

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 17 January 2017

## Galleries at London Art Fair say free movement of people and goods within EU is vital to London's future as a global art hub

London Art Fair

18-22 January 2017 (Preview Evening 17 January)

Business Design Centre, Islington, N1



On the eve of London Art Fair 2017 (18-22 January), an annual survey of exhibiting galleries reveals that 49% believe ensuring free movement of people and goods within the EU is the most important thing the UK government can do to ensure London remains a global art hub post-Brexit.

London Art Fair, the UK's premier fair for Modern British and contemporary art, sees 129 UK and international galleries exhibit at the Business Design Centre in Islington from 18-22 January 2017. 51 of these galleries responded to last week's survey.

Asked about the implications of the Brexit vote, nearly half of galleries surveyed (49%) believe that ensuring the free movement of people and goods within the EU is the most important thing the UK government can do to ensure London retains its status as a global art hub post-Brexit. The second greatest concern is maintaining the current low tax status for importing and exporting goods, identified as a priority by 45% of exhibiting galleries.\*

The galleries surveyed are marginally more positive about the art market than the general economy over the next year, although there is uncertainty about both. Asked how the British economy will fare in 2017, more than half of the galleries surveyed (58.8%) believe it will get worse. However, under half of respondents (47%) believe that the art market during the same period will fare worse, reflecting greater confidence that the art world will weather any economic turbulence. An optimistic 14% believe that both will get better and another 39% believe the art market will remain the same.

Sarah Monk, Director of London Art Fair comments:

'Our exhibitors are used to riding out the ups and downs of the economy - the art market weathered the most recent recession well - so we're not too worried about the immediate impact of the Brexit vote. Uncertainty immediately following the referendum may have led some collectors to pause for thought last summer, but what we are hearing is that this has been balanced out in the latter half of the year by strong interest in quality Modern British art and international collectors taking advantage of the weakened pound. Experienced dealers know that good work will always sell.

"Whatever the outcome of the Brexit negotiations, it is important that London maintains its competitiveness as a global art hub - whether through providing the right conditions for import and export of goods or ensuring free movement of talented people who work in the sector."

Matthew Travers of Piano Nobile comments:

'In the short term Brexit hasn't made much of a difference to the global art market. 2016 was a good year for Modern British sales, helped by interest in private collections such as David Bowie, and the market remains buoyant. London is an international hub of the artworld and the government should not jeopardise that. The concern is a loss of market share to other global cities – we need to make sure that the UK remains highly competitive.'

Zavier Ellis of CHARLIE SMITH LONDON comments:

'There might be hesitancy in the market while Brexit is resolved, but there are still people who want to collect and buy good art. There is certainly no hesitancy from the US and with a weakened currency we're in a good position to be exporting. We just have to have to keep getting out there. We would want the government to retain free movement of goods in the EU and it is imperative to avoid extra tariffs, tax liabilities and administration.'

[www.londonartfair.com](http://www.londonartfair.com)

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## Tickets

London Art Fair tickets start at £14 for a Thursday Late Ticket and £22 for a Day Ticket (plus £1.50 booking fee). Tickets are available from [www.londonartfair.co.uk](http://www.londonartfair.co.uk) and on the door

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## Notes to editors

### London Art Fair exhibitors

The full list of galleries in the Main Fair at London Art Fair 2017 is as follows:

55Bellechasse	Gray M.C.A
Adam Gallery	GX Gallery
Advanced Graphics London	James Kinmont Fine Art
Alan Wheatley Art	Jealous Gallery
Anima-Mundi	Jenna Burlingham Fine Art
Anise Gallery	Jessica Carlisle
Art First	Jill George Gallery
ARTITLEDcontemporary	Katharine House Gallery
Arusha Gallery	Knight Webb Gallery
Askew Art	Lemon Street Gallery
Atelier Aki	Lena Boyle Fine Art
Atelier Alen	Liberty Gallery
Austin / Desmond Fine Art	Liquid Art System
Beardsmore Gallery	Long & Ryle
Beaux Arts Bath	Mazel Galerie
Beaux Arts London	Merville Galleries
Bernard Chauchet Contemporary Art	Osborne Samuel
bo.lee gallery	Paisnel Gallery
Boundary Gallery	Panter & Hall
Browse & Darby	Parasol Unit Foundation for Contemporary Art
Caroline Wiseman	Paul Stolper Gallery
Castlegate House Gallery	Perve Galeria
Cavaliero Finn	Peter Harrington Gallery
CHARLIE SMITH LONDON	Pi Artworks Istanbul/London
Christopher Kingzett Fine Art	Piano Nobile
Crane Kalman Brighton	Pontone Gallery
Crane Kalman Gallery	Portal Painters
Cynthia Corbett Gallery	Portland Gallery
Cyril Gerber Fine Art/ Compass Gallery	Purdy Hicks Gallery
Danielle Arnaud Contemporary Art	Quantum Contemporary Art
DECORAZONgallery	Rabley Contemporary
Duncan R Miller Fine Arts	Redfern Gallery
Eames Fine Art Gallery	Sardac
Edgar Modern	Skipwiths
England & Co	Sladmore Contemporary
Ewan Mundy Fine Art	TAG Fine Arts
Eyestorm	The Hanbury Collection
Fairhead Fine Art Limited	The Reel Poster Gallery
Fiumano Projects	The Scottish Gallery
Flowers Gallery	Thompson's Gallery
french art studio	UNION Gallery

Galerie Artima	
Galerie Calderone	Urbane Art Gallery
Galerie Heike Strelow	Venet-Haus Galerie
Galerie Olivier Waltman	Victor Lope Arte Contemporaneo
GBS Fine Art Ltd	VIGO
Gilden's Arts Gallery	Waterhouse & Dodd
Glasgow Print Studio	Wilson Stephens & Jones
Goodman Fine Art	Woolff Gallery
Gormleys Fine Art	

The full list of Art Projects and Dialogues galleries at London Art Fair 2017 is as follows:

BEARSPACE, London  
 Carlos Carvalho Arte Contemporânea, Lisbon  
 Chiara Williams Contemporary Art, London  
 CRAG – CHIONO REISOVA ART GALLERY, Turin  
 Division of Labour, London  
 Do Gallery, Chungcheongbuk-do  
 Ed Cross Fine Art, London  
 First Floor Gallery Harare, Harare  
 Galerie Rothamel, Erfurt  
 Galerija Fotografija & L'Agence à Paris, Ljubljana & Paris  
 Gibbons & Nicholas, Dublin  
 Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast  
 Hanmi Gallery, London + Seoul  
 IMT GALLERY, London  
 Iniva, London  
 Jack House Gallery, Portsmouth  
 Joanna Bryant and Julian Page, London  
 Kalfayan Galleries, Athens/ Thessaloniki  
 Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery, London  
 LLE, Cardiff  
 MATÈRIA, Rome  
 Maus Contemporary, Birmingham AL  
 Muriel Guepin Gallery, New York  
 Noorforart Contemporary, Aix en Provence  
 Nunnery Gallery, London  
 OBJECT/A, Manchester  
 Parasol unit foundation for contemporary art, London  
 PAPER, Manchester  
 Perve Galeria, Lisbon  
 RED CORRIDOR Gallery, Kuenzell/Fulda  
 The Contemporary London  
 White Conduit Projects, London

\* Currently art imports from non-EU countries benefit from a reduced VAT rate of 5%. Goods exported outside the EU or sent to someone registered in another EU country are zero-rated.