
PRESS RELEASE
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Art Basel 2026 closes with strong sales and global engagement as Basel Exclusive launches and Zero 10 makes European debut

- Art Basel closed its 2026 edition in Basel today, welcoming **90'000 visitors** throughout its VIP and public days.
- Led by Director Maïke Cruse, the edition brought together **290 galleries from 43 countries and territories**, with presentations spanning Modern and postwar masterworks, historical rediscoveries, contemporary and emerging positions, large-scale installations, and cross-media practices.
- Galleries reported strong sales across sectors, market segments, and price points, reaffirming Basel's role as the defining annual gathering of the international art market.
- The fair drew a high-caliber international audience from 103 countries, anchored by particularly strong European attendance and complemented by **leading collectors and arts professionals from across the Americas, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa**.
- **Representatives from more than 270 museums and foundations** attended the fair, underscoring Basel's continued role as a key meeting point for the international institutional community.
- The 2026 edition saw the launch of **Basel Exclusive**, the European debut of **Zero 10**, the second cycle of the **Art Basel Awards**, and an expanded public and citywide program across Basel.
- Art Basel in Basel, whose Global Lead Partner is UBS, took place at Messe Basel from June 18 to 21, 2026, with Preview Days on June 16 and 17. The 2027 edition of the fair will take place from June 17 to 20, with Preview Days on June 15 and 16.

Art Basel closed its 2026 edition in Basel today, reaffirming the fair's position as the most closely watched annual moment in the international art market. Strong sales were reported within the opening hours and extended throughout the week across established, mid-market, and emerging artists. Among reported highlights, Hauser & Wirth sold **Pablo Picasso's** *Le peintre et son modèle dans un paysage* (1963), offered at an asking price of USD 35 million; **Gerhard Richter's** *Abstraktes Bild (940-7)* (2015) for USD 20 million; and **Louise Bourgeois's** *Les Fleurs* (2009) for USD 2.5 million. Within the first hour of the fair, Gagosian sold **Willem de Kooning's** *No title* (1984) for a high seven-figure sum to a private collection in Asia. GRAY sold two works by **David Hockney**, whose death earlier this month prompted renewed international reflection on the artist's legacy: *Studio Interior #2* (2014) for USD 8.5 million and *The Arrival of Spring in Woldgate, East Yorkshire in 2011 (twenty eleven) – 31 May, No. 1* (2011) for USD 650,000.

Against the backdrop of **Helen Frankenthaler's** retrospective at Kunstmuseum Basel, Thaddaeus Ropac sold the artist's *Sudden Wave* (1982) for around USD 3 million, while Yares Art sold *Gliding Figure* (1961) for USD 2 million. Thaddaeus Ropac also sold **Pierre Soulages's** *Peinture 146 x 97 cm, 31 janvier 1954* (1954) for around USD 3 million, while White Cube sold **Lynne Drexler's** *Untitled* (1960) for USD 2.5 million and **Doris Salcedo's** *Untitled* (2008) for USD 1.35 million.

Maïke Cruse, Director, Art Basel in Basel, said:

'Art Basel 2026 demonstrated the extraordinary depth and breadth that define Basel. From Unlimited and Parcours to the launch of Basel Exclusive, Zero 10's European debut, and major public projects across the city, galleries brought exceptional works to Basel and presented them to a highly engaged international audience of collectors, curators, institutions, and art lovers. The quality of the presentations, the conversations in the halls, and the energy felt throughout the city made this edition a powerful expression of what Basel does best.'

Basel Exclusive, introduced for the 2026 edition and developed in close collaboration with galleries, emerged as one of the defining initiatives of the week. More than 190 galleries of the main sector participated by reserving significant works for their public unveiling at the Preview opening of the fair, opening the week with momentum. The initiative generated strong engagement throughout the week, with reported sales including a Pablo Picasso painting at **Almine Rech** in the range of USD 6–6.5 million; **Elizabeth Peyton's** *Transmission (E, rose)* (2026) at David Zwirner for USD 1.2 million; a **David Hockney** painting at Galerie Lelong & Co. in the range of EUR 1 million; and a work by **John Baldessari** at Sprüth Margers, sold for USD 500,000.

