

Art | Basel Paris

Selection of Quotes from Exhibitors

“Back in the iconic Grand Palais this year, the excitement at Art Basel Paris was palpable. Collectors traveled from near and far, and significant sales were made. It felt like the Olympics of the art world.”

Xavier Hufkens, Owner & Founder, Xavier Hufkens (Brussels)

“The Grand Palais was a perfect home for Art Basel Paris and allowed the fair to showcase the museum-quality works and ambitions of the galleries in a new light. We were very happy with the positioning of our booth, the show’s seamless organization, and the volume of the world’s top collectors. Sales were strong and consistent with major works placed in European, U.S., and Asian collections.”

Monika Sprüth & Philomene Magers, Co-owners, Sprüth Magers (Berlin, London, Los Angeles, New York, Hong Kong)

« Cette première édition au Grand Palais fut remarquable avec des ventes majeures dès les premières heures de la foire. Nous avons reçu des collectionneurs de premier plan de tous les territoires qui ont continué à acheter tout le long de la foire. Avec ce nouvel écrin, Paris retrouve désormais sa place méritée de capitale mondiale de l’art de la culture. »

“This first edition of Art Basel Paris at the Grand Palais was remarkable, with major sales taking place in the first hours of the fair. We received collectors of the highest echelon from all around the world who continued to purchase throughout the show week. With this new venue, Paris has reclaimed its well-deserved status as the world capital of art and culture.”

Kamel Mennour, Founder, Mennour (Paris)

« Nous avons eu un très bon premier jour, consolidé par des ventes additionnelles très significatives le jeudi et vendredi. Nous avons constaté une affluence de clients internationaux infiniment plus forte que l’année dernière. »

“We had a very good first day, consolidated by additional significant sales on Thursday and Friday. We saw an infinitely stronger influx of international clients compared to last year.”

Philippe Charpentier, Founder & Director, Mor Charpentier (Paris)

« Art Basel Paris est notre meilleure foire en termes de ventes, de contacts, de rencontres. Nous sommes très heureux d’avoir remporté le Prix Fluxus pour un artiste anglais sur la foire. »

“Art Basel Paris is our best fair in terms of sales, contacts, and encounters. We are very pleased to have won the Fluxus Prize for British artist Jesse Darling, whose work was presented in our booth at the fair.”

Guillaume Sultana, Founder, Sultana (Paris)

“We participated at Art Basel Paris for the first time in the fair’s Emergence sector. Being part of this context offered us an incredible opportunity to be visible at the highest level of the art world – to the expert eyes of the most discerning curators, collectors, and dealers. It led to a first acquisition of our young artist Xavier Robles de Medina by a major museum collection. These are the kind of career and cultural goals Art Basel Paris can make happen.”

Catinca Tabacaru, Founder & Co-Director, Catinca Tabacaru (Bucharest)

“We were so excited to be showing at Art Basel Paris for the first time and loved the energy this week! The size of the fair was ideal and we appreciated how our booth highlighted the unique and elegant architecture of the Grand Palais. We met some wonderful new collectors and engaged with many of our American collectors, who seemed to always be loving Paris.”

Jack Shainman, Founder, Jack Shainman Gallery (New York, Kinderhook)

“This year stands out as the strongest Paris fair to date. Beyond this being a fantastic return to the Grand Palais – which of course made a big difference – the energy and the attendance was outstanding. Important collectors, especially Americans, were very much part of this. The quality of what you see at the fair is key, too. Galleries really rose to the occasion and the response we saw reflected this.”

Thaddaeus Ropac, Founder, Thaddaeus Ropac (Paris, Pantin, Salzburg, Seoul, London)

“The enormous energy, bonhomie, and internationalism of the fair, along with the magnificent architecture and atmosphere of the Grand Palais, confirm that Paris truly is a 21st-century art world capital. But perhaps even more in this moment, when the global art business has become irrefutably digital, we’re reminded there still is no substitute for experiencing works of art in person, with all our senses engaged. We enjoyed strong sales including the iconic spider sculpture by Louise Bourgeois, alongside a further work on paper by the artist, Barbara Chase Riboud’s sculpture in celebration of her monumental museum project in Paris, as well as others, including new works by Mark Bradford and Jeffrey Gibson, and a painting by Ed Clark made in Paris.”

