



## Some New Entry in Art Basel

*The return of the Art Basel fair brings a feeling of routine. The previous two years have witnessed suspensions and delays, as well as the logistics of vaccines and tests, all of which have upset the art market's predictable routines. The expo has returned to its traditional location, with 289 gallery exhibitors, a figure comparable to its involvement in 2019, and people from all over the world preparing to pour on the city's Messeplatz.*

However, not everyone has come before. This year, 19 galleries are new to the Swiss show, while 26 are different from the 2019 roster in the revered center body. The figures aren't large in the grand scheme of things, but they do offer a shock for a show that has long typified the conservative art market, with Western galleries bringing in mostly European and American work.



Some of the alterations represent the gallery industry's faster Darwinian evolution after the epidemic; for example, the galleries Salon 94 and Lévy Gorvy are no longer independent businesses, but are available in their merged LGDR form. During the lockdowns, certain venues, including Metro Pictures, were closed. According to Marc Spiegler, Art Basel's director, other dynamics have served to update the fair's mix.

One of the few good outcomes of the pandemic was that people in positions of authority examined issues such as systemic racism. The fair was also interesting. There was now greater understanding and empathy for those who had been disregarded. As a result, galleries in more remote areas of the art market believed there was less financial danger in participating in a fair like Art Basel and less risk in displaying, say, artists of color as the market swung more in the right direction.



The art market's current shift toward previously excluded artists has coincided with an institutional drive to correct its "pale and masculine" qualities. This year's Art Basel features newbies: Jahmek Contemporary Art (Luanda) and OH Gallery (Dakar), along with others from Guatemala City (Ultraviolet Projects), Bucharest (Ivan Gallery) and Jeddah (Athr). Gallery).

work, often the riskiest for a short-term sale event, there are also "more women, more artists of color, and more women of color". These include Cameroonian artist Barthélemy Toguo (Galerie Lelong & Co), young American Kennedy Yanko (Vielmetter Los Angeles) and 80-year-old Mary Lovelace O'Neal (Jenkins Johnson Gallery).



### *Jahmek Contemporary Art*

Altman Siegel gallery in San Francisco returns to the art show scene for the first time since 2019 with a standalone booth by Bay Area artist Lynn Hershman Leeson. Claudia Altman-Siegel, the gallery's owner, described the artist as a "female pioneer" who "has been producing work concerning technology and identity since 1965." They present pieces from Hershman Leeson's first Water Women series, begun in 1975, based on the shape of a lady composed of water droplets, in collaboration with the Bridget Donahue gallery.

Gustav Klimt used to say: "*Art is a line around your thoughts.*"

### **Reference:**

<https://www.ft.com/content/61b55e0d-d9fd-4bf6-9c4b-494a27bf0d86>