
PRESS RELEASE
BASEL | SEPTEMBER 26 | 2021

Art Basel stages the first full-scale international art fair since 2019, with vigorous sales and outstanding presentations marking a highly successful 2021 edition.

- **Art Basel's 2021 edition closed on Sunday, September 26, amid reports of strong sales across all levels of the market throughout the duration of the fair**
- **'Art Basel Live', the digital initiative first debuted in May at Art Basel Hong Kong, amplified participating galleries to a broad global audience**
- **The fair attracted an overall attendance of 60,000 throughout its VIP and public days**
- **The show, whose Lead Partner is UBS, took place at Messe Basel from September 24 to September 26, 2021**

Art Basel brought together 272 premier galleries from 33 countries and territories, presenting outstanding works across all media, from rare and historical masterpieces to new works by today's emerging voices. A strong line-up of galleries from around Europe were joined by new and returning exhibitors from across the world, including Asia, North and South America, the Middle East, and Africa. 24 galleries from cities including Berlin, Buenos Aires, Hong Kong, London, Milan, New York, Palm Beach and San Francisco took part in the fair for the first time.

In addition to showcasing exceptional art within its Galleries, Feature, Statements, and Edition sectors, the fair also presented 62 large-scale artworks in Unlimited; 20 site-specific projects as part of Parcours; two performances – by artists **Monster Chetwynd** and **Cecilia Bengolea** – on the Messeplatz; an ambitious Film program; and the fair's vibrant talks series, Conversations.

Leading private collectors from across Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, and Africa attended this year, as well as curators and representatives from over 300 museums and institutions, including: Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris; Fondazione MAXXI, Milan; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA); Städel Museum, Frankfurt; Serpentine Galleries, London; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate, London; and Zachęta - National Gallery of Art, Warsaw.

Art Basel Live amplified the onsite presentations in Basel, transmitting the vibrancy and excitement from the show floor to the broadest possible global audience. Visitors from around the world explored our exhibiting galleries via an enhanced edition of the Online Viewing Rooms (OVRs). Dedicated Viewing Rooms specifically developed for Unlimited and Parcours and complemented with an audio guide gave additional insight into these large-scale and site-specific projects. Art Basel Live also featured virtual Walk-throughs of the show floor and the OVRs led by Princess Alia Al-Senussi, PhD, global art patron; Thierry Gillier, CEO & Founder of iconic French fashion brand Zadig & Voltaire, together with Guillaume Houzé, President of Galeries Lafayette, as well as a rich program of social-media content including exclusive behind-the-scenes footage, giving audiences intimate access to the show.

Prior to the show's opening, Art Basel announced a one-time CHF 1.5 million solidarity fund to mitigate the financial risk for participating galleries under the current extraordinary circumstances. Many galleries have already announced they will be opting out of the fund, thereby increasing the share for other exhibitors who may have been less successful. This initiative reflects the spirit of collegiality and collaboration that has come to the fore during the pandemic and is part of Art Basel's commitment to developing new formats and models that best support its galleries.

Marc Spiegler, Global Director, Art Basel said: 'This year's Art Basel was a landmark show. The fair served as a place for making new discoveries and building new relationships in person, activities that were largely impossible for more than a year. Despite reduced attendance of collectors from Asia and the US due to current travel restrictions, vigorous sales throughout the duration of the show brought to the fore Europe's powerful collector bases and rich collecting tradition. This week represents the beginning of the art world coming together again, at scale, and the rejuvenation of the international art market.'

Galleries exhibiting across all sectors of Art Basel commented:

'After quite some speculation and uncertainty, Art Basel turned out to be a remarkable success. Collectors from all corners of Europe and Asia showed up hungry and with an appetite to buy art! We were particularly thrilled with the interest in our contemporary program — our sales highlights included many artists who joined us this past year and whom we presented at Art Basel for the first time.'

Marc Glimcher, CEO, Pace Gallery (New York, London, Hong Kong, Palo Alto, Seoul, Geneva, East Hampton, Palm Beach)

'It's astonishing and amazing that the success of this edition lives mainly from European collectors and that Europe alone can carry such an important art fair like this.'

Thaddaeus Ropac, owner of Thaddaeus Ropac (London, Paris, Salzburg)

'The preparation for this year's Art Basel happened under unusual circumstances. Regardless, many collectors and curators travelled to the fair. There's a strong interest to see works in real life again and to have extensive in-person conversations. The fair has been a great success and we were able to place important works by Jenny Holzer, Andreas Gursky, Anne Imhof, Barbara Kruger and Rosemarie Trockel amongst others early on. It is really good to be back!'