Unlimited, curated for the first time by **Ruba Katrib**, Director of Curatorial Affairs at MoMA PS1, brought together 59 projects spanning installation, sculpture, performance, film, and immersive environments. Highlights included **Isa Genzken's** *Untitled* (2018), presented by Galerie Bucholz, Hauser & Wirth, and David Zwirner, which was acquired by a European museum for EUR 1.2 million; **Tracey Emin's** *Knowing My Enemy* (2002), sold by White Cube for GBP 1.25 million, and **Niki de Saint Phalle's** *Blue Obelisk* (1992), placed by Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois with a private museum in France for more than EUR 1 million.

Zero 10, Art Basel's initiative dedicated to artists working with digital technologies, made its European debut in Basel in an expanded presentation co-curated by digital strategist **Eli Scheinman** and artist **Trevor Paglen**. Its largest presentation to date brought digital, generative, and cross-media practices into the fair, underscoring their growing significance to the contemporary art landscape. The initiative attracted strong interest from collectors, curators, and institutions, with reported sales including John Gerrard's *STANDARD* (2022), sold by **Fellowship** for USD 500,000 to a significant private US collection, alongside multiple works by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, presented by **bitforms and Max Estrella**, as well as the placement of 12 works by Vera Molnár with collectors in Europe and the United States, reported by **Interface Gallery and Oniris Gallery**.

Several exhibitors remarked on the energy, quality, and international reach of the fair, with additional gallery testimonials available [here](#). Millicent Wilner, Managing Director, **Gagosian**, said: "The energy of the fair feels brisk, with strong engagement across the variety of important works we are presenting in Basel." Xavier Hufkens, Founder of **Xavier Hufkens**, said: "Art Basel remains the most important fair of the year. You feel it the moment the doors open. It starts strong and it stays strong." Andreas Gegner, Senior Director of **Sprüth Margers**, said: "This has been one of those editions you don't forget. From the very first hours, the energy was electric – collectors arrived focused and ready, and that set the tone for everything that followed." Marianne Boesky, Founder of **Boesky**, described the edition as having "one of the stronger energies I can remember," citing the sale of an important 1990s painting by Mary Lovelace O'Neal to a European museum. Fabrizio Padovani, Co-Founder of **P420**, said the fair had been "incredibly dynamic right from the very first hours," with early sales and robust institutional interest in the gallery's program. Aleya Hamza, Gallery Director of **Gypsum Gallery**, said the reception of Hana El-Sagini's large-scale installation represented "the kind of response that tends to mark a turning point in an artist's trajectory."

Christl Novakovic, Head UBS Global Wealth Management EMEA and Chair of the UBS Art Board, said: "This year's Art Basel in Basel underscored its enduring significance, with strong attendance from our global collecting community, who are increasingly prioritizing the in-person experience. This was further elevated by the launch of Basel Exclusive. UBS extended its presence beyond the fair through a public activation at Aeschenvorstadt 1, one of the Parcours locations, reflecting a core belief at UBS that extraordinary art should be made accessible to inspire connection, discovery, and global cultural exchange."

Public and Citywide Program

At the center of Art Basel's citywide program was **Parcours**, curated by **Stefanie Hessler**, Director of Swiss Institute, New York. Presented under the theme *Conviviality*, Parcours extended the fair across Basel through 21 site-specific installations, sculptures, interventions, and performances that brought artistic practice into dialogue with the city's civic, architectural, and social spaces.

