

ART ADVISORY E-BULLETIN

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October Art World Frenzy

When it comes to the art calendar, October is certainly not a month for the lazy.

London kicks off the art world whirl with Frieze London and Frieze Masters (October 14-17), in its 13th and 4th year respectively, and later in the month Paris welcomes the contemporary art fair FIAC back for its 41st edition.

Frieze London presented over 160 of the world's leading contemporary galleries from almost 30 countries. Meanwhile Frieze Masters offered an unparalleled opportunity to discover a world history of art, showcasing 130 leading modern and historical galleries in a bespoke structure designed by Selldorf Architects.

Although it's usually an epic adventure to get through both fairs with enough stamina to retain information about what one has seen and loved, it was certainly not to be missed, as it featured some of world's the most relevant and contemporary artworks.

And if you hadn't had your art world fill following Frieze, you could have headed to FIAC, which ran from 22-25 October and took place in the much-loved Grand Palais in Paris and other smaller locations.

<http://www.fiac.com/paris>

<http://friezelondon.com/>

<http://friezemasters.com/>



Left : Lucio Fontana *La Fine di Dio*; right : Amrita Sher-Gil, self portrait (*Untitled*)

Two Titans at Auction

Never previously offered at auction and last exhibited over 30 years ago, Lucio Fontana's *La Fine Di Dio*, 1963, spectacularly sold at Sotheby's Italian Sale during Frieze week with *La Fine Di Dio* establishing the worldwide record for Fontana with a selling price of over £15 million.

Considered one of the greatest works of post-war Italian art, it is thought to be the "holy grail" for Fontana collectors. The human-sized black egg, which has been repeatedly and violently punched, gouged and stabbed at by the artist, creating an ovoid canvas not unlike a lunar landscape, elicits thoughts about the mystery of the cosmos.

The artist once said, "I do not want to make a painting; I want to open up space, create a new dimension, tie in the cosmos, as it endlessly expands beyond the confining plane of the picture."

Another highlight in the auction calendar this October was the sale of the rare self-portrait *Untitled* (1931) by the pioneering Indian modernist painter Amrita Sher-Gil. It sold at Sotheby's Modern and Contemporary South Asian Art auction in London for £1,745,000.

The coming to auction of this painting by the "mother of modern Indian art", is seen as a rare occurrence as 95 of the 174 documented works created over the course of the artist's brief life (she died in 1941 aged 28) are held in the collection of the National Gallery of Modern Art, in New-Dehli.

The painting is considered one of Sher-Gil's most romantic works. It was presented to her fellow artist and lover Boris Taslitzky after it was painted and has been in the hands of his family until now.



Poster of the "Picasso-Mania" exhibition; view of the exhibition, with Portrait of Picasso by Yan-Pei Ming in the background.

Picasso Mania Hits Paris

Picasso fans have a reason to celebrate this autumn as the Grand Palais is hosting a huge exhibition dedicated to the critical and artistic highlights of Picasso's career and the myth that gradually built up around his name.

The show examines the posterity of the artist's oeuvre and highlights its impact on contemporary art. It includes 400 works by 75 artists, including pieces by Basquiat and Hockney among others and film footage by directors such as Luc Godard, Woody Allen and Alfonso Cuarón.

The show will also have an entire room dedicated to the artist himself, as he became so iconic that his image has been used by a variety of his peers including Germany's Martin Kippenberger and China's Yan Pei-Ming.

The fascination with Picasso remains intense. Not only do retrospective shows draw big crowds, but auction prices for his work have reached spectacular levels. In May, his *Women of Algiers, Version O* (1955) became the most expensive art piece ever sold at auction, selling for over \$179million.

<http://www.grandpalais.fr/en/event/picassomania>



Left : Gabriele Münter "Drachenkampf", right : Rembrandt's double portrait

Wave of Acquisitions in France

Gabriele Münter's expressionist *Drachenkampf* (1913) painting has been acquired by the Centre Pompidou in Paris, making it the first major painting by the German artist to be purchased by a museum in France.

The painting exemplifies crucial principles of the "blaue Reiter" group, a collective of artists, which she was a part of. The slaying of the dragon by Saint George is a recurrent motif for artists of the group, who interpreted it as a symbol of the avant-garde artist's struggle against the hostile environment of their surroundings.

