

Remarks of Daniel Hug, Director of ART COLOGNE

Press conference ART COLOGNE 2022
16.11.2022, 11:00 a.m., Presse Centre East, Koelnmesse



ART COLOGNE
16.11. - 20.11.2022
www.artcologne.com

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

And welcome to the 55th ART COLOGNE.

Yes, it's the 55th ART COLOGNE, because this art fair has been taking place since 1967.

It was only cancelled one time: in the corona year 2020.

It already took place again in 2021, but in November as the consequence of various shifts.

It will now remain with this date for the time being.

It was a good tradition to experience ART COLOGNE in fall in the 1980s and 1990s. It was then moved to spring in 2006, and it is now time for it to take place in November again.

There are many reasons for this. One is that the spring date overlapped with Art Brussels. This meant that Belgian galleries and collectors didn't necessarily find their way to Cologne. Which was truly a shame, because the regions of North Rhine-Westphalia and the neighbouring Benelux countries have a strong cultural affiliation. And enormous potential.

We are thus all the more pleased to be able to welcome eight Belgian and seven Dutch galleries of great quality to ART COLOGNE this year. Albert Baronian and Rodolphe Janssen are among them, as is Sophie Van de Velde or the Smith Davidson Gallery from Amsterdam as a new exhibitor, which shows Australian aboriginal art; a theme that has to date not been represented at the fair.

Galleries from abroad are also otherwise well-represented this year at ART COLOGNE.

Thus, for example, with bitforms and The Hole from New York as well as The Pit from Los Angeles, three very high profile galleries from the USA with varying programmes will be exhibiting at ART COLOGNE.

With three galleries from Turkey, we will be able to take a very good look at the

current Turkish art scene.

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Eight galleries from France, including Kamel Mennour, Eric Mouchet and Lelong are participating. Eric Mouchet, for example, remembers the German-French artist couple Ella Bergmann and Robert Michel. Among other works, Lelong will show Klapheck and Verdier. Kamel Mennour will present, among others, Daniel Buren, Anish Kapoor and Alicja Kwade.

In total, around 190 galleries from 26 countries are participating in ART COLOGNE.

These include fantastic new exhibitors like Max Hetzler and Mehdi Chouakri, as well as high quality return exhibitors like Sprüth Magers, Thaddaeus Ropac, Karsten Greve, Hans Mayer, Michael Werner, nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder or Ben Brown Fine Arts. I already mentioned Albert Baronian, Rodolphe Janssen, Lelong and Kamel Mennour.

All in all, the result is an impressive constellation of artworks and artistic positions from the 20th and 21st centuries.

The fair extends over all three floors of Hall 11.

CONTEMPORARY ART meets MODERN ART and POSTWAR ART on level 1. This includes, and I can really only mention a few names, Bastian, Derda, Henze & Ketterer, Lahumière, Knoell, the already mentioned Eric Mouchet, Thomas Salis, Ludorff, von Vertes or W&K Wienerroither & Kohlbacher.

Here you will also find the new ART + OBJECT section, conceived of as its own island in the middle of the hall. An exciting overlapping of select visual art and applied arts of the last centuries. Outstanding examples of non-European art can also be found here. The exhibitors include, for example, Dierking, meinweiss Sebastian Jacobi, Kirbach, sgr a Jung, VIVID, Floris Van Wanroij and Michael Woerner. Jochum Rodgers presents a special event with works of the textile artist Sofie Dawo that is very much worth seeing. And Georg Hornemann is showing kinetic pieces of jewellery of the special class.

On level 2, the focus is on CONTEMPORARY ART and on the NEUMARKT and COLLABORATIONS sections. In addition to the already mentioned galleries, names like Daniel Buchholz, Gisela Capitain, Eigen + Art, Bärbel Grässlin, Carl Kostyál, Pearl Lam, Nagel Draxler, Neon Parc, Esther Schipper, Rüdiger Schöttle and Filomena Soares can also be found here, to name but a few examples.

