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## HISTORY

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### 1970

Art Basel is founded by Basel art gallerists Ernst Beyeler, Trudi Bruckner and Balz Hilt. The show proves to be a success from the very start: 90 galleries and 30 publishers from 10 countries exhibit at the inaugural show, attracting 16,300 visitors.

### 1973

Art Basel hosts its first special exhibition - 'American Art after Jackson Pollock'. A series of 'one-country' special exhibitions follows, featuring artists of Italy, Britain, Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Israel, Holland, and Belgium.

### 1974

Introduction of the Neue Tendenzen ('New Trends') sector designed to promote young artists. 50 galleries take part, including Castelli from New York, Sonnabend from Paris, Sperone from Turin, and Verna and Ziegler from Zurich. An exhibitors committee of leading gallerists and experts is established to review and select applying galleries.

### 1975

Only 6 years after its founding, Art Basel reaches its present size of circa 300 exhibitors. The participating galleries come from 21 countries, attracting 37,000 visitors.

### 1979

The Perspective platform replaces the Neue Tendenzen sector. It features solo shows of 16 little-known artists, among them John Armleder, Tony Cragg, Peter Fischli and David Weiss, Beat Streuli and Martin Disler, Julian Opie, Jean-Frédéric Schnyder, Helmut Federle, and General Idea – all of whom will soon become prominent artists on the international art scene.

### 1989

To celebrate the 150th anniversary of photography, 16 galleries belonging to the International Association of Photography Art Dealers present top-quality photographs spanning the entire history of the medium. Through its five subsequent thematic Art Photography exhibitions, Art Basel becomes one of the artworld's leading platforms for promoting the medium.

### 1993

After two years as a separate fair, Edition is integrated into Art Basel as the Art Edition sector, with 15 top international multiples galleries taking part. The new Young Galleries sector promotes galleries offering a program of young artists not yet firmly established in the market.

### 1995

Introduction of the Art Video Forum platform. Pipilotti Rist and Enrique Fontanilles are the first recipients of the video art prize endowed by the main sponsor, the Swiss Bank Corporation (which later merged with Union Bank of Switzerland to become UBS).

### 1996

Young Galleries is replaced by Art Statements, presenting 23 solo shows by young artists, establishing this sector as a launch for international recognition. International stars who have made their first major appearance at Art Statements over the years include

Ghada Amer, Kader Attia, Vanessa Beecroft, Pierre Huyghe, William Kentridge, Mariko Mori, Ernesto Neto, João Onofre, Jorge Pardo, Manfred Pernice, Elisabeth Peyton, Ugo Rondinone, Hans Schabus, Gregor Schneider, Kara Walker and Gary Webb.

#### **1999**

The Art Film sector – devoted to films by and about artists – debuts at the Stadtkino Basel.

#### **2000**

Sam Keller becomes Art Basel's Director.

Introduction of the Art Unlimited platform, which transcends the concept of the classic exhibition booth with an open-plan exhibition environment that plays host to all types of ambitious contemporary media: installation, monumental sculpture, large-scale painting, video work, and performance art. The sector is curated by Simon Lamunière until 2012.

First special exhibition devoted to Artist Books from 2000 to 2005, an art form ordinarily accorded marginal attention at art fairs. Its success led to two follow-up exhibitions: the Small Press Scene in the 60s and 70s, and Artist Records, a store/exhibit featuring recordings produced or designed by artists.

#### **2002**

Art Basel debuts in Miami Beach. At the nexus of North America and Latin America, the show reflects the city's multi-cultural identity, presenting a diversity of work from the galleries and artists of the region. It immediately establishes itself as the premier show in the Americas, and ranks among the favorite winter-time events of the international art world. Art Positions introduces a radical new sector, with galleries exhibiting young artists near the beach in temporarily converted shipping containers. The first edition features 160 galleries from 23 countries and attracts 30,000 visitors.

#### **2003**

The Art Nova sector begins a long run in Miami Beach, focusing on recent works by artists of all generations.

#### **2004**

Art Basel launches Art Basel Conversations: Panel discussions with leading members of the art world providing privileged access to first-hand information on diverse aspects of collecting and exhibiting art. Panelists include prominent art collectors, museum directors, biennale curators, artists, art critics, and architects.