On a less sure note, France has submitted an offer of 160million to buy two rarely seen Rembrandt paintings for the Louvre Museum. The two works by the Dutch master, wedding portraits of Maerten Soolmans and Oopjen Coppit painted in 1663, are being sold by the Rothschild family, who have owned them since the 19th century.

However, the deal is far from done as the Dutch government has also

pledged to help the Rijksmuseum in the Netherlands acquire the paintings. Initially there was speculation that the Louvre and the Rijksmuseum would attempt a joint acquisition, but now it appears both countries are fighting to raise funds in order to make the double purchase solo.



Yves Saint-Laurent at work in his Marrakech Villa.

Sale of The Pierre Bergé -Yves Saint Laurent Islamic Art Collection

The Islamic Art collection of Pierre Bergé and Yves Saint Laurent is to be sold on October 31 by the French auction house Artcurial. The sale titled “A Moroccan Passion” will be held in the salons of the Palace Es Saadi in Marrakesh in aid of the Jardin Majorelle Foundation.

According to Bergé, who was fascinated by Islamic Art from the minute he arrived in Morocco, the proceeds from the sale will enable the Jardin Marjorelle Foundation to continue improving the garden and assist in welcoming its visitors which last year amounted to almost 800,000.

The sale, which will reflect the personal taste of Bergé and Saint Laurent, will consist of almost 180 items of Moroccan art. It will include weapons, cloth, ceramics, carpets, jewellery, architectural components, embroidery and several manuscripts, such as a Koran from the 14th-15th century, estimated at 6000-8000.

Other highlights include a very rare conical mokhifa dish from the late 17th century (estimated at 5000-6000), an exceptional 17th century double door from a mosque (estimated at 20,000- 30,000) and belts from Fez made from silk lampas and gold thread (estimated between 700 and 4000).

And in Other News...

- The Picasso painting *La Coiffeuse* (1911), worth an estimated \$15million and reportedly stolen from the archives of the Centre Pompidou in Paris in 2001, was recently returned to France by US immigration and custom officials, who found it in a shipment from Belgium to Newark, New Jersey.

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<http://theartnewspaper.com/market/159101/>

- Jeff Koons has partnered up with the French brand Bernardaud and created a porcelain plate version of his famous coloured balloon dog, usually made from steel. The limited edition design, not actually meant for use at mealtimes, will be on sale at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles for approximately \$8000.
<http://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/jeff-koons-collaborates-bernardaud-plate>
- The auction house Bonhams, established in 1793, has unveiled its first ever TV campaign *Be Part of the Story*, with the first to spots promoting the house's auto and jewellery sales. Bonhams hopes the campaign will encourage more people to think about what valuables might be sitting in an attic unloved, and to bring them to sale to be loved once again.
http://www.jckonline.com/2015/10/02/bonhams-debuts-first-ever-tv-campaign*
- At the end of September the Fox News anchor Shepard Smith accidentally credited the actor Leonardo DiCaprio with painting the Mona Lisa, rather than the other, more famous Leonardo who goes by the name of da Vinci. A fun lapsus which wasn't missed by anyone included the presenter himself. <http://www.gq.com/story/fox-news-leo-dicaprio-painted-the-mona-lisa>
- On October 8, Damien Hirst opened the long-awaited Newport Street Gallery, his 37,000 square foot exhibition space in Newport Street, South London, designed by the architects Caruso St John. Hirst, who had a long-term ambition to share his vast art collection with the public, inaugurated the exceptional space with a show of John Hoyland's Power Station paintings.
<http://www.newportstreetgallery.com>

Art Calendar Highlights

Takashi Murakami : The 500 Arhats

31 Oct. 2015 - 6 March 2016

Mori Art Museum, Tokyo

www.mori.art.museum

Painting 2.0 : Expression in the Information Age

14 Nov. 2015 - 30 Apr. 2016

Museum Brandhorst, Munich

www.museum-brandhorst.de

Asian Art Week in London

5 - 14 Nov. 2015

www.asianartinlondon.com

Contemporary Istanbul

12 - 15 Nov. 2015

www.contemporaryistanbul.com

Olafur Eliasson : Reality Machines

03 Oct. 2015 - 17 Jan. 2016

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Moderna Museet, Stockholm
www.modernamuseet.se



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"Text by Anne-Céline Jaeger for 1858 Limited"

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