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## LONDON ART FAIR CELEBRATES 30 YEARS AND ATTRACTS INTERNATIONAL COLLECTORS SUPPORTING BOTH ESTABLISHED AND BURGEONING MARKETS



17-21 January 2018  
(Preview Evening 16 January)  
Business Design Centre, Islington, N1 0QH  
[londonartfair.co.uk](http://londonartfair.co.uk) | #LAF18

The 2018 anniversary edition of London Art Fair closed on Sunday 21 January, reporting healthy sales and garnering critical acclaim for its curated spaces. Founded in 1989 as an initiative of Islington's Business Design Centre, where it has been held ever since, the Fair has grown substantially over the last thirty years and is now considered one of London's leading platforms for modern and contemporary art. London Art Fair 2018, which opened with a Preview Evening on Tuesday 16 January, saw participation from 131 exhibitors representing 18 different countries, offering a snapshot of the best of British and international art.

Javier Pes, UK Editor of *artnet News* commented: "*[London Art Fair] has kept dealers and collectors coming back over the past 30 years by staying put in the calendar and its forever home..but is has also moved with the times, embracing edgy contemporary art and offering subsidized booths to international galleries looking to get a foothold in the British market.*"

Sarah Monk, Fair Director, said: "Over the last thirty years London Art Fair has continued to evolve in order to stay relevant and continue attracting, and exciting, collectors and visitors. Whilst we still provide a home for outstanding Modern British art, we have embraced an increasingly international and contemporary outlook, with new galleries from around the world expanding our offer and reach. What unites our galleries is an emphasis on excellence, whether it originates in the 20th or 21st century. Our 30th anniversary edition has proved that London continues to be open for business, whilst our curated spaces Dialogues and Photo50 have demonstrated that international collaboration is still very much alive and well in the art world."

London Art Fair continues to nurture collecting at all levels, with prints and editions starting in the hundreds to major works by internationally renowned artists. Notable sales included a Grayson Perry embroidery sold by Castlegate House Gallery for £45,000; a Picasso drawing sold by Gormleys Fine Art for £52,000; and an Eduardo Paolozzi bronze sold by Piano Nobile for £165,000.

Galleries specialising in Modern British art, which has long been celebrated as a strength of the Fair, reported healthy sales, particularly to British and London-based international collectors. At the start of the Fair, England & Co sold *Landscape with Figures (Birdman Piper and Fisherwoman)*, a watercolor by British surrealist Edward Burra which had not been exhibited for over 70 years, to a private collector for approximately £200,000. Elsewhere both Alan Wheatley Art and The Scottish Gallery sold works by the late Alan Davie at £18,000 and £16,000 respectively.

London Art Fair 2018 demonstrated that confidence in the contemporary art market is also high with galleries reporting strong sales across all mediums including painting, photography, prints and applied arts. Venet-Haus Galerie reported a significant number of sales to younger collectors, who acquired the playful, irreverent work of The Connor Brothers and pieces by pioneering street artist Van Ray. Meanwhile Plinth sold out of limited edition works by Louise Bourgeois and Royal Academician Richard Wilson. The appetite for new contemporary voices was also apparent in the Fair's *Art Projects* section, with C&C Gallery selling out of their stand of Mona Osman paintings and Chiara Williams Contemporary Art selling components of Frances Richardson's award-winning installation *In times of brutal instability* to both curators and collectors.

The 2018 edition of the Fair saw the attendance of a number of notable curators and representatives from public and private institutions. Galerie Olivier Waltman sold a Jerome Lagarrigue oil painting to US music producer Swizz Beatz for an undisclosed sum which he acquired for The Dean Collection, an initiative started to "support artists and cultural visionaries around the globe." Meanwhile Rabley Contemporary sold a Rebecca Salter woodblock to the Print and Drawings Department of the British Museum, with another Salter piece bound for the San Diego Museum of Art.



## Celebrating 30 Years

Since its launch, London Art Fair has adopted an increasingly international outlook with over 25% of this year's exhibitors coming from outside the UK. However it is testament to the Fair's ongoing success that UK galleries who were present at the inaugural Fair continue to return. John Mackechnie of Glasgow Print Studio, who has exhibited at all thirty editions of London Art Fair, comments: *"We were delighted once again to be able to bring art from Scotland to our regular collectors and to introduce our work to a new audience. We are leaving behind over forty works that are going to new homes."*

John Martin Gallery comments: *"We have exhibited at the London Art Fair for almost 15 years, and this year have connected with a very diverse audience. We have found, this year in particular, that people visiting the fair have a genuine and serious interest in the artworks. One of the main attractions of the fair is that it introduces our artists to new audiences both from London and further afield. This year, we have observed that the buyers are noticeably younger than in previous years, and our sales have been an almost equal split between new and existing clients. We hope to return to the fair next year."*

Over the last thirty years the Fair has played host to acclaimed artists early in their career as well as established names, with Chris Ofili and Jenny Saville awarded 'rising star' awards at the 1996 edition. London Art Fair continues to provide a platform for exceptional early-career artists, offering collectors the chance to invest in the stars of the future. Arusha Gallery sold all of their 35 works by London-based painter Charlotte Keates, with a waiting list of over 100 collectors interested in acquiring new pieces. Joanna Bryant & Julian Page sold four works by Matilde Demele, recent winner of the Clifford Chance Printmaking Purchase Prize 2017. Meanwhile Contemporary Collective sold multiple works by Sophie Derrick, who disrupts traditional portraiture by combining photography and painting to create multi-layered, textural compositions.

