

# ART ADVISORY E-BULLETIN

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### JR at the Louvre

In case you missed it, the French street artist JR joined forces with one of most famous and most photographed museums in the world—the Louvre in Paris – to showcase his latest project for the month of June. Using the principle of anamorphosis, a distorted projection or drawing which appears normal when viewed from a particular point of view or with a suitable mirror or lens, the artist intends to eliminate the Louvre’s most famous symbol: its Pyramid.

Famous for fly-posting large black and white photographic images only visible from a certain standpoint in locations such as the favelas of Rio, along the Seine or in Times Square, JR views the street as the “largest gallery in the world”. He said, “ The most important thing is where I put my photos and the meaning they take on depending on the place.” During his project at the Louvre, which ran from May 25 to June 27, JR also curated a special 24-hour events with Sam Stourdzé, Daniel Buren, Felice Varini and Laurent Goumarre amongst others.



<http://www.louvre.fr/en/expositions/contemporary-art-jr-louvre>

JR installation at the pyramide du Louvre, credit photo: thisiscolossal.com

## **The Donkey and the it-drink**

You never know who the talk of the town will be before an art fair but when the fifth edition of Frieze New York closed on May 8, it was clear that this year's wonder boy was Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan's donkey, Sir Gabriel. The artwork, which featured a placid, brown donkey munching on grass beneath an ornate chandelier, was titled *Enter at Your Own Risk – Do Not Touch, Do Not Feed, No Smoking, No Photographs, No Dogs, Thank You*. Despite, or perhaps precisely due to the ironic request for no photographs, Sir Gabriel became an immediate Instagram sensation during the fair.

While some galleries went for the old classics – Gagolian dedicated his entire booth to Damien Hirst, showing a melange of old hits, such as the butterflies, the formaldehyde ram and spin and spot paintings – others, such as the Berlin gallery Société, went for a new approach. Here the American artist Sean Raspet was handing out free samples of Soylent, a meal replacement drink currently all the rage in Silicon Valley, to fair goers.



Sir Gabriel, credit artnews.com

### **The Caravaggio in the Attic**

Imagine climbing into your attic to inspect a leak in the roof, only to find a 400-year old masterpiece. This is precisely what happened to a French family near Toulouse, when they stumbled upon a well-preserved painting of Judith Beheading Holofernes in April 2014, thought to be a long-lost Caravaggio worth €120million.

Labelled “The Caravaggio in the attic”, the painting is thought to have been created between 1600 and 1610. The art expert and gallery owner Eric Turquin, who has been cleaning and examining the painting since its discovery two years ago, using infrared reflectography and X-rays says: “This particular lighting, this energy typical of Caravaggio without corrections, with a sure hand and the pictorial material make this painting an original.” According to art historians, Caravaggio painted two versions of this particular Biblical scene. The first was painted in Rome and is currently on display at the National Gallery of Ancient Art. The second version was created in Naples and disappeared without a trace 400 years ago.



The Caravaggio during his public exhibition credit parismatch.com

## **Ugo Rondinone in Las Vegas Desert**

The artist Ugo Rondinone's new public art installation Seven Magic Mountains has just been unveiled in the Nevada Desert. It consists of a series of colossal locally sourced, vertically stacked limestone boulders in various day-glo colours ranging from 30-35ft in height. The stone forms appear like fluorescent boulder totems or hoodoos (a tall spire of rock that protrudes from the bottom of a drainage basin), against the backdrop of the monochrome Nevada Desert they could be viewed as an apparition.

Presented by the Art Production Fund and the Nevada Museum of Art, the work took Ugo Rondinone five years to create. The artist, who had an installation at Rockefeller Plaza in 2013 titled Human Nature consisting of giant stone figures, standing like ancient sentries, continues his attraction to natural phenomenon and reformulating it in art. According to Rondinone's artist statement, the work elicits continuities and solidarities between human and nature, artificial and natural, then and now.

## Zaha Hadid Architects to carry on without its founder



Zaha hadid, credit lefigaro.com

Following the death in March of the outstandingly visionary, Baghdad-born architect Zaha Hadid, the architecture firm is coming to terms with the loss of its star. Whilst a strong sadness persists within the company, her senior partner Patrick Schumacher, who worked alongside Hadid for 28 years and who was the project architect for Hadid's Vitra building, has been put in charge of creating a new identity for Zaha Hadid Architects, while honouring and maintaining her legacy. The firm has announced that it will continue to practice without its late founder and figurehead.

In a statement issued by the firm it says, "Zaha is in the DNA of Zaha Hadid Architects. She continues to drive and inspire us every day, and we work on as Zaha taught us – with curiosity, integrity, passion and determination." Currently, there are 36 projects, which have design contracts or are already under construction in 21 countries. The firm, which recently opened offices in New York, is moving forward with existing projects, such as the Stadium for the World Cup in Qatar, a bridge in Taipei, a tower in New York and the Iraqi parliament. They have also recently won the contract to build a new airport in Beijing.



The cultural center Heydar Aliyev, in Azerbaïdjan credit photo: o.nouvelobs.com

## 1858 Ltd Art Advisory

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## And in Other News...

- Despite curated auctions being the latest trend to take hold of the auction market, in particular events organised by Loic Gouzer at Christie's, Jean-Michel Basquiat's Untitled (1982) painting reached a new record at auction for the artist at a traditional Post-War and Contemporary event at Christie's on May 10 in New York, when it sold for \$57.3million.
- French billionaire François Pinault is taking over the Bourse de Commerce building in the centre of Paris to house his 1.4billion dollar collection of modern masters. Pinault owns one of the biggest private art collections in the world, as well as Christie's auction house. His new museum will be ideally located for art lovers, being that it's close to Centre Pompidou and the Louvre.
- The Rembrandt painting The Unconscious Patient (1624), which was recently rediscovered and is said to be one of five paintings depicting the senses, made when the artist was a teenager, is going to go on view at the J.P. Getty Museum in Los Angeles. It was initially tagged at \$500-800 when it came to auction at Nye and Company in New Jersey.

## Art Calendar Highlights

### Exhibitions

#### **Adriaen Van Velde,**

June 24th-25 September 2016, Rijkmuseum, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/adriaen-van-de-velde>

#### **Inspiring Impressionism. Daubigny Monet et Van Gogh,**

June 25<sup>th</sup>- 2 October 2016, Edinburgh, United-Kingdom  
<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/whatson/on-now-coming-soon/inspiring-impressionism/>

#### **Hubert Robert (1733-1808),**

June 26<sup>th</sup> – October 2016, National Gallery of Art, Washington, USA  
<http://www.nga.gov/content/ngaweb/exhibitions/2016/hubert-robert.html> Unis.

#### **Rembrandt's first masterpieces,**

June 3<sup>rd</sup>-September 18<sup>th</sup> 2016, The Morgan Library and Museum.  
<http://www.themorgan.org/exhibitions/rembrandts-first-masterpiecembrandt's first>

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Credits top and bottom images: Sevenmoutains.com; Jean Michel Basquiat, Untitled, 1982

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