Marc Payot, President, Hauser & Wirth (Zurich, Gstaad, St Moritz, London, Somerset, Los Angeles, New York, Hong Kong, Monaco, Ciutadella de Menorca, Paris, Basel)

“Art Basel Paris 2024 was overall a great success. The quality of artworks that galleries presented in their booths was outstanding. We enjoyed discussing our display with truly top-tier international collectors, for which I must praise the significant efforts of the fair team. Paris establishes that the desire for exceptional works remains strong; it proves there’s little room left in the market for inflated speculations.”

Nicolo Cardì, Founder, Cardì Gallery (Milan, London)

“Paris is undeniably in the midst of a radiant cultural moment, one that beautifully reaffirms its rightful title as the City of Light. The atmosphere was charged with creativity, as this week’s extraordinary array of museum exhibitions testified. At the inaugural Art Basel Paris in the Grand Palais, we saw strong early sales, most notably the placement of one of the major highlights of White Cube’s booth, Julie Mehretu’s 2013 painting *Insile*.”

Mathieu Paris, Senior Director, White Cube (London, New York, Hong Kong, Paris, Seoul)

“As a first-time exhibitor at Art Basel Paris, we were delighted by the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received towards our presentation. With Saudi Arabia and the Middle East continuing to evolve as a leading cultural hub, it is our responsibility to uplift and showcase artistic talent from the region to international audiences through platforms like Art Basel. ATHR’s debut booth at Art Basel Paris showcased established and mid-career artistic voices from the region, and we received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the strong crowd of collectors attending the fair. Our presentation at Art Basel Paris allowed us to showcase the strength of Saudi artistic culture globally, as well as cultivate existing relationships and begin fresh dialogues with new collectors from around the world in a pivotal cultural exchange.”

Mohammed Hafiz, Co-Founder, ATHR Gallery (Ad Diriyah, AlUla, Jeddah)

“Our experience at this year’s Art Basel Paris was enriching, to the point that we’ve agreed it’s our favorite fair in the world. It was fantastic in terms of connections with international collectors and highly respectable institutions. Also, Paris is always a good idea.”

Pamela Echeverría, Founder, LABOR Gallery (Mexico City)

“This has been the busiest and most energetic week in Paris we’ve ever experienced. With the many major institutional shows this week, including the Arte Povera exhibition at the Bourse de Commerce, we’ve also seen an especially enthusiastic response to the historic works in our presentation. This week in Paris has clearly established itself as a key moment on the art world calendar.”

Max Falkenstein, Senior Partner, Gladstone Gallery (New York, Brussels, Seoul, Los Angeles)

"Art Basel Paris was a remarkable success. The response to our focused presentation of four Surrealist artists was extraordinary. The fair attracted a high level of sophisticated and curious collectors, who were energized by Paris's magnificent museum shows."

Emmanuel Di Donna, Founder, Di Donna Galleries (New York)

"We couldn't be happier with our first outing in Paris and the response to our solo presentation of paintings by Takako Yamaguchi. We quickly sold out our booth to a range of international collectors and started several promising conversations with European curators – two of our primary goals for the fair. Congratulations to the Art Basel team on a flawless week."

Ales Ortuzar, Founder, Ortuzar (New York)

"We're thrilled to have been a part of the inaugural edition of the fair at the stunning Grand Palais. As a gallery with an outpost in London and many artists who live throughout the region, Europe is a very important market for us to continue to cultivate. As a first-time exhibitor, we're very pleased to report that we placed several works with a number of first-time buyers from the US and Europe, and met many new collectors, museum curators, and directors throughout the week. The fair also offered a new platform for us to both introduce new artists to the region and celebrate our artists with current and upcoming museum programming around Europe."

Rachel Lehmann, Co-founder, Lehmann Maupin (New York, Seoul, London)

"The fair exceeded our expectations. We were very pleased to find that we had many new contacts from the VIP Days. We were actively engaged and talking about our program non-stop. We concluded sales and expect more to evolve. Being in the Grand Palais was of course a thrill and Paris never disappoints. The reportage of a huge downturn is highly exaggerated and there is much excitement and interest in art as ever – it is a cultural human necessity."