Major public commissions further extended the fair beyond the halls. 2025 Art Basel Awards Gold Awardees **Nairy Baghramian** and **Ibrahim Mahama** debuted new works in the city: Baghramian's *Modèle vivant (S'empilant)* (2026) on Messeplatz and Mahama's immersive sculptural installation *The God of Small Things* (2026) on Münsterplatz. Positioned on opposite sides of the Rhine, the two commissions traced a path across the city, connecting Basel's historic center, Parcours, and Messeplatz.

Art Basel's **Conversations** program took place in a new auditorium in the Eventhalle, attracting a record **3,600 attendees across the week**. The 2026 program foregrounded artist-led dialogue and critical exchange, with highlights including one-on-one conversations with **Art Basel Awards Medalists Arthur Jafa, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Farah Al Qasimi, Diego Marcon, Kulapat Yantrasast, and Precious Okoyomon; Lawrence Abu Hamdan** in conversation with philanthropist and Art Basel Awards Medalist **Mercedes Vilardell**; and a panel on gallery longevity moderated by **Ben Luke** with **Márcia Fortes, Claes Nordenhake, and Karen Jenkins-Johnson**.

Public programming also included **Warehouse Artefacts**, an immersive experience by **Thomas Bangalter, Julian Charrière, and Rampa**, produced by Nordstern Basel and presented in cooperation with Art Basel and Fondation Beyeler. Staged in Hall 1.1 as a deconstructed dance floor bringing together art, sound, political history, and underground culture, the project transformed Art Basel's event hall for one day and one night on June 20.

Art Basel Awards

The second cycle of the **Art Basel Awards**, presented in partnership with BOSS, continued in Basel with the Medalist Ceremony at the historic Rathaus Basel on June 18, honoring 33 Medalists across nine categories spanning artists, curators, institutions, patrons, media, allies, and cross-disciplinary creators. The next milestone will take place at Art Basel Miami Beach in December, where the 2026 Gold Medalists will be announced following a peer-to-peer voting process.

The Awards also introduced the **Gallery Legacy Award**, recognizing galleries whose enduring vision and leadership have made a lasting impact. The inaugural award was presented to **Paula Cooper Gallery** on June 17. As part of the award's mentorship component, Paula Cooper Gallery nominated **Chapter NY** as a next-generation gallery to support, with Art Basel contributing a grant of up to USD 50,000 toward the gallery's participation in Art Basel 2027.

Institutional attendance

Art Basel convened a high-caliber international audience of leading collectors, museum directors, curators, foundations, patrons, and cultural figures. Reflecting Basel's position at the center of Europe, participation was especially significant across Switzerland, Germany, France and the United Kingdom, alongside leading collectors and patrons from the United States, China, Hong Kong and Japan. **Institutional attendance increased year-on-year, reaching 270 museums and foundations**, including representatives from key American museums such as the **Metropolitan Museum of Art** (New York), **The Museum of Fine Arts** (Houston), **The Museum of Modern Art** (New York), **National Gallery of Canada** (Ottawa), **New Museum** (New York), **Walker Art Center** (Minneapolis), **Whitney Museum of American Art** (New York), **Museum of the African Diaspora** (San Francisco), **Parrish Art Museum** (Water Mill), **Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** (Montreal), **Museu de Arte de São Paulo** (São Paulo), and **Guggenheim Museum** (New York). From Europe the fair saw representatives from **Centre Pompidou** (Paris), **Rijksmuseum** (Amsterdam), **Tate Modern** (London), **Moderna Muséet** (Stockholm), **Louisiana Museum of Modern Art** (Copenhagen) and **Kunsthalle Zurich** (Zurich). In addition, museums from Africa (**Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art**), Middle East (**Guggenheim Abu Dhabi**), Australia (**Art Gallery of New South Wales**), Asia Pacific (**M+** and **Yuz Museum**) sent members of their teams to the fair, underscoring Basel's role as a uniquely concentrated meeting point for the global art world.

Museum and institutional highlights

The fair unfolded alongside a major institutional program across Basel and the region, including *Pierre Huyghe* at **Fondation Beyeler**; *Helen Frankenthaler, Cao Fei: Testimonies to the Near Future*, and *The First Homosexuals: The Birth of New Identities 1869–1939* at **Kunstmuseum Basel**; *Janiva Ellis and Shuang Li* at **Kunsthalle Basel**; *Monira Al Qadiri: Annual Project and Mémoires voyageuses / Traveling Memories* at **Kunsthaus Baselland**; *Laboring Bodies, La roue = c'est tout, Nicolas Darrot: Fuzzy Logic*, and *Angelica Mesiti: Reverb* at **Museum Tinguely**; *Chloe Wise: Extrasensory* at **Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger**; *Hella Jongerius: Whispering Things* at **Vitra Design Museum**; and *Verner Pantou: Form, Color, Space* at **Vitra Schaudetop**.

The public program was further complemented by **Das Weinen (Das Wähnen)**, a guest performance presented by Laurenz Foundation, Schaulager at the Schauspielhaus of Theater Basel from June 17 to 21, directed by Christoph Marthaler and based on texts by Dieter Roth.

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, Hong Kong, Paris, and Qatar. 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 through new digital platforms including Zero 10 and the Art Basel App, and initiatives such as the *Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report* and *Survey of Global Collecting*, Art Basel Awards, and Art Basel Shop. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Partners

Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, **UBS** has a long history of supporting contemporary art and artists. The firm has one of the world's most significant corporate art collections of contemporary art. UBS seeks to advance the international conversation about the art market through its global lead partnership with Art Basel, and as co-publisher of the 'Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report' and the 'Art Basel and UBS Survey of Global Collecting.' UBS also supports some of the world's most important arts institutions, events and fairs. Through UBS Art Advisory, UBS provides UHNW clients and their family offices impartial advice and execution services across the whole lifecycle of a collection, from strategic development and governance to making an impact through philanthropy and the transition of collections into the next generation. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Qatar Airways is Art Basel's **Premium Partner**. Named the World's Best Airline a record ninth time at the 2025 Skytrax World Airline Awards, Qatar Airways leverages its extensive network of destinations to connect people, places, and cultures. As Art Basel's Premium Partner, the airline showcases its ability to be a catalyst for discovery and cultural dialogue, supporting all the fair's prestigious global editions – including the newly launched show in Qatar.

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** are **BMW**, **Audemars Piguet**, and the **Hong Kong Tourism Board**. BMW has been partnering with Art Basel for over twenty years now as part of the company's cultural engagement spanning more than half a century with hundreds of initiatives worldwide. Always guided by the belief that absolute creative freedom is as essential for artists to create meaning away from the bling-bling as it is for BMW's engineers and designers to come up with the best solutions for individual mobility both today and tomorrow. Audemars Piguet believes that creativity feeds culture, connects people, and gives purpose to our lives. Through its dedicated contemporary art program, "Audemars Piguet Contemporary," international artists are commissioned to create carte-blanche artworks across a variety of scales and media, enabling artists to explore new territories in their practice. Hong Kong is the international art hub in Asia, standing at the forefront of Asia's cultural landscape, offering a dynamic blend of world-class art fairs, cutting-edge exhibitions, and vibrant creative districts. Through this collaboration, Hong Kong Tourism Board invites the world to discover Hong Kong's dynamic art scene, East-meets-West identity, and world-class lifestyle – from contemporary galleries to culinary artistry and luxury travel through its unique blend of culture, creativity, and sophistication.

Art Basel in Basel's **Show Partner** is **Jet Aviation**. **Host Partners** are **Airbnb** and **Ruinart**. **Official Partners** are **Samsung**, **Zegna**, **ERCO**, **Enea Landscape Architecture**, **Vitra**, **JNBY**, and **Mövenpick Hotel Basel**.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Paris, October 23–25, 2026

Miami Beach, December 4–6, 2026

Qatar, January 28–30, 2027

Hong Kong, March 25–27, 2027

Basel, June 17–20, 2027

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