Under the title of Public Art Projects, projects of an institutional scale are presented in the spacious, revamped exhibition area on Messeplatz.

#### **2005**

The new Art Kabinett sector, which gives the Art Galleries sector's exhibitors a chance to create special exhibitions within their booth, proves to be a favorite among artworld connoisseurs.

First special exhibition devoted to Artist Books from 2000 to 2005. Its success led to two follow-up exhibitions: the Small Press Scene in the 60s and 70s, and recordings produced or designed by artists (Artist Records).

#### **2006**

Art Basel launches Art Premiere, under a special sector that first features galleries new to the main sector, then evolves to focus on juxtapositions between artists of different cultural backgrounds or generations.

## **2007**

Annette Schönholzer, Marc Spiegler, and Cay Sophie Rabinowitz take over Art Basel's directorship from Sam Keller. From 2008 the shows are run by co-directors, Annette Schönholzer and Marc Spiegler.

The Ball of Artists, an aural and visual artwork, is experienced by 1,200 attendees at the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami, thus beginning a dialog between the historic house and gardens and the contemporary artworld. Several semi-permanent installations remain on site after the event for park visitors.

## **2009**

Marking Art Basel's 40th anniversary, the show presents, 'Il Tempo del Postino,' a visual arts 'opera' of time-based art by some 20 artists and teams is directed by curator Hans Ulrich Obrist and artists Philippe Parreno, Anri Sala, and Rirkrit Tiravanija. The presentation, which premiered at the 2007 Manchester International Festival, was organized by Art Basel in cooperation with Fondation Beyeler and Theater Basel.

Art Positions moves into the Miami Beach Convention Center, making room for the new Oceanfront area, an experiential space debuting with 'Self Roaming', Los Angeles artist Pae White's immersive and interactive cityscape. This labyrinth-like metropolis on the sand was commissioned by Creative Time.

## **2010**

Expanding the show beyond Messeplatz, the Art Parcours sector debuts, with the goal of presenting site-specific public artworks and performances by renowned artists and emerging talents in the historical neighborhoods of Basel.

The new Art Feature sector, replacing Art Premiere, offers gallerists a chance to participate at Art Basel with historical material, solo shows by artists of all ages and precise curatorial juxtapositions. Like Art Kabinett in Miami Beach, Art Feature rapidly proves to be a favorite sector for curators and connoisseur collectors.

Art Basel Miami Beach hosts Creative Time's Oceanfront Nights, a nightly program sited in an open-air pavilion designed by Phu Hoang Office and Rachely Rotem Studio, constructed of reflective and phosphorescent ropes that sway and glow in the night.

## **2011**

Art Basel announces that MCH Swiss Exhibition (Basel) Ltd. has signed a purchase agreement with Asian Art Fairs Ltd, the owners of ART HK, and as of July 1, 2011, took a majority ownership stake in Asian Art Fairs Ltd.

Art Basel Miami Beach celebrates its 10th edition with a vertical one-night event created by Performa, to engage all three floors of the new Frank Gehry-designed New World Symphony. The event is the first visual arts-related event held at the New World Symphony building.

The Art Video program is projected onto building's 7,000-square-foot outdoor projection wall, while Art Public sector is consolidated in a new location, Collins Park, and co-produced with the Bass Museum of Art.

## **2012**

Gianni Jetzer replaces Simon Lamunière as curator of the Unlimited sector in Basel.

## **2013**

Art Basel presents its inaugural show in Hong Kong and attracts over 60'000 visitors. Half of the participating galleries are from Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The show in Basel attracted a record of 70,000 visitors, generating an attendance of 86,000 over the six show days. The new extension to Hall 1 by Basel architects Herzog & de Meuron houses Unlimited, Statements Magazine and Conversations and Salon. Florence Derieux curates for the first time the Parcours sector which takes over the Klingental neighbourhood of Basel. Tadashi Kawamata is commissioned to create an intervention on Messeplatz for the duration of the show.

The 2013 edition of Art Basel in Miami Beach attracted an attendance of 75,000 over the five show days, a seven percent increase over last year. The Edition sector premieres in Miami Beach with 13 exhibitors. Public is curated for the first time by Nicholas Baume, Director and Chief Curator of New York City's Public Art Fund.

## **2014**

Art Basel's second edition in Hong Kong, the first with UBS as Lead Partner, presents a premier line-up of 245 galleries with exhibition spaces in 39 countries and territories across the world. The show is attended by over 65,000 visitors and sees the Asian debut of Art Basel's popular Film sector. The public opening of the show is marked with a special audio-visual installation, 'α (alpha) pulse', by the internationally renowned German artist Carsten Nicolai.

In February, Art Basel launched a new publication 'Art Basel | Year 44'. Published by JRP|Ringier, 'Art Basel | Year 44' captured the vibrancy of the three Art Basel shows by looking at the galleries, events and places that shape the artworld in 2013.

In Basel, Art Basel presented 285 galleries from 34 countries across the six sectors of the show. The show attracts a record attendance of 92,000 over the six show days. Statements returns to Hall 2 after nine years in Hall 1, giving the younger generation of artists and galleries a more prominent placement. Art Basel partners with Fondation Beyeler and Theater Basel to present '14 Rooms', a major live-art exhibition staged in Basel from June 14 to 22, 2014. The exhibition is curated by Klaus Biesenbach and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

MCH Group acquires the remaining 40% of the shares in Asian Art Fairs Limited in Hong Kong on October 24, 2014, having held 60% of the shares since 1 July 2011.

In September 2014, Art Basel launches its new digital Crowdfunding Initiative in partnership with Kickstarter to support non-profit visual arts organizations.

Art Basel's 13th edition in Miami Beach presents 267 leading international galleries from 31 countries and attracts an attendance of 73,000 over five days. The art-historical sector Survey launches with 13 exhibitions and brought art-historical projects to the fair, including many rare works never before exhibited in an art fair context. Art Basel partners with Performa to present 'ME3M 4 Miami: A Story Ballet About the Internet', an immersive dance performance by celebrated contemporary artist Ryan McNamara.

In December 2014, Art Basel appoints the curator and art advisor Adeline Ooi as new Director Asia.

## **2015**

The 2015 show in Hong Kong is the first to take place in March presenting 233 galleries with exhibition spaces in 37 countries and territories and attracts nearly 60'000 visitors.

Encounters is curated for the first time by Alexie Glass-Kantor, Executive Director of Artspace in Sydney. Art Basel and the International Commerce Centre (ICC) presents 'Same Old, Brand New' by renowned Chinese artist Cao Fei.

During the show, Art Basel and BMW presents the first iteration of the BMW Art Journey, a joint initiative to recognize and support emerging artists worldwide. An international jury selects the shortlist of three artists showing in Discoveries: Mika Tajima with Eleven Rivington (New York), Trevor Yeung with Blindspot Gallery (Hong Kong) and Samson Young with am space (Hong Kong).

On April 14, 2015 Art Basel appoints Patrick Foret, longtime Head of Sponsorship at Art Basel, as the organization's new Director of Business Initiatives.

Art Basel's 46th edition in Basel presents 284 galleries from 33 countries and attracted an attendance of 98,000 over the six show days. A significant reconfiguration of the downstairs floorplan in Hall 2 moves 57 galleries to new positions – representing the biggest such shift at the show in the last decade. Bringing galleries showing work from 1900 to 1970 in closer proximity to each other, it creates a stronger focus for their outstanding historical material. For the duration of Art Basel, 'DO WE DREAM UNDER THE SAME SKY' by conceptual artist Rirkrit Tiravanija, German architects Nikolaus Hirsch/Michel Müller, Finish chef Antto Melasniemi and students from Basel and Frankfurt (Institute of Art of the FHNW Academy of Art and Design in Basel and the Städelschule in Frankfurt) was installed on Messeplatz in Basel.

Samuel Leuenberger replaces Florence Derieux as curator of the Parours sector in Basel starting with the 2016 edition.

In July 2015, Art Basel appoints Noah Horowitz who had served as Executive Director of the Armory Show in New York since 2011 as new Director Americas.

The 14th edition of Art Basel in Miami Beach presents 267 leading international galleries from 32 countries and attracted an attendance of 77,000 over five days.

During the show in Miami Beach Art Basel and BMW announce the shortlist of artists nominated for the second BMW Art Journey: Henning Fehr and Philipp Rühr at Galerie Max Mayer (Dusseldorf), Dan Bayles at François Ghebaly Gallery (Los Angeles) and Fritzia Irizar at Arredondo \ Arozarena (Mexico City).

