

ART ADVISORY E-BULLETIN

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Reaching for the Skies this Summer

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54th Biennale

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Reaching for the Skies

1858 Ltd is delighted to have contributed to the latest edition of *O Magazine*, the luxury inflight publication produced by Ocean Sky, the Private Jet company. Focusing on the global resurgence in the Contemporary art market, the article reflects on the market's insatiable appetite for Contemporary art being restored following a two-year lull. This is very welcome news indeed to collectors, auctioneers and lovers of art alike and made a welcome read for those flying into Venice and Basel. The reappearance of artists such as Takashi Murakami, Richard Prince, Jeff Koons and Damien Hirst at auction is a sign that collectors are back and collecting is 'in' once again.

To read the full article:
www.1858ltd.com/press.php

Venice ILLUMInated at the 54th Biennale

The 54th Venice Biennale opened on June 4th to a heaving mass of collectors, curators and political dignitaries. Directed by Swiss curator Bice Curiger and titled ILLUMInazioni – ILLUMInation, this edition has already been a sensational experience filled with political controversy, dizzying parties and mega yachts moored in the canal! Within hours of unveiling the pavilion of Azerbaijan, President Ilham Aliyev demonstrated his deep concern for the message the exhibition would convey to the world about his country. The works by Baku native Aidan Salakhova

that caused this controversy were 'Black Stone' a black marble sculpture evoking the stone kissed by pilgrims in Mecca during Hajj in a vagina shaped frame, and 'Waiting Bride' a fully veiled standing woman. Aliyev did not want to offend his predominately Muslim population with 'Black Stone' and also felt that the veiled woman was not a true depiction of Azerbaijan's secular culture and attitude towards women.

Just along the canal, French billionaire and founder of the retail and luxury group PPR and owner of Christie's International, Francois Pinault reaffirmed his commitment to Contemporary art in Venice. Pinault's foundation has opened in one of the most prominent buildings in Venice: Punta della Dogana, the

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old customs house, just across the water from Piazza San Marco. The Punta della Dogana, a 17th Century customs building which long stood derelict has been transformed by architect Tadao Ando into a sensational modern gallery space and is now by far the biggest Contemporary art presence in Venice. The inaugural exhibition, "Mapping the Studio: Artists from the Francois Pinault Collection" is spread across the Palazzo Grassi on the Grand Canal and the new space in the Punta della Dogana. Palazzo Grassi has been run by the Pinault Foundation since 2006.

Fairs in Focus: Art Basel

Sheikha Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani - daughter of the Emir of Qatar, U.S. collectors Eli Broad, Don and Mera Rubell, Roman Abramovich's partner Dasha Zhukova, actor Will Ferrell and model Naomi Campbell were among the VIPs and taste makers that first entered the doors of the largest and most prestigious Modern and Contemporary Art Fair in the world, Art Basel. Now in its 42nd year, this year's installment opened with a frenzied spending spree on works such as a \$5.5 million abstract by

Mark Rothko, reminding both exhibitors and collectors of the boom days before the 2008 financial crisis cut prices, confidence and demand for Contemporary works.

Both new and seasoned collectors were looking to add to their collections and secure a hedge against inflation. 1858 also welcomed back to Basel many of our U.S. collectors who despite the weaker U.S. dollar are again venturing back to Basel. Blue chip works of art continue to be sought after, with dealers responding to this demand by exhibiting important and highly collectable works.

Fairs in Focus: Design Miami/ Basel

The 6th edition of Design Miami/ Basel has unanimously been identified as best ever with more mature collections of iconic designs and newly launched editions from 43 of the world's most prominent design galleries. The 2011 edition of the show has been chaired for the first time by newly-appointed director, Marianne Goebel. Off the back of the fair's growing success and the established confidence in design as another appreciating asset

class, Design Miami/Basel may now be venturing into Asia.

Preliminary agreements were made last week in Basel with officials from South Korea. The first event in Seoul could take place as early as March 2012 but will depend largely on the progress of Seoul's new design museum and convention centre, designed by Zaha Hadid.

Art Calendar Highlights

Vik Muniz

Museu Berardo—Modern and Contemporary Art
Lisbon, Portugal
Until 18 September 2011
www.berardomodern.com

Ai Weiwei

Kunsthaus Bregenz
Bregenz, Austria
16 July 2011 – 16 October 2011
www.kunsthaus-bregenz.at

Baroque and Rococo Culture

National Museum of Korea
Seoul, Korea
Until 31 August 2011
www.museum.go.kr/eng

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Top Image: Image of Jason Rhoades neon installation from Art Basel 2011; Middle Image: A view of the censored exhibition by artist Aidan Salakhova from Azerbaijan's pavilion at the Venice Biennale, courtesy DayLife; Right Image: The new interior at Punta della Dogana in Venice