 galleries exhibiting historic and contemporary design alongside a robust cultural program. For more details, please visit designmiami.com.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through a number of new initiatives such as Art Basel Cities, working with partner cities on bespoke cultural programs. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

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Partners

UBS, Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for 25 years. As Art Basel's global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows, Art Basel Cities, and as co-publisher of the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report. UBS has a long record of engagement in contemporary art with the UBS Art Collection, one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections with more than 30,000 works created by artists from more than 75 countries, at its core. The firm actively enables audiences to participate in contemporary art through its partnerships with leading cultural organizations around the world. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** include MGM Resorts International – one of the world's leading entertainment companies with a long-standing commitment to presenting and supporting art in public spaces; Audemars Piguet, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission; and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW (who has co-developed with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey), Ruinart, Sanlorenzo, and La Prairie. Art Basel's Media Partner is The Financial Times.

Additional Partners are Baloise Group, whose Art Prize is awarded to up to two artists exhibiting in the Statements sector, AXA ART, Davidoff, Vienna Tourist Board, Enea Landscape Architecture, and Vitra. For more information, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Miami Beach, December 5-8, 2019

Hong Kong, March 19-21, 2020

Basel, June 18-21, 2020

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