The feature film was selected for the first time by Marian Masone, Senior Programing Advisor, Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York.

## **2016**

Thomas Hochuli replaces Marco Fazzone as Director Resources and Finance.

The fourth edition in Hong Kong presented 239 galleries with exhibition spaces in 35 countries and territories and attracted over 70,000 visitors over the five show days. During the show, Art Basel announced its new Art Basel Cities initiative, which will expand its engagement in the art world from staging art fairs to working with cities to develop cultural events with international resonance. The first city to partner on this new initiative with Art Basel is Buenos Aires.

The 47th edition in Basel brought together 286 premier galleries from 33 countries and attracted an attendance of 95,000 across the six show days.

Art Basel in Miami Beach's 15th edition featured 269 world-class galleries from 29 countries. Across the five show days, the fair attracted an attendance of 77,000 visitors.

## **2017**

Art Basel announced the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market report, a comprehensive new annual art-market report by renowned cultural economist Clare McAndrew during its show in Hong Kong.

The fifth edition in Asia featured 242 premier galleries from 34 countries and the attendance rose to nearly 80,000 – due to the introduction of evening ticket sales and improved crowd control. To coincide with the show, Art Basel presented 'Twenty-Five Minutes Older' with the support of MGM Resorts Arts & Culture, a project by Hong Kong artist Kingsley Ng (b. 1980) that has turned two of the city's iconic public trams into moving camera obscuras. Art Basel also collaborated with Google Arts & Culture to present 'Virtual Frontiers: Artists experimenting with Tilt Brush', featuring works by renowned international artists boychild, Cao Fei, Robin Rhode, Sun Xun and Yang Yongliang.

The 48th edition of Art Basel in Basel brought together 291 premier galleries from 35 countries and attracted an attendance of 95,000. Swiss artist Claudia Comte transformed Basel's Messeplatz with 'NOW I WON', a new monumental outdoor installation taking the form of a fully functioning funfair.

Art Basel and the city of Buenos Aires announced a week of public arts programming, taking place from September 11 to September 16, 2018. The week will be directed by Cecilia Alemani, Director and Chief Curator of High Line Art in New York and the curator of the Italian Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale.

Daniel Degen replaces Thomas Hochuli as Director Resources and Finance.

The 16th edition of Art Basel in Miami Beach, which took place from December 7 to December 10, 2017 and brought together 268 leading international galleries drawn from 32 countries. This year's show introduced a new floorplan and show design, reflecting the improved possibilities provided by the Miami Beach Convention Center's (MBCC) ongoing renovation.

## **2018**

For the second time, the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market report was published by renowned cultural economist Clare McAndrew.

The sixth edition of Art Basel's show in Hong Kong brought together 248 galleries from 32 countries spanning six continents. The fair took place at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) again, where it attracted an overall attendance of 80,000.

The 49<sup>th</sup> edition of the Art Basel show in Basel brought together 290 premier galleries from 35 countries and attracted an attendance of nearly 95,000. 'Basilea', a Creative Time project commissioned by Art Basel for Messeplatz, was curated by Elvira Dyangani Ose, Senior Curator at Creative Time, and brought together the artists Lara Almarcegui, Isabel Lewis and Santiago Cirugeda-led architecture studio Recetas Urbanas.

The Art Basel Cities Week in Buenos Aires proved to be a unique opportunity for local and international visitors to discover the Buenos Aires' art scene through public art exhibitions, installations, performances and events across the Argentine capital. Under the artistic direction of Cecilia Alemani, the week presented 'Hopscotch (Rayuela)'.

The 17th edition of Art Basel in Miami Beach attracted an attendance across 83 000 visitors, showing 268 premier galleris from 35 countries. With the renovation of the Miami Beach Convention Center (MBCC) completed for this year's fair, exhibitors and visitors alike praised the refined and more spacious layout and design of the show. The newly designed Grand Ballroom at the MBCC allowed Art Basel to host for the first time a large-scale performative installation onsite: Abraham Cruzvillegas' 'Autorreconstrucción: To Insist, to Insist, to Insist...'.

As per December 2018