

LONDON ART FAIR

Discover more with expert talks at London Art Fair 2020

London Art Fair's annual programme of talks, tours, workshops and new Onsite Insights from artists provides a current view of trends and topics emerging within the contemporary art scene and art market. Curators, gallerists, artists and other leading figures within the arts industry join panels exploring the latest developments in artistic practices such as textile art, code-based art and multi-authored photography, as well as identifying collecting trends for both the home and the museum.



TALKS AND PERFORMANCE

London Art Fair (22-26 January) affords visitors a unique insight into the working practices of artists and their processes in a range of talks led by participating galleries, including a panel discussion presented by DAM Gallery exploring code-based art with creative Coder, Artist and Lecturer at UAL Damien Brorowik and Melanie Lenz, Curator of Digital Art at the V&A. Guy Peplow, Director of The Scottish Gallery, will also host a talk, presenting the rich legacy of the late artist Pat Douthwaite, while Waterhouse & Dodd will host an on-site talk with British artist, Clive Head.

In collaboration with the Fair's 2020 Museum Partner, Southampton City Art Gallery, **Museum Day** will take place on 22 January. This will offer a forum for invited museum professionals from world-class institutions, including The National Gallery, The Museum of the Home, The V&A and Museum of London, to discuss pressing issues within the sector, such as the issue of heritage funding within the UK's regional museums, and to explore the future of collecting. Collecting outside of the museum and gallery space is also explored in panel discussions on living with art in the home, and the growing interest in textile-based practice in conjunction with the Fair's Platform exhibition, *Threading Forms*.

The future of the art market will be a prominent focus of the talks programme. Marianna Magnin, UK Managing Director of Arteïa, will chair a discussion on consensus and experimentation in art identification, and Lucy Rose Sollit, author and researcher of The Future of the Art Market Report, will contribute to a talk examining the trends that will shape the art market of tomorrow.

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London Art Fair 2020 also sees the return of **Photography Focus Day** on 24 January, which will feature a talk on the process behind multi-authored photographic practice (led by Anthony Luvera from Coventry University) and three critical discussions inspired by London Art Fair's Photo50 exhibition, *Occupy the Void*. Brett Rogers OBE, Director of The Photographers' Gallery, will lead a talk looking at the last fifty years of women in photography, while Laura Noble, Curator of Photo50, will invite the participating photographers to comment on the marginalised status of female photographers aged over fifty in the traditional art world. For the final talk, Noble will return with speakers from a variety of institutions, including Manchester Art Gallery, to host a talk centred on the idea of reclaiming space and visibility for female photographers, both within the contemporary art world and beyond.

In response to London Art Fair's Screening Room theme, *Playtime*, speakers, including Art Projects Curator Pryle Berhman and Professor Sarah Cook from the University of Glasgow, explore artistic practice operating between the boundaries of work and leisure time in a society where switching off and opting out of technology is becoming almost impossible. Artