

Press Release

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ART DUBAI CLOSES ITS LARGEST AND MOST INTERNATIONAL EDITION TO DATE

- A record 28,000+ visitors throughout the week.
- 98 museums and institutions in attendance from across the world.
- Sales reported to be the strongest to date.
- 94 galleries attending from 43 countries, making Art Dubai 2017 the most international edition since the beginning of the fair.
- The Global Art Forum explored the theme of trade.
- Over 1,200 students visited the fair through the fair's schools and colleges' programme, and more than 700 children participated in the Sheikha Manal Little Artists Program.

March 22, 2017, Dubai, United Arab Emirates – The eleventh edition of Art Dubai, held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, in the company of dignitaries including His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, His Excellency Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum and His Excellency AbdulRahman Bin Mohamed Al Owais.

This year's edition was the fair's largest and most international, with new galleries and countries participating for the first time, reinforcing its position as the world's most globally diverse art fair, as well as the preeminent platform for the regional art scene.

A record number of 98 museums and institutions visited the fair this year, with museum directors and curators from returning institutions, including the Tate, London; the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; The British Museum, London; The Centre Pompidou, Paris; MoMA and MoMA PS1, New York; LACMA, Los Angeles and Mathaf: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha. Institutions visiting for the first time included the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem; the Norton Museum of Art, Palm Beach; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia. For the first time, Art Dubai also ran its inaugural Invited Collectors Programme, hosting over 150 international collectors and curators, who took part in a week-long extensive cultural programme across the UAE.

“This year was one of our most successful at Art Dubai to date,” said Sunny Rahbar of The Third Line, Dubai. *“In addition to selling out our booth, we have been able to meet interesting new collectors and connect to staff at some of the most important institutions in the contemporary art world”*.

Highlights of this year’s fair included the unveiling of Rana Begum’s monumental winning work for the ninth edition of the Abraaj Group Art Prize, the eleventh Global Art Forum that focused this year on trade, the extensive programme of performances taking place around the fair and the commissions programme that included The Room by Atfal Ahdath and Meriem Bennani’s installation at the Art Dubai Bar.

Outside the fair, Art Dubai’s Art Week programme, a testament to Dubai’s growing cultural scene, had a record number of 150 participants hosting over 350 events across the city. Highlights included the sixth edition of Design Days Dubai, Sikka Art Fair and 27 gallery exhibitions in Alserkal.

Art Week also saw the announcement of the opening of the Jameel Arts Centre, one of the first major not-for-profit contemporary art institutions in Dubai, due to open at the end of 2018. The centre was seen to be active at the fair adding both Middle Eastern and international artists to the Jameel Art Collection.

Art Dubai 2017 was held in partnership with The Abraaj Group, who celebrated their annual Abraaj Week alongside the fair, and was sponsored by **Julius Baer, Meraas** and **Piaget**. The fair took place at its home, **Madinat Jumeirah**. The Dubai Culture and Arts Authority is a strategic partner of Art Dubai and, along with Dubai Design District (d3), supports the fair’s year-round education programme.

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Participating galleries offered to comment on their experience of Art Dubai 2017:

Lawrie Shabibi, Dubai

"We've had a phenomenal fair this year! We've sold works by Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Adel Abidin, Mounir Fatmi, and Nick Devereux, and we've made some really amazing new contacts this year."

- Asmaa Al-Shabibi, Co-founder and Director, Lawrie Shabibi

Kalfayan, Athens/Tessaloniki

"After ten years of attending the fair we can say that this year has been one of the best in terms of attendance, concrete sales, and further good conversations and connections."

- Yuli Karatsiki, Gallery Manager, Kalfayan Galleries

Zilberman, Istanbul

"It's been a very good fair - from a sales point of view (we've sold nine works this week) but also from a connection point of view, particularly institutionally. Dubai is like a home for us - it's always nice to come back and see new faces as well as old friends."

- Moiz Zilberman, Founding Partner, Zilberman

Victoria Miro, London

"This year has been very successful for us at Art Dubai - we nearly sold out the stand and have sold works by Idris Khan, Alex Hartley and Yayoi Kusama. We feel this year has really seen the fruit of our and the fair's labour - proof of the time we have put in for the past 5 years here in Dubai, consolidating relationships, as well as establishing new ones."

- Fabian Lang, Associate Sales Director, Victoria Miro

Experimenter, Calcutta

"We're continually grateful to the Art Dubai team for everything they do to help us - we

know how hard they work to ensure our week is successful and that people come to see the booth. This year has in particular seen lots of new Indian collectors, which is great for us as it means we are able to confirm sales from relationships back home through the relaxed setting of the fair here".

- Prateek Raja, Director, Experimenter

Upstream Gallery, Amsterdam

"We've made sales, we've met new people, we made it into the press – everything you would want a from a fair. We also met some new institutional contacts which was interesting. Looking forward to next year!"

- Nieck de Bruijn, Founder and Owner, Upstream Gallery

Kasia Michalski Gallery, Warsaw

"Networking-wise it was a great fair - there were a lots of directors from international institutions coming to visit the booth, and we had some great conversations. It was worth coming to the fair and we also made some sales with was brilliant!"

- Aleksandra Urbańska, Gallery Manager, Kasia Michalski Gallery

Wadi Finan Art Gallery, Amman

"We're very happy this year. The fair has had amazing attendance, we've had exposure to a larger group of collectors this year and we got to meet more people from all over the world. A lot of people from the region - budding and established collectors - came to visit us and were very happy. Sales were excellent."

- Raya Kassisieh, Associate Director, Wadi Finan Art Gallery

Galerie Daniel Templon, Brussels / Paris

"We're really happy and we've had a great week. There is a vibrant energy here around the fair and it's been really positive for us."

- Lara Sedbon, Associate Director, Galerie Daniel Templon

Mind Set Art Center, Taipei

"This is our second time at the fair, returning from last year. The fair feels different this year – it seems to be broadening and exploring further regions and countries. This year it's vivid and varied, with different perspectives; other fairs tend to focus on one genre or region - here you can see so many different expressions."

- Queena Chu, Director, Mind Set Art Center

Marianne Boesky, New York

"We really enjoy it here and we're always happy to come back. Everyone's very

welcoming - lots of new faces and very positive to see familiar faces as well. The fair did a lot of outreach to museums this year, and you can tell as the institutional presence is strong."

- Adrian Turner, director at Marianne Boesky Gallery

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Art Dubai

The preeminent platform to interact with art from the Middle East and North Africa, Art Dubai is a leading international art fair. Mirroring the cosmopolitanism and diversity of its hometown Dubai, it is the most globally diverse art fair, which in 2017 will present galleries from 43 countries. Through the fair and its year-round activities, Art Dubai also plays a leading role for the cultural development of Dubai, thus redefining the role an art fair can play; its year-round thought leadership, education and commissioning programming activities such as the Global Art Forum, Campus Art Dubai and Art Dubai Projects have been instrumental in building the framework for supporting artistic talent in the city and beyond.

The eleventh edition of Art Dubai takes place March 15-18, 2017.

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