

Art | Basel

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PRESS RELEASE
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At the world's premier show for Modern and contemporary works, exceptional sales across all sectors

The 48th edition of Art Basel in Basel closed on Sunday, June 18, 2017, with galleries throughout the show reporting exceptional sales, pointing to Art Basel's ability to convene leading galleries and collectors from around the world. Running simultaneously with the Venice Biennale, documenta 14 and Skulptur Projekte Münster, Art Basel drew a particularly strong turnout of both established and new collectors from over 100 countries, with strong attendance from the Americas and Asia. The show attracted an attendance of 95,000 and once again proved itself to be a pivotal meeting point for the international art world.

The show, whose Lead Partner is UBS, brought together 291 premier galleries from 35 countries, presenting extraordinary contemporary and Modern works by over 4,000 artists. Leading private collectors from Europe, the Americas, Asia and Africa attended this year, as well as representatives from over 300 museums and institutions, including: the Art Institute of Chicago; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; The Bass Museum of Art, Miami Beach; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, Bilbao; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington D.C.; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; M+, Hong Kong; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museo Tamayo Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City; National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Seoul; The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York; Mori Art Museum, Tokyo; Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Serpentine Galleries, London; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Tate, London; and The Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing.

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

'It's hard to imagine that Art Basel could grow stronger every year, but it does just that.'
Thaddaeus Ropac, Founder & Director, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac (Salzburg, Paris, London)

'Art Basel is the most important fair for the gallery. We placed our artists' works in excellent international collections. Again, this year, Unlimited gave us a fantastic opportunity to exhibit four historical and significant works by Otto Piene, John Baldessari, Barbara Kruger and Jenny Holzer. Unlimited and its focus on museum-quality pieces is very unique to this fair. It was great to see the response that these presentations received throughout the week.'

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

'This was one of the most upbeat art fairs that I can remember. Unlimited set the tone with one incredible installation after another. Collectors took their time, but we ended up selling virtually everything in the booth. It is also worth noting that museums were actively acquiring for their permanent collections.'

Marc Glimcher, President, Pace (New York, Beijing, Hong Kong, London, Palo Alto)

'We had our most successful Art Basel ever. The quality of the fair is astonishing and this year we felt that the caliber of the collectors, museum colleagues and patrons was not

only of the highest order, but even more international than we have seen in past years.’
Dominique Lévy, Founder and Co-owner, Lévy Gorvy (New York, London)

‘This has been our most successful Art Basel ever! The high energy of the fair combined with an incredibly diverse collector base meant we placed work in collections from Europe to the United States to institutions in China, and were active across the spectrum of our program – from multimillion dollar Modern masters to more modestly priced new work.’
Marc Payot, Partner & Vice President, Hauser & Wirth (Zurich, London, Somerset, Los Angeles, New York)

‘Art Basel marks the most important moment in the art world calendar, providing the best platform to make new connections and strengthen our existing relations with the most serious collectors and museum directors in the world. Park Chan-kyong’s work presented in the Unlimited sector is deeply rooted in Korean culture, we were extremely astonished how well the visitors received it.’
Hyun-Sook Lee, Founder and Chairwoman, Kukje Gallery / Tina Kim Gallery (Seoul, New York)

‘It is a beautiful experience to be part of Art Basel. Choosing to feature historical projects in such a fair allowed us to deepen our relationships, not only with private collectors but also with foundations and public institutions. It is the premier fair, and a moment to showcase our historical gems, our research and discoveries.’
Michele Casamonti, Owner, Tornabuoni Art (Paris, Crans Montana, Florence, Forte dei Marmi, London, Milan)

‘The quality of interest and energy present at Art Basel has been exceptional this year. Once again, Art Basel has proven itself to be a cut above all fairs.’
Maureen Paley, Founder Director, Maureen Paley (London)

‘Sales were incredibly robust, highlighting a growing interest in our global program, including artists of the diaspora and the African continent. This is always one of the most important moments of the year for us as a gallery, and we are thrilled with the mix of collectors, curators and scholars with whom we had the opportunity to connect with this year in Basel.’
Liza Essers, Owner and Director, Goodman Gallery (Johannesburg, Cape Town)