Young galleries will participate with their programmes in the NEUMARKT section, for example, Efremidis from Berlin, Khoshbakht from Cologne, Parliament from Paris or Max Mayer from Düsseldorf, to name but a few examples.

COLLABORATIONS are curated projects of up to two galleries that promote cooperation between galleries and/or artists. Guido W. Baudach and Gregor Podnar, the Clages Gallery and Damien & The Love Guru, Öktem Aykut and Philipp Zollinger will present in this section, among others.

Newly conceived of is hall level 11.3: important art institutions of the Rhineland and edition publishers are gathered here. There you will also find the central Talks stage and an extensive hospitality offering.

Our hall planning has also provided us with new options this year.

We have, as you will soon see for yourself, reorganised the halls. For one, the mega galleries have been shifted away from the entrances toward the centre of the hall. There are also four plazas on each exhibition level, which provide air and space as well as good positions for the important galleries. One also finds the NEUMARKT section with the young galleries at three of the plazas. They can be identified by the white carpeting.

One now finds different galleries at the entrances. Attention should be spread out a little bit, I would say democratised. The goal is to provide young galleries with more visibility, as well as the medium-sized galleries, which are regularly good for surprises with their interesting stands and are important for every art fair.

I know that the curiosity of visitors is great enough to prompt them to visit as many galleries and their artworks as possible. This is why we are working on all levels with a colour concept in the hall passages. The result is circular visitor orientation, a real "round trip", so to speak, with two ring streets in each hall. And because the highlights are distributed throughout the entire fair, one can't actually miss any highlights.

Also new is the "SCULPTURE COLOGNE" show. We will be showing a test track of large-format sculptures from the holdings of the exhibitors on all hall levels. The locations here are the already mentioned plazas. Here one can see works by Max Ernst, John M Armleder and Alex Calder, among others.

Two sculptures have been created by Ukrainian artists, and they guide the way from ART COLOGNE to "Worth Fighting For", an exhibition worth seeing in the old Opel work here in Cologne, with works by Ukrainian artists.

A Ukrainian gallery has also found its way to Cologne this year. The Voloshyn Gallery from Kiev is bringing works by Maria Sulymenko.

The interest in Ukrainian art has not abated since the Biennale in Venice, and I think we will also be able to experience that here in Cologne. I also find this to be completely right and important.

Our Talks programme this year has its first highlight on Friday, when the conference format UNLOCK ART by zeitmagazin takes place once again. The most varied art themes will be presented in brief, entertaining talks with gallery owners, art experts, collectors and designers. The conference will be hosted by the editor-in-chief of ZEITmagazin, Christoph Amend, and the editor-in-chief of WELTKUNST, Lisa Zeitz.

The continuing Talks programme takes place on Saturday and Sunday. The thematic areas of focus here are on NFTs and digital art, among other topics, or on a reflection upon the year in art now behind us. Also of great importance to us is the panel discussion on Saturday on the theme of "Women in the Art Market - Sustainably Anchoring Female Empowerment". This event is jointly organised by Koelnmesse and ZADIK.

In addition to this, events will also be taking place throughout Cologne, for example, an exhibition with the Wolfgang Hahn prize winner Frank Bowling in Museum Ludwig.

A very special prize will be awarded tomorrow. The renowned ART COLOGNE Prize will be presented to an important gallery owner: to Monika Sprüth, one of the highest profile women in the art scene. I am looking forward to this honouring of her tomorrow. Kristian Jarmuschek will surely very soon have a few words to say about this truly outstanding personality.

Our website will inform you about everything. Here you will also find the online catalogue with all galleries and our new digital magazine, which we have filled with very interesting stories about our exhibitors, our collectors and about the art fair itself in the past weeks.

However, today I would hope that you will all explore the 55th ART COLOGNE, hopefully with a little bit of time, but most importantly with the accustomed curiosity.

I will now hand over the microphone to Kristian Jarmuschek.

Thank you very much.

Stand: 15.11.2022

Kürzel: hac