

ARMORY SHOW

Corona virus does not deter collectors

of: Barbara Kutscher

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The New York art fair for modern and contemporary art starts off with good sales. All exhibitors also present themselves in parallel on the Artsy online platform.



Timothy Curtis

The artist developed a bunk-filling installation for the stand of Galerie Albertz Benda.

(Photo: Timothy Curtis, Albertz Benda Gallery, New York)

New York. The New Yorkers are a very special people. Schools are closed, countless events canceled, employees are encouraged to work from home. But the bathroom in the crowd of like-minded collectors, they obviously can't be taken away. At best, the only thing to be heard was "Better not a bus!" As usual, the courses of the "Armory Show" were well filled on the VIP day. With 183 exhibitors from 32 countries, it is the driving force among a handful of trade fairs this long weekend.

Is it perhaps an escape from the bad news? The mood is good, reinforced by bars strategically distributed throughout the fair, which not only serve champagne, but also serve harder drinks. "We had no idea what to expect in view of the corona virus and the unpredictable markets," said Lauren

Marinero of the young New York gallery Marinero, and not just relieved. It offers murals by Alessandro Teoldi, sewn from airplane ceilings, at prices up to \$ 15,000.

"It is going much better than expected," says William Pym of Josh Lilley Gallery (London), who sold three quarters of his stand. "The Armory Show always has a greater variety of collectors than other trade fairs. It is quite expensive for an exhibitor to come here, but it is worth it".

Nicole Berry, director in the third year, also considered collectors whose arrival was canceled. At the last minute, she secured the help of the New York online platform Artsy, which regularly publishes its subscribers' trade fair catalog, but now exceptionally invited all exhibitors of the Armory Show, and, as you can hear, free of charge.

TOPICS OF THE ARTICLE



Art market



Berry continued to work on her tried and tested ideas in this issue. So she was able to lure dealers like Gagosian or Isabella Bortolozzi back after a long absence.



Laylah Ali

Gouache technique, pencil, acrylic and water colors were used for the paper work "Untitled (Acephalous series)". The picture (detail) is from 2015.

(Photo: Laylah Ali, Gallery Steve Turner)

Curated areas break up the wasteland of endless rows of stands on the two jetties in the Hudson River. Among the seven large installations distributed across the fair, the undisputed highlight is the

huge assemblage "The Caddy Court" by Ed & Nancy Kienholz (1986/87). The work is composed around a roadworthy Cadillac vintage 1978. This post gallery LA Louver in Venice, CA, a time of critical commentary on the Supreme Court of the United States is to have 2.5 million dollars.

Another hit is the "Focus" sector for young art, which has grown to 31 participants at the expense of modern art providers. Jamillah James, a promising black curator at the progressive Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in LA, showed a keen sense of the hip here. Not surprisingly, she selected many artists from Africa and the diaspora.

Purchase of the private museum

New Image Art Gallery (Los Angeles), for example, features works by Umar Rashid that present his version of the colonial history of the 18th century, from the point of view of the oppressed, in fine drawings or fabric works. They are said to cost up to \$ 18,000.

Jack Bell from London shows large studio formats from Lavar Munroe, Bahamas. With their liquid style in intensive acrylic colors, paired with spraypaint, these works wipe across the subjects of gangsters, drugs or violence. The prices range from \$ 30,000 to \$ 80,000. A private US museum quickly accessed Munroe's greatest work.

Long waiting lists for street art

Steve Turner (Los Angeles), who is there for the first time, quickly sold Jon Keys' family portraits in a few bold colors (up to \$ 15,000). The Chelsea Gallery Albertz Benda, on the other hand, was particularly successful with currently trendy street art. Younger collectors in their 40s were particularly enthusiastic about Timothy Curtis from Philadelphia. The aspiring internet star also deals with the darker sides of life. Everything was sold at prices up to \$ 140,000; and "our waiting list is longer than the East River," said Thorsten Albertz.

"There is really something of high quality for everyone at this fair," says New York art consultant Christine Minas. "Beyond trends, such as objects made of textile fibers and fabrics, which are now completely accepted, everyone can find something here."

The 26th Armory Show runs until Sunday, March 8, 2020 in New York on piers 90 and 94 of Manhattan.

More: Arco art fair in Madrid: [Read here about the strategies of the Spanish fair for modern and contemporary art](#)

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