‘Art Basel 2017 has been extraordinary. Art Basel is the best fair in the world and this year was stronger than ever. We made major sales every day, many to new collectors, and I feel we could build much of our business for the year ahead on the contacts and discussions established at this fair alone.’
Alison Jacques, Owner, Alison Jacques Gallery (London)

‘We have been very privileged to be a new entry this year. It has been a great experience and we are delighted to have received a great reception to our artist Wang Shang’s new work and to enjoy a successful debut in this premier international art fair.’
Qu Kejie, Founder, Magician Space (Beijing)

‘The show this year was the best we’ve had in many years, by all measures. I feel quite invigorated.’
Howard Greenberg, Owner, Howard Greenberg Gallery (New York)

‘Art Basel continues to set the standard for international excellence. Our first year at the fair was an unequivocal success, with robust sales and a tremendous response to our curated booth. Not only were sales strong, they were diverse. The caliber of collectors, in addition to the quality of our fellow dealers, is unparalleled on the international stage.’
Emmanuel Di Donna, Founder, Di Donna (New York)

'We are very pleased and delighted with our first year at Art Basel in Switzerland. We were able to place fantastic works – among them was one of Domenico Gnoli's most powerful paintings, 'Braid' from 1969, and a milestone work by Pino Pascali – with major public and private collections. The overall quality of the fair was outstanding, and collectors felt the buzz of activity.'

Daniella Luxembourg, Partner, Luxembourg & Dayan (New York, London)

'Being selected to participate in Art Basel's Statements sector is a turning point in the career of our gallery, and we are honored to be here. Maha Maamoun's piece generated intense responses and it's very rewarding to see her work get this much validation from collectors and curators alike.'

Aleya Hamza, Director, Gypsum Gallery (Cairo)

'We are incredibly happy with our first-ever participation in the Galleries sector. We brought works by several artists that I believe have never-before been shown at Art Basel, Switzerland, including paintings by Warlimpirrnga Tjapaltjarri and Ibrahim El-Salahi. We placed both artists with European collectors with whom we have formed new relationships. It has been really gratifying to meet so many new collectors who are unfamiliar with our artists and program, as well as see our core clients here at the show.'

Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, Founder, Salon 94 (New York)

Galleries

This year, **Galleries**, the fair's main sector, presented 226 exhibitors showing the highest quality painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, photography, video and editioned works – with many galleries exhibiting work by artists from the summers' three other major art events. Overall, the gallery sector of the show was rejuvenated by 12 galleries showing within the sector for the very first time. On the ground floor, four secondary market dealers were brought in: Di Donna, Tornabuoni Art, Luxembourg & Dayan and Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois. On the first floor, new exhibitors included Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Pilar Corrias, dépendance, Freymond-Guth Fine Arts Ltd., Salon 94, Campoli Presti, Kraupa Tuskany Zeidler and Canada. Additionally, Edward Tyler Nahem Fine Art returned to Basel following a brief hiatus.

Statements

Solo presentations in **Statements** offered visitors and collectors the opportunity to discover quality work by emerging artists, brought to Art Basel by 18 of the most exciting young international galleries. The sector welcomed eight galleries exhibiting at the Basel show for the first time: Galerie Emanuel Layr from Vienna; Chapter NY and Real Fine Arts from New York, as well as galleries from places traditionally seen as far from the core art world: Galeria Dawid Radziszewski from Warsaw; Hopkinson Mossman from Auckland; and Gypsum Gallery from Cairo.

The 19th Baloise Art Prize was awarded to **Martha Atienza** (b. 1981) at Silverlens from Manila and **Sam Pulitzer** (b. 1984) exhibited by Real Fine Arts from New York. The prize of CHF 30,000 each was presented to the two artists by a jury of international experts, and works by the award winners were acquired by The Baloise Group and donated to the MUDAM Luxembourg and the Nationalgalerie Berlin.

Feature

32 galleries took part in the **Feature** sector, showcasing exceptionally high quality curatorial projects, with seven galleries completely new to the show. Encompassing both historical and contemporary work, highlights from the sector included: **Lea Lublin** (1929-1999) at Deborah Schamoni, **Stan VanDerBeek** (1927-1984) at The Box, a selection of **Vlassis Caniaris'** (1928-2011) political works at Kalfayan Galleries and Jenkins Johnson Gallery's spotlight on **Gordon Parks** (1912-2006).

Unlimited

Presented across 16,000 square meters of exhibition space, Unlimited offered artists and galleries an exciting platform to create and present ambitious large-scale works that transcend the traditional art-fair stand. Unlimited consisted of 76 works and was curated for the sixth year by **Gianni Jetzer**, curator-at-large at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington D.C. Once again galleries reported particularly strong sales from the sector. Both historical and contemporary works were featured, celebrating renowned masters as well as emerging artists, including: **Mac Adams** (b.1943), **Doug Aitken** (b. 1968), **John Baldessari** (b. 1931), **Phyllida Barlow** (b. 1944), **Andrea Bowers** (b. 1965), **Chris Burden** (1946-2015), **LaToya Ruby Frazier** (b. 1982), **Carlos Garaicoa** (b. 1967), **Subodh Gupta** (b. 1964), **Donna Huanca** (b. 1980), **Arthur Jafa** (b. 1960), **Mike Kelley** (1954-2012), **Barbara Kruger** (b. 1945), **Park Chan-kyong** (b. 1965), **Marwan Rechmaoui** (b. 1964), **Mickalene Thomas** (b. 1971), **Stan VanDerBeek** (1927-1984), **Sue Williamson** (b. 1941) and **Anicka Yi** (b. 1971).

Parcours

The medieval center of Basel around Münsterplatz was once again brought to life by **Parcours**, with artistic interventions engaging with Basel's past and present. This year's edition was curated for the second year by **Samuel Leuenberger**, Director and Curator of SALTS in Birsfelden, Switzerland, and consisted of 22 elaborate site-specific artworks, with artists addressing the truths that concern their daily experiences, including: **Ai Weiwei** (b. 1957), **Katinka Bock** (b. 1976), **Pedro Cabrita Reis** (b. 1956), **Miriam Cahn** (b. 1949), **Berlinde de Bruyckere** (b. 1964), **Nathalie Djurberg** (b. 1978) and **Hans Berg** (b. 1978), **Latifa Echakhch** (b. 1974), **GCC** (est. 2013), **Amanda Ross-Ho** (b. 1975), **Cally Spooner** (b. 1983), **Rirkrit Tiravanija** (b. 1961) and **Wu Tsang** (b. 1982). Over the seven days, over 12,000 people attended **Parcours**.

During **Parcours Night** on Saturday, June 17, all project venues stayed open late with special live performances. Supported by MGM Resorts Art and Culture, **Than Hussein Clark** (b. 1981) transformed Otto Rudolf Salvisberg's 'Erste Kirche Christi' into his own version of a Broadway theatre with 'Yes, Yes, All the News that's Fit To Print' (2017). Further performances on **Parcours Night** included works by: **Itziar Okariz** (b. 1965), **Marvin Gaye Chetwynd** (b. 1973), **Shana Moulton** (b. 1976), **Moved by the Motion** (**Wu Tsang**, **boychild**, **Patrick Belaga**, **Bendik Giske** and **Josh Johnson**), **Eric Hattan** (b. 1955), **Julian Sartorius** (b. 1981) and **Hans Berg** (b. 1978).

Film

Consisting of 34 film and video works, presented by the show's participating galleries, Art Basel's Film program was curated for the third year by Cairo-based film curator **Maxa Zoller**. Heavily influenced by today's political events, highlights from this year's program included: 'Also Known As Jihadi' (2017), the latest feature-length film by French-American artist **Eric Baudelaire** (b. 1973), the European premiere of **He Xiangyu's** (b. 1986) new film 'The Swim' (2017) and a special screening of **Stanley Tucci's** (b. 1960) 'Final Portrait' (2017), selected by New York-based film curator **Marian Masone**. As part of Art Basel's third year collaboration with the Locarno Festival, **Filipa César's** (b. 1975) new feature length film 'Spell Reel' (2017) was also presented. A key feature of the short film program included 'Little Films to Smile to: Focus on Breda Beban', offering visitors a rare opportunity to see multiple works by the late Yugoslavian-born filmmaker **Breda Beban** (1952-2012). Further works by **Kader Attia** (b. 1970), **Edgardo Aragón** (b. 1985), **François Bucher** (b. 1972), **William E. Jones** (b. 1962), **Maha Maamoun** (b. 1972), **Ana Mendieta** (1948-1985), **Mohau Modisakeng** (b. 1986), **Carlos Javier Ortiz** (b. 1975), **Robin Rhode** (b. 1976), **La Ribot** (b. 1962), **Ugo Rondinone** (b. 1964), **Zineb Sedira** (b. 1963), **Anton Vidokle** (b. 1965), **Andy Warhol** (1928-1987) and **Carrie Mae Weems** (b. 1953) were also presented as part of the short film program. The Art Basel Film program was shown at the Stadtkino Basel and attended by over 700 visitors.