Monika Sprüth and Philomene Magers, Co-owners, Sprüth Magers (Berlin, London, Los Angeles)

'At Art Basel in Basel we finally rediscovered the pleasure of experiencing art in real life and not through the mediation of a screen; also, we could finally go back to have a direct relationship with people. Nothing feels better than this. The fair was very successful for the gallery, and we look forward to the much-anticipated acceleration of the market for this season.'

Massimo De Carlo, Founder, Massimo De Carlo (Hong Kong, Paris, Milan, London)

'As soon as the doors opened, we all immediately felt that the fair would work. There was a great energy and mood. There is nothing like physical encounters. We have decided to opt out of the solidarity fund.'

Saskia Draxler, Co-Owner, Galerie Nagel Draxler (Berlin, Cologne, Munich)

'We are extremely honored to be able to place a major work in the collection of the Centre Pompidou in Paris. We experienced good attention and profound discourse with the project we showed. Nothing can substitute the in-person discourse.'

René Schmitt, Founder, René Schmitt (Westoverledingen)

'We had such a good Tuesday it was the first time I've been able to come to the fair so relaxed on Wednesday morning. Sales have been very very good, and what is exciting is that we sold works by almost all the artists on the booth. We sold to collectors mostly from Europe but also some Americans.'

Stefan von Bartha, Director, von Bartha Gallery (Basel, S-chanf)

'We were happy to share a booth with Madragoa gallery from Lisbon, with whom we share representation of Joanna Piotrowska. It was our first time presenting at the fair in this way. Being able to have a physical presence at the fair for the collectors in town for Basel, whilst also showcasing our young artists in the OVR worked very well. The digital walkthrough of the OVR enabled us to connect with new collectors from Asia and other parts of the world who could discover the gallery's artists for the first time. At the physical fair we placed 6 large paintings by one of our emerging artists, Louisa Gagliardi, in notable collections, while we also sold 3 of her works via the OVR.'

Magdalen Kobus, Director, Galeria Dawid Radziszewski (Warsaw)

'Art Basel is back in full force. Collectors at the fair have renewed energy to be back with art of incredible calibre, such as the works by Philip Guston and David Smith, and this year we've had even greater interest from those in touch from afar. We've also seen great demand in our artists from international institutions and foundations.'

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

'This year's Art Basel brought out the best in everyone. Galleries, artists and collectors all came together with great enthusiasm and energy. Above all the fair organizers deserve enormous congratulations for providing an event that felt grounded and right amid so much uncertainty. We were so glad to be here.'

Valerie Carberry, Partner and Principal, Gray (Chicago, New York)

'Art Basel Switzerland 2021 was a great success. Just a few weeks ago the art world seemed unsure about the turnout of the fair and it is evident that collectors showed up and were excited to buy great art.'

Helly Nahmad, Owner, Helly Nahmad Gallery (New York)

'Art Basel 2021 was like a long-awaited film release, the premiere of which was postponed—there was suspense and anticipation prior to the preview. Collectors returned to the show in a confident mood, sales were strong, and we look forward to meeting once again at Art Basel Miami Beach in December.'

Almine Rech-Picasso, Founder, Almine Rech (Brussels, Shanghai, Paris, London, New York, Aspen)

'We were happy to be back in Basel and glad to see so many old friends after months of travel restrictions. While, not surprisingly, business was not at the same level as 2019, it certainly did exceed our expectations, and I think I speak for many when I say we were pleasantly surprised. This bodes well for Art Basel Miami Beach in December.'

David Zwirner, Owner, David Zwirner (New York, London, Paris, Hong Kong)

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

Galleries

The show's main sector comprised 220 leading galleries, showing painting, sculpture, drawing, installation, photography, video, digital, and editioned works of the highest quality. 13 galleries graduated into the main sector to present their full program: Antenna Space from Shanghai; Cardi Gallery with spaces in Milan and London; Carlos/Ishikawa from London; ChertLüdde from Berlin; Galleria Raffaella Cortese from Milan; galerie frank

elbaz from Paris; Essex Street/Maxwell Graham from New York; Experimenter from Kolkata; Layr with spaces in Vienna and Rome; Madragoa from Lisbon, Edouard Malingue Gallery from Hong Kong; Galeria Dawid Radziszewski from Warsaw and Galerie Gregor Staiger from Zurich.

Six joint booths were featured, including: The Approach and Kate MacGarry, Bergamin & Gomide and Galeria Luisa Strina, Konrad Fischer Galerie and Peter Freeman, Inc., Galería Elvira González and Anthony Meier Fine Arts, Madragoa and Galeria Dawid Radziszewski, and David Nolan Gallery and Sperone Westwater. Galerie Jocelyn Wolff's booth hosted Take Ninagawa as a 'Wunderkammer' booth presentation, a new concept allowing exhibitors to stage small exhibitions within another gallery's stand, while Magician Space, ShanghART Gallery, Tokyo Gallery + BTAP, and Vitamin Creative Space participated with satellite booths. 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 Ben Brown Fine Arts' booth, which explored **Lucio Fontana's** beginnings and evolution as a sculptor; one of the first computer-generated poems by **Alison Knowles**, presented by James Fuentes; Kasmin's presentation of significant works by **Lee Krasner**; **Mira Schor's** monumental painting 'War Frieze' (1991-1994), addressing militarism and patriarchy, presented by Lyles & King; and Galerie Jérôme Poggi's presentation of Prix Marcel Duchamp 2020 winner **Kapwani Kiwanga's** 'The Botanics of History'. For the full list of exhibitors in Feature, please visit artbasel.com/basel/feature.

Statements

Showcasing 18 solo presentations by young galleries across the world, Statements offered collectors and visitors the opportunity to discover quality work by emerging artists. Highlights from the sector included: Company Gallery's presentation of an immersive installation by **Jonathan Lyndon Chase**; 'In A Sign for Things to Come' by **Vartan Avakian**, presented by Marfa'; and Jessica Silverman's booth comprised of sculptural works by **Rose Bean Simpson**. For the full list of exhibitors in Statements, please visit artbasel.com/basel/statements.

The 22nd Baloise Art Prize was awarded to **Cameron Clayborn**, presenting with Simone Subal Gallery, and **Hana Miletić**, presenting with LambdaLambdaLambda. 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

Spread throughout both floors of Hall 2 for the first time, the sector featured 10 leading galleries in the field of prints and editioned works: Niels Borch Jensen Gallery and Editions, Cristea Roberts Gallery, Sabine Knust, Lelong Editions, Carolina Nitsch, Paragon, Polígrafa Obra Gráfica, René Schmitt, Susan Sheehan Gallery, and STPI participating with a satellite booth. Lelong Editions showcased 'Borders' by **Barthélémy Toguo** on the Spotlight wall facing the Rundhof. For the full list of exhibitors in Edition, please visit artbasel.com/basel/edition.

Unlimited

Unlimited, Art Basel's unique platform for large-scale projects, once again provided galleries the opportunity to showcase expansive installations, monumental sculptures, vast wall paintings, extensive photographic series, and video projections that transcend the traditional art fair stand. Featuring 62 projects, the sector was for the first time curated by **Giovanni Carmine**, Director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen. Highlights included: **Etel**

Adnan's large-scale drawing 'Le Soleil Toujours' (2020) presented by Sfeir-Semler Gallery; 'Entrare nel linguaggio' (2019-2021), a textile installation by **Marion Baruch**, completed especially for Unlimited 2021 and presented by Galerie Urs Meile; **Frank Bowling's** painting 'Samson's Circle with Lila's dress made in Africa of imported Chinese fabric: and the rest' (2019) presented by Hauser & Wirth; **Urs Fischer's** installation 'Untitled (Bread House)' (2004-2006) presented by Jeffrey Deitch; **David Hockney's** painting 'Pictures at an Exhibition' (2018/2021) presented by Gray and exhibited at Unlimited for the first time; **Robert Rauschenberg's** large-format painting 'Rollings (Salvage)' (1984) presented by Thaddaeus Ropac; and **Carrie Mae Weems' 'Repeating the Obvious'** (2019) co-presented by Jack Shainman Gallery and Galerie Barbara Thumm. For the full list of artists and exhibitors in Unlimited, please visit artbasel.com/basel/unlimited.

Parcours

Art Basel's public sector returned to the city of Basel, featuring 20 site-specific installations and performances throughout the city center. Once again curated by **Samuel Leuenberger**, founder of the non-profit exhibition space SALTS in Birsfelden, Switzerland, this year's Parcours took place across civic and private spaces, as well as new venues, under the theme 'Can We Find Happiness Together Again?'. Some of the many highlights included: 12 large-scale paintings and performances by **Claudia Comte** co-presented by Gladstone Gallery and König Galerie at Stadtcasino Basel; an open-floor-based composition by **Jason Dodge** at the Kunstmuseum Basel, presented by Galleria Franco Noero; a public walk by **Hamish Fulton** titled 'Walking in Every Direction' on Basel's Marktplatz, presented by Galerie Tschudi; **Bunny Rogers' large-scale sculpture** titled 'Neopets' presented by Soci t ; 'Mudmen', a site-specific installation by **Augustas Serapinas** presented by Emalin; and sculptural installations by **Pedro Wirz** at the Kunsthalle Basel presented by Galerie Nagel Draxler. For the full list of artists and exhibitors in Parcours, please visit artbasel.com/basel/parcours.