Wendy Olsoff, Co-founder, PPOW Gallery (New York)

"The Emergence sector at Art Basel Paris provided us with the unique opportunity to show an ambitious project by Steffani Jemison about the act of flight in such a unique, grand, and uncluttered location as the balconies of the Grand Palais. The artist was awarded the Lafayette Anticipations production grant and we could not be happier!"

Matteo Consonni, Owner and Director, Madragoa (Lisbon) *Emergence

"We were pleased to return for the first Art Basel Paris under the beautiful dome of the Grand Palais. The week was energizing and successful and served as a counter to the narratives around a market slowdown in the media. We had the pleasure to meet with collectors from around the globe, both familiar and new, and to see many from back home in the U.S."

Jacqueline Tran, Senior Director, Matthew Marks Gallery (New York)

"We were thrilled by the positive reception of our exhibition of American and Asian artists, many of whom tap into the human universals of Indigenous culture. We had many productive conversations with European curators and placed works in collections in France and internationally."

Jessica Silverman, Founder, Jessica Silverman (San Francisco)

« J'étais hier sur le chantier de la Fondation Cartier, il y a aujourd'hui une scène artistique contemporaine à Paris qui est la plus belle en Europe et peut-être l'une des plus belles du monde. Et cette foire, grâce aux équipes qui l'organisent, est peut-être aussi l'une des plus belles du monde. Nous galeristes allons essayer d'être à la hauteur, il faut que les galeries françaises et la scène française trouvent leur place. Je suis optimiste sur ce que j'ai vu à la foire. »

"Yesterday I was at the upcoming building of the Fondation Cartier; there is now a contemporary art scene in Paris that is the most beautiful in Europe and perhaps one of the most exciting in the world. And Art Basel Paris, thanks to the teams organizing it, is perhaps also one of the most beautiful in the world. We gallerists will try to rise to the occasion; French galleries and the French scene need to find their place. I am optimistic about what I saw at the fair."

Michel Rein, Founder, Michel Rein (Paris, Brussels)

"As the first Moroccan gallery participating in Art Basel Paris, this marks a significant milestone for both our gallery and for Moroccan and North African art. We are delighted by the highly positive and welcoming response we received from international collectors, institutions, curators, and visitors. Their engagement with Mohamed Melehi's works led to two notable sales within the first two days, reinforcing the global relevance of his art. As we continue to act as a bridge between Morocco, the African continent, and the rest of the world, the platform provided by Art Basel Paris, and particularly its strong attendance, strengthens our commitment to elevating voices from the continent and bringing them to the forefront of the international art scene."

Yasmine Berrada, Co-founder, Loft Art Gallery (Casablanca, Marrakesh)

"We were very happy to participate and present Pierre Alain's work at Art Basel Paris, placing his work in great collections and connecting with institutions."

Julius Woeste, Founder, Petrine (Paris) *Emergence

"Art Basel Paris was an ideal moment in Tschabalala Self's career to present her work in a solo exhibition at a major international art fair. We sold all the pieces on the first day, with many placed in important museums and collections in Europe, the U.S., and Asia. It was a valuable opportunity to present the breadth of Tschabalala's artistic vision and the important political themes in her work to a diverse audience from France and beyond."

Eva Presenhuber, Owner, Galerie Eva Presenhuber (Zurich, New York, Vienna)

"We were thrilled with our first time participating in the Emergence sector at Art Basel Paris. We were very proud to present alongside amazing international galleries of such high caliber. The response Bruno Zhu's work received from collectors and visitors at the fair exceeded our expectations. The return to the Grand Palais promised excitement and it did not disappoint. Art Basel Paris is the place to be!"

Alivia Zivich & Daniel Sperry, Co-founders, What Pipeline (Detroit) *Emergence

« La réouverture du Grand Palais a suscité l'excitation des collectionneurs internationaux et du grand public. Force est de constater que les collectionneurs se déplacent moins facilement dernièrement. Pour autant, beaucoup de clients américains, asiatiques et européens ont répondu présents au rendez-vous d'Art Basel Paris. Dans le contexte actuel, nous sommes satisfaits du résultat de la foire. »

"The reopening of the Grand Palais generated excitement among international collectors and the general public. Although collectors are less likely to travel these days, many American, Asian, and European clients showed up for Art Basel Paris. In the current climate, we're satisfied with the fair's results."

Almine Rech, Founder, Almine Rech (Paris, Brussels, London, New York, Shanghai, Monaco)

"As Art Basel launched its Paris edition at the iconic Grand Palais, the gallery was thrilled to present the unique worlds of our artists within their rich artistic and cultural contexts alongside fellow international galleries. Many of the international collectors displayed interest in masters of the Dansaekhwa movement, such as Lee Ufan, Park Seo-Bo, and Ha Chong-Hyun, some of whom were placed in private collections. Additionally, contemporary Korean artists who are currently active in Europe, including Haegue Yang, Kyungah Ham, and Kibong Rhee, also received interest. The cultural power of the French capital, with its collaboration with Art Basel, created a feeling of artistic vitality that is unlike anything else."

Hyun-Sook Lee, Founder & Chairwoman, Kukje Gallery (Seoul, Busan)

"We placed all the paintings we brought during the Preview Days, with works sold to new collectors. The fair was incredibly energetic and dynamic, and we felt privileged to be part of it. This marked a good start for us of many more dialogues with the international art community."

Jun Tirtadji, Director, ROH Projects (Jakarta)

« Nous sommes très honorés d'intégrer la section principale pour la première fois et très heureux de la merveilleuse visibilité que cela a donné à nos artistes. Le « Lit de Sirène » d'Agnes Scherer a fait l'objet d'une attention très importante, et plusieurs articles mentionnent l'œuvre comme étant l'un des highlights de la foire, c'est une grande fierté. Nous avons enregistré de très bonnes ventes le premier jour. Le weekend a très bien marché amenant un autre public et un autre type d'acheteurs. »

"We are very honored to be part of the main section for the first time and very pleased with the wonderful visibility it has given our artists. Agnes Scherer's *Lit de Sirène* has received a lot of attention, and several articles mention the work as one of the highlights of the fair, which is a great source of pride. We had very good sales on the first day. The weekend went very well, bringing in a different audience and a different type of buyer."

Marie Madec, Founder & Director, sans titre (Paris)

« Dans un contexte compliqué, nous avons souhaité nous recentrer autour de nos artistes historiques avec des pièces exceptionnelles notamment une installation de Sheila Hicks et ce fut un succès. Nous avons été enchantés par la réception commerciale du stand et en particulier celle de Kenjiro Okazaki. Nous sommes tellement heureux de retrouver cet écrin exceptionnel du Grand Palais. »

"In a complicated context, we decided to refocus on our historical artists with exceptional pieces, notably an installation by Sheila Hicks, and this was a great success. We were delighted by the commercial success of the booth, particularly that of Kenjiro Okazaki. We're so happy to be back in this exceptional setting at the Grand Palais."

Frank Elbaz, Founder & Director, frank elbaz (Paris)

« En trois ans, l'équipe d'Art Basel a réussi à remettre la destination parisienne et le rendez-vous d'octobre au milieu du calendrier des foires et du monde de l'art. La programmation des institutions publiques et privées mais aussi le remarquable travail tout au long de l'année des acteurs essentiels que sont les galeries parisiennes a permis de briller à nouveau. Les collectionneurs et les musées étrangers semblent dépasser par cette offre riche et qualitative. La capacité de la ville à pouvoir accueillir ce public et à le ravir avec son offre hôtelière et gastronomique semble être aussi un atout majeur. Le niveau des transactions a montré que durant cette semaine, le monde de l'art avait oublié les crises environnantes. N'est pas aussi l'un des rôles de l'art que de nous faire rêver ? »

"In three years, the Art Basel team has succeeded in putting the Parisian destination and the October event back at the center of the art world calendar. The programming of public and private institutions, but also the remarkable year-round work of the key players – Parisian galleries – has enabled us to shine once again. Foreign collectors and museums seem taken with this rich, high-quality offering. The city's ability to welcome this public and delight them with its hotel and gastronomic offerings also seems to be a major asset. The level of transactions during the week showed that the art world had forgotten about the surrounding crises. Isn't one of the roles of art to make us dream?"

Hervé Loevenbruck, Founder & Director, Loevenbruck (Paris)