



My dear fairgoers,

June, like May (and April and March!), was extremely busy with art fairs. It began with Gallery Weekend Beijing, with Jingart as flag fair, organised by the same organisers as ART021. I was also able to attend the launch of The Treasure House Fair, which replaces Masterpiece London, cancelled in 2022, and whose quality pleasantly surprised me despite the aisles being a little too quiet - probably due to the very/too discreet communication surrounding this launching edition. But today, of course, I'm going to talk about Art Basel.

Enjoy your reading!

## Art Basel



### 15 - 18 June 2023

Art Basel 2023 has returned to pre-Covid standards in terms of size and quality. 284 galleries from over the world - 36 countries - gathered in June at Messe Basel with seven different sectors. I began my visit on Monday afternoon, with a long queue to get into the Unlimited sector. The 30-minute wait was well worth it. Inside hall 1, the monumental works of 76 international artists - a record. This is the 5th year that Giovanni Carmine, the director of the Kunsthalle St. Gallen, has curated this section, which enables galleries to present works that are complicated by their monumental size or for technical reasons, in museum-like conditions. I liked the real diversity of works and artists. Well-established artists of course, including Richard Avedon (Gagosian), Jean-Marie Appriou (Perrotin) and Gerhard Richter, but also emerging artists such as Selma Selman, a young artist from Bosnia-Herzegovina, who paints women's bodies on the dismantled bodywork of a Mercedes-Benz.



On Tuesday 13th at 11am, I was one of the happy few to be in Hall 2 for the First Choice opening. A great opportunity to look around the stands and really see the works, but obviously the worst time to talk to the dealers, who are on the lookout for very big collectors. This year saw the inauguration of the Kabinett section, which I had already really enjoyed in Miami last December. Kabinett offered 13 thematic displays taking place within the galleries' booths. My favourite installation was undoubtedly Genesis Belanger's display of hand-crafted, idiosyncratic versions of everyday things set in psychologically charged scenarios, on Perrotin's booth.



I stayed in Basel for 3 days, during which I walked the length and breadth of the fair. After three years of coping with the Covid-19 pandemic, Art Basel seems to be better than ever. Art dealers reported strong sales across all sectors. The fair attracted an attendance of 82,000 throughout the week, reinforcing its position as the most important convening point for the global art world. "There's something truly magical about how this city comes alive during our show" Art Basel CEO Noah Horowitz said. And it's palpable! It's crazy to see the streets packed, the restaurants and hotels full, the people on the banks of the Rhine River, where people swim; and, of course, the crowds in the halls of the Messe Basel. 3 days wasn't enough to visit all the fairs and exhibitions that were taking place and I only had the chance to go to Design Miami/Basel. Next year, with a bit of luck, I'll stay a day or two longer and I'll be able to give you a good overview of Art Basel week!



- Gerhard Richter, *Stripe Tower*, 2023. Digital printing on paper between Alu Dibond and Perspex, 350 x 162 x 162 cm. Courtesy of the artist.
- Selma Selman, presented in the Unlimited Sector of Art Basel in Basel 2023. Courtesy of the artist and acb.
- Genesis Belanger, Installation view on Perrotin's booth - Kabinett sector. Courtesy Perrotin and the artist.
- Ron Mueck, *Youth*, 2009–2011, mixed-media, 65 x 28 x 16 cm. Courtesy Thaddaeus Ropac.

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## Summer fairs

[artmonte-carlo](#)



### **8 - 9 July 2023**

The 7th edition of artmonte-carlo will take place on 8 and 9 July 2023 at the Grimaldi Forum Monaco and that will be a first for me. I'm curious to find out what artgenève's little sister looks like, organised by the same team and also directed by Thomas Hug. The fair is small in size: only 34 galleries participate in but among them, some very established names such as White Cube, Hauser & Wirth, Perrotin, LGDR, Nathalie Obadia or Almine Rech. artmonte-carlo is therefore smaller in format than artgenève, but has a reputation for high quality, aiming to forge strong links with all the institutional exhibitions on the Côte d'Azur and in northern Italy. The fair will take place this first weekend in July at the Grimaldi Forum Monaco, under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

All info about the fair [here](#).

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## **Knokke Art Fair**



### **5 - 15 August 2023**

Knokke Art Fair defines itself as the only fair that takes place in a work of art! The fair is held every August at the Grand Casino Knokke. The Grand Casino has always been one of the jewels in the crown of the Belgian coast. According to visitors, Knokke Art Fair is a unique experience in a summer atmosphere by the sea, where design, modern and contemporary art meet. In the modern art department, Swiss gallery Von Vertes will showcase important artists such as Alexander Calder, Georg Baselitz, Paul Klee, Bernar Venet and Serge Poliakoff. The young Belgian LE Gallery will presents limited editions by Christo, Yves Klein, Henri Matisse, Louise Nevelson, Man Ray and Victor Vasarely to serve young collectors as well. In the

contemporary art section, Gallery M9 from Seoul will show attractive and surprising work by Korean artists: SungPil Chae, Kim Duckyoung and Kim Gijoo ; Galerie Van Nuland from the Netherlands will surprise many with its solo show based on the poetic paintings of the locally well-known artist Dominique Ampe.

All info about the fair [here](#).

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