Conversations

Conversations, Art Basel's talks series, brought together leading artists, gallerists, collectors, art historians, curators, museum directors and critics from across the world. Programmed for the third year by **Mari Spirito**, Founding Director and Curator of Protocinema, Istanbul, the program featured 23 talks and served as a platform for dialogues and discussions on current topics, offering perspectives on producing, collecting, and exhibiting art. This year's Premiere Artist Talk was devoted to the artist **Annette Messager** (b. 1943) and was moderated by Dr. **Maria Balshaw**, Director of Tate, London. The 'Artists' Influencers' talk saw the artist **Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster** (b. 1965) in dialogue with **Kasper König**, Artistic Director of Skulptur Projekte Münster 2017, moderated by **Hans Ulrich Obrist**, Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries, London. The debate focusing on 'New Rules: Is the Artworld a Mature Industry?', moderated by **András Szántó**, Author and Cultural Consultant, brought together a panel of speakers including **Lindsay Pollock**, Former Editor-in-Chief of Art in America, New York; **Adam Sheffer**, Partner at Cheim & Read and President, Art Dealers Association of America, New York; **Bob Rennie**, Collector and Principal, Rennie Collection, Vancouver; **Olav Velthuis**, Professor at the Department of Sociology of the University of Amsterdam and President of TIAMSA; and **Pierre Valentin**, Partner Constantine Cannon LLP, London. The Art Basel talks program was free and open to the public. Over 2,500 people attended Conversations this year. All panels were streamed live on Art Basel's YouTube channel and high-quality videos will be available on the website from next week: artbasel.com/basel/conversations.

NOW I WON

Swiss artist **Claudia Comte** (b. 1983) transformed Basel's Messeplatz with 'NOW I WON', a new monumental outdoor installation taking the form of a fully functioning funfair. Presented for the duration of this year's Art Basel in Basel and made especially for the show, 'NOW I WON' consisted of two parts: an immersive installation, which actively engaged the public to compete in a range of games and competitions and a large-scale sculpture that spelled out the palindrome title of the work: 'NOW I WON'. Over the six days, 2,500 people took part in the competition to win original art works by Claudia Comte. The presentation was curated by **Chus Martínez**, Head of Art Institute at FHNW Academy of Art and Design, Basel.

Exhibitions and performances 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: the first comprehensive engagement with the medium of photography on **Wolfgang Tillmans** (b. 1968) at Fondation Beyeler; '**Richard Serra: Films and Videotapes**', 'The Hidden **Cézanne: From Sketchbook to Canvas**', and 'Cosmic Communism', devoted to German painter and sculptor **Otto Freundlich** (1878-1943), at the Kunstmuseum Basel; an exhibition devoted to **Yan Xing** (b. 1986) alongside a group show titled 'Ungestalt' at the Kunsthalle Basel; **Wim Delvoye** (b. 1965) at Museum Tinguely; '**David Claerbout: Olympia**' at Schaulager; and two themed shows: 'Mudun: Urban Cultures in Transit' and 'Together! The New Architecture of the Collective' at Vitra Design Museum.

Organized by the Verein Basler Galerien, a group of Basel galleries opened their doors to the public on the evening of Thursday, June 13, 2017. Participating galleries included: von Bartha, Carzaniga, Graf & Schelble, Henze & Ketterer & Triebold, Idea Fixa, Laleh June, Gisèle Linder, Anne Mosseri-Marlio, Stampa, Daniel Blaise Thorens, Tony Wuethrich and Kunsthalle Palazzo. Other independent art spaces, such as Vitrine and Balzer Projects, were also included.

On Thursday, June 15, 2017 Theater Basel showed a performance piece by Luxembourg artist **Filip Markiewicz** (b. 1980) drawn from his work 'Paradiso Lussemburgo' (2015) and featuring actors from Theater Basel. The piece reflected the work of actors in today's Europe, with its interdependencies of politics and pop culture, terrorism and populism.

Design Miami Basel

Design Miami Basel, the global forum for collectible design, once again took place in Hall 1 South on the Messeplatz, from June 13-18, 2017. The 12th edition presented more than 50 participating galleries exhibiting historic and contemporary design alongside a robust cultural program. For more details, please visit designmiami.com.

Publications

Published by JRP|Ringier, Art Basel Year 47 reflects on the year 2016 in the artworld and includes interviews with leading artists, gallerists, curators and museum directors. The publication is available to buy at all Art Basel shows, and at selected art bookstores across Europe, the United States and Asia. The Unlimited catalogue, published by Hatje Cantz, sold out by the end of the fair.

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. In 2014, Art Basel launched its Crowdfunding Initiative, in collaboration with Kickstarter. This initiative presents jury-selected art projects to potential benefactors, which include Art Basel's vibrant audience and the Kickstarter community. The initiative has catalyzed much-needed support for outstanding non-commercial art projects worldwide and so far has helped pledge over \$1.5 million to creative projects around the world. For Art Basel Cities, launched in 2016, Art Basel is working with selected partner cities to develop vibrant and content-driven programs specific to the individual city. Connecting them to the global art world through Art Basel's expertise and network, Art Basel Cities supports its partners to develop their unique cultural landscape. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Selection Committee in Basel

The Selection Committee for Art Basel's show in Basel is comprised of renowned international gallerists: Marc Blondeau, Blondeau & Cie, Geneva; Sadie Coles, Sadie Coles HQ, London; Lucy Mitchell-Innes, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York; Jochen Meyer, Meyer Riegger, Berlin, Karlsruhe; Tim Neuger, neugerriemschneider, Berlin; and Franco Noero, Galleria Franco Noero, Turin. The experts for the Statements and Feature sectors are: Gabrielle Giattino, Bureau, New York; Sunitha Kumar Emmart, GallerySKE, Bangalore; and Beat Raeber, RaebervonStenglin, Zurich.

Partners

UBS, global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for more than 20 years. As Art Basel's global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows: Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. In addition, UBS has a long and substantial record of engagement in contemporary art: as a holder of one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections, as an active partner in global contemporary art projects such as the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, and as a source of information and insights through the UBS Art Competence Center, UBS Arts Forum and its new contemporary art news-focused app, 'Planet Art'.

'It was fascinating to see the convergence of contemporary art, geopolitics and economics at the Art Basel show this week,' said **Jürg Zeltner**, President UBS Wealth

Management. 'As global Lead Partner, we at UBS see thousands of clients with a passion to invest in art enjoying this event – a trend that is clearly here to stay.'

Art Basel's Associate Partners, supporting all three shows, are MGM Resorts International – one of the world's leading entertainment companies with a long-standing commitment to presenting and supporting art in public spaces; Davidoff – the prestigious Swiss cigar brand, whose Davidoff Art Initiative encompasses residencies, art dialogs and grants; Audemars Piguet – the independent high-end watch manufacturer, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission; and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. BMW, the renowned car manufacturer, has co-developed with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey, enabling the winning artist to design a journey of creative discovery. Additionally, Art Basel is supported globally by Ruinart as Official Champagne Partner.

The Art Basel show in Basel has a partnership with Baloise Group, whose Art Prize is awarded to up to two artists exhibiting in the Statements sector. Joining the show for the first time as a partner is La Prairie, the premier luxury skincare. Further Partners of the Basel show are AXA ART, Vienna Tourist Board, ARVI and Mobimex. Art Basel's Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information about partnerships, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Miami Beach, December 7-10, 2017

Hong Kong, March 29-31, 2018

Basel, June 14-17, 2018

Media information online

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press. Journalists can subscribe to our media mailings to receive information on Art Basel.

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