

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Wednesday 27 January**

Leading Modern British and international contemporary art galleries report healthy sales at London Art Fair 2016

20-24 January 2016

Business Design Centre, Islington, N1



London Art Fair 2016 closed on Sunday with strong sales reported across the Fair in both Modern British and international contemporary art, including painting, sculpture, photography, video art and ceramics. With an attendance of 24,528, indications from the Fair, which launches the cultural calendar, are that 2016 will prove another strong year for the UK art market.

Hosted in a pavilion just inside the main entrance to the Fair, museum partner Jerwood Gallery enjoyed the opportunity to showcase prized works from its collection in a curated display entitled 'Coast' and introduced the Hastings-based gallery programme to a new audience with works from major artists Marcus Harvey and John Bratby.

Liz Gilmore, Director of Jerwood Gallery said: "It gave an absolutely fantastic platform from which to showcase important works from the Jerwood Collection and to introduce our 2016 exhibition programme to an art-savvy and receptive audience. Literally thousands of people visited our stand and we were overwhelmed by their response to and engagement with our Coast Exhibition, Marcus Harvey bronzes and John Bratby nude."

"It's been very successful for us, the best in all our outings at the Fair, selling right across the board," said Alan Wheatley of Alan Wheatley Art, who sold works by a range of artists including Alan Davie, from £1,000 to £60,000. Fellow Modern British dealer Goodman Fine Art enjoyed a positive show too, also selling several works by Alan Davie and a Paul Feiler 'Tribal Figure' for £68,000. Exhibiting alongside Jerwood Gallery, PIANO NOBILE sold an Epstein bronze to 'major new Swiss client', saw a record price for a John Golding painting of £50,000 and also sold work by William Crozier in the region of £100,000.

Contemporary dealers also reported brisk trade at this year's Fair, with Skipwiths' citing sales of work by established Korean artist Kwang Young Chun from £50,000-£100,000 as well as London-based emerging artist Hyojin Park proving popular with collectors at the Business Design Centre. French gallery Very Art Space enjoyed similar success, selling works from most of their artists including two sculptures by acclaimed Chinese artist Yiming Min, taken from his recent UK debut exhibition and selling for £10,000 each. London gallery VIGO sold two doily paintings by Zac Ove at £8,500 each, based on his recent commission for the British Museum, as well as a number of works by Oli Marsden from £7,500-£15,000.

The Fair's ethos of celebrating both established and emerging artists is reflected throughout this year's sales. Works by Eileen Cooper RA were popular at both Wiltshire's RABLEY CONTEMPORARY and Cumbria's Castlegate House Gallery fetching up to £18,000, while Arusha Gallery of Edinburgh, making their second appearance at the Fair, enjoyed a significant appetite for the works of their emerging artists

including photographer Romina Ressa and painter Pippa Young from £3,500-£6,500. Leading photography gallery BEETLES+HUXLEY sold five works by English photographer Michael Kenna, contributing to an overall strong first performance at the Fair.

The presence of ceramic artists continues to grow at London Art Fair, and it is a medium that shows great commercial promise, with Crane Kalman Gallery selling a set of three Edmund de Waal porcelain pots for “a healthy five-figure sum” and Oliver Sears Gallery from Dublin selling a large work by Sarah Flynn for £3,500, as well as a number of pieces by Liam Flynn. Cynthia Corbett Gallery noted strong sales of works by V&A artist in residence Matt Smith, as well as fellow ceramic artists Jo Taylor and Jongjin Park.

Art Projects, the section of the Fair dedicated to highlighting innovative, emerging artists, saw solo curated presentations feature more prominently this year. Fair debutants Matèria from Rome presented photographer Giulia Marchi whose works sold well for around £2,600, while Hanmi Gallery’s Korean video artist Guem MinJeong saw a number of works selling, with prices from £2,000 up to £12,000 for the larger pieces. Heashin Kwak, director of the gallery said, “In our time at the Fair we have seen interest in video art widen from museums and corporate collections to private individuals.”

Belgian artist Joachim Coucke, presented by NEST was awarded the £2,500 De’Longhi Art Projects Artist Award. ‘Fishing the Pool’ (2015), the prize-winning artwork, extends Coucke’s themes to cryptocurrency, by gathering ‘lightcoins’ (similar to Bitcoin) via an Ethernet cable connected to the Internet. The work demonstrates how our relationship with currency has transformed, necessitating an extended element of trust that such virtual money has legitimate value.

London Art Fair returns to the Business Design Centre for its 29th edition from 18-22 January 2017 (VIP Preview 17 January).

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