## Curated Spaces

London Art Fair 2018 once again provided insight into the evolution of the art market through its curated spaces *Photo50* and *Art Projects*. This year's De'Longhi Art Projects Artist Award winner Nilbar Güreş (Galerie Tanja Wagner), was drawn from the Fair's *Dialogues* section, dedicated to facilitating collaborations between pairs of international galleries. Showcasing work exclusively by female artists, *Dialogues* featured a number of live performances which reflected curator Misal Adnan Yıldız's intent to bring women's' experiences to the fore. During one of the performances at the Fair's Thursday Late evening, Mehtap Baydu (Galerie Nev) enlisted the help of Fair Director Sarah Monk for her striking performance *Silence*. By creating a mould of her lips from red sealing wax which she used to silence Monk, Baydu addressed the act of silencing people across the world, women and men alike.



In celebration of the Fair's 30th birthday, London Art Fair collaborated with Museum Partner Art UK to stage the initiative's first ever exhibition. Prominently displayed inside the main pavilion entrance, *Art of the Nation - Five Artists Choose* invited five leading contemporary artists - Sonia Boyce, Mat Collishaw, Haroon Mirza, Oscar Murillo and Rose Wylie - to choose their favourite artworks from the nation's public art collections. Visitors enjoyed a diverse selection of works - including an impressive large-scale painting by Turner Prize winner Lubaina Himid - which offered insights into the artists' creative inspiration, and celebrated the quality of the UK's regional collections.



Sarah Monk, Fair Director, concludes: *"This anniversary edition was a fantastic celebration of the confidence and heritage of the Fair whilst also being a clear marker of intent for the future. We look forward to building on the great strength and success of this edition."*

-End -

#### **PRESS CONTACT**

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#### **LONDON ART FAIR EXHIBITORS**

**The full list of galleries in the main Fair at London Art Fair 2018 is as follows:**

55Bellechasse	Beaux Arts Bath
Adam Gallery	Beaux Arts London
Advanced Graphics London	Bernard Chauchet Contemporary Art
Alan Wheatley Art	Berwald London
Anise Gallery	bo.lee gallery
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE LTD	Boundary Gallery
Art First	Brownsword Hepworth
ARTCO Gallery	Browse & Darby
ARTE GLOBALE	Candida Stevens Gallery
ARTITLEDcontemporary	Caroline Wiseman Modern & Contemporary
Arusha Gallery	Castlegate House Gallery
Askew Art	Cavaliero Finn
ATELIER AKI	CFPR Editions
Austin / Desmond Fine Art	CHARLIE SMITH LONDON
Beardsmore Gallery	Christopher Kingzett Fine Art

Contemporary Collective  
Crane Kalman Brighton  
Crane Kalman Gallery  
Cyril Gerber Fine Art / Compass Gallery  
Danielle Arnaud  
DECORAZONgallery  
Duncan R. Miller Fine Arts  
Edgar Modern  
England & Co  
Ewan Mundy Fine Art  
Fairhead Fine Art Ltd  
Fine Art Consultancy  
FIUMANO CLASE  
French Art Studio  
Galeria Miquel Alzueta  
Galería Víctor Lope Arte Contemporáneo  
Galerie Artima  
Galerie Calderone  
Galerie Heike Strelow  
Galerie Olivier Waltman  
GBS Fine Art Ltd  
Gilden's Art Gallery  
Glasgow Print Studio  
Goodman Fine Art  
Gormleys Fine Art  
James Freeman Gallery  
James Kinmont Fine Art  
Jealous Gallery  
Jenna Burlingham Fine Art  
Jessica Carlisle  
Jill George Gallery  
John Martin Gallery  
Katharine House Gallery  
La Lanta Fine Art  
Lemon Street Gallery  
Liquid Art System  
Long & Ryle  
Maus Contemporary

No 20 Arts / Galeria Carles Taché  
Osborne Samuel  
Paisnel Gallery  
Panter & Hall  
Piano Nobile  
Pontone Gallery  
Portal Painters  
Portland Gallery  
Purdy Hicks Gallery  
Quantum Contemporary Art  
Rabley Contemporary  
Rebecca Hossack Gallery  
SARDAC  
Serena Morton  
Skipwiths  
Stoney Road Press  
TAG Fine Arts  
The Cynthia Corbett Gallery  
The Drawing Works  
The Hanbury Collection  
The Redfern Gallery  
The Scottish Gallery  
Thompson's Gallery  
UNION Gallery  
Urbane Art Gallery  
Venet-Haus Galerie  
VIGO  
Waterhouse & Dodd  
Wilson Stephens & Jones  
Woolff Gallery  
YIRI Arts

**The full list of Art Projects and Dialogues galleries at London Art Fair 2018 is as follows:**

AREACREATIVA42  
Aria Art Gallery  
ARTCO Gallery  
BEARSPACE  
C&C Gallery  
CANAL  
Chiara Williams Contemporary Art  
Darger HQ  
Dundee Contemporary Arts  
Ed Cross Fine Art  
Galerie Lake  
Galerie Voss

Gibbons & Nicholas  
Iniva  
LLE  
New Art Projects  
Nitra Gallery  
PAPER  
Plinth  
Stern Gallery  
taubert contemporary  
The Contemporary London  
Turps Gallery

## **Dialogues**

Alaska Projects  
Bowerbank Ninow  
IMT Gallery  
Galeri Nev

Galerie Tanja Wagner  
Hanmi Gallery  
Joanna Bryant & Julian Page  
MOV'ART  
Perve Galeria  
Starkwhite

## **SPONSORS & PARTNERS**

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