Messeplatz

Basel's Messeplatz featured two site-specific interventions selected by the fair's Unlimited and Parcours curators. **Monster Chetwynd** developed a large-scale installation and performance curated by **Giovanni Carmine**, while **Samuel Leuenberger** worked with **Cecilia Bengolea** on a video installation and performance staged within the fountain of the Messeplatz. Developed independently, projects by Bengolea and Chetwynd sought to engage fair visitors and the city's residents in an exciting and surprising dialogue. For further information, please visit artbasel.com/basel/messeplatz.

Film

Screened at Stadtkino Basel, the Film program was for the first time curated by writer and lecturer **Filipa Ramos**, Co-Founder and Curator of Vdrome. In addition, **Marian Masone**, New York-based film curator, selected two outstanding film portraits of artists: 'Beyond the Visible – Hilma af Klint', directed by **Halina Dyrschka**, and 'Bill Traylor: Chasing Ghosts', directed by **Jeffrey Wolf**. For the full program, please visit artbasel.com/basel/film.

Conversations

Programmed by Art Basel and Berlin-based artist **Julieta Aranda**, the Conversations program once again offered audiences access to first-hand information on the international art world. The panels took place in the auditorium of Hall 1 and featured a dynamic line-up of speakers. Highlights included 'The Museum of the Future', moderated by **Jane Morris**, Editor-at-Large, The Art Newspaper and Cultureshock; and featuring **Maria Balshaw**, Director, Tate, London; **Chris Dercon**, President, R union des mus es nationaux-Grand Palais, Paris; **Susanne Pfeffer**, Director, MMK Museum f r Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt; and **Storm Janse van Rensburg**, Senior Curator and Head of Curatorial Affairs, Zeitz MOCAA, Cape Town.

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**
'CLOSE-UP. Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Lotte Laserstein, Frida Kahlo, Alice Neel, Marlene Dumas, Cindy Sherman, Elizabeth Peyton'
- **Kunstmuseum Basel**
'Kara Walker: A Black Hole is Everything a Star Longs to Be'
'Shadows: Image and Imagination'
'Camille Pissarro: The Studio of Modernism'
- **Kunsthalle Basel**
'Matthew Angelo Harrison: Proto'
'INFORMATION (Today)'
'Yoan Mudy: The Future Doesn't Need Us'
- **Kunsthaus Baselland**
'Gerda Steiner & Jörg Lenzlinger: Eine Augenübung zur Freude des Hauses: Jahresausserprojekt'
'Marina Rosenfeld: We'll start a fire'
'Andrea Blum: Parallel Lives'
- **Museum Tinguely**
'Bruce Conner. Light out of Darkness'
'Museum Tinguely AHOY!'
- **Vitra Design Museum**
'Spot On: Women Designers in the Collection'
'Memphis: 40 Years of Kitsch and Elegance'

Design Miami Basel

Design Miami, the global forum for collectible design, presented the 15th edition of their Basel fair from September 21 to 26, 2021, with the Collectors and VIP Preview on Monday, September 20. The fair returned to Hall 1 Süd on Messeplatz and presented more than 40 exhibitors showcasing historic and contemporary design alongside a robust cultural program. The fair was also offered in a hybrid event format online, where all exhibited works were available for purchase for a limited time. For more information, 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 new digital platforms and a number of new

initiatives such as the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report and the BMW Art Journey. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Selection Committee in Basel

Sadie Coles, Sadie Coles HQ, London
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Jochen Meyer, Meyer Riegger, Berlin, Karlsruhe
Lucy Mitchell-Innes, Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York
Jan Mot, Jan Mot, Brussels
Franco Noero, Galleria Franco Noero, Turin

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Jennifer Chert, ChertLüdde, Berlin
Jasmin Tsou, JTT, New York
Prateek Raja, Experimenter, Kolkata

The expert for the Edition sector:

Carolina Nitsch, Carolina Nitsch, New York

The expert for classical photography:

Thomas Zander, Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne

Partners

UBS & Contemporary Art

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 important corporate art collections and 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. UBS also has partnerships with fine art institutions including the Fondation Beyeler in Switzerland, the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art in Russia, and the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Australia. UBS provides its clients with insight into the art market, collecting, and legacy planning through its UBS Collectors Circle and UBS Art Advisory. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** are Audemars Piguet, whose program in contemporary art: 'Audemars Piguet Contemporary' commissions international artists to create contemporary artworks; 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, La Prairie, Ruinart, Sanlorenzo, and On. Art Basel's Media Partner is the Financial Times.

Local Partners in Basel are Baloise Group, whose Art Prize awarded two artists exhibiting in the Statements sector, AXA XL, Vitra, Mövenpick Hotel Basel, and The Fixer. For more information, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Miami Beach, December 2-4, 2021
Hong Kong, March 24-26, 2022
Basel, June 16-19, 2022

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.

For the latest updates on Art Basel, visit artbasel.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/artbasel or follow @artbasel on Instagram, Google+, Twitter, Weibo and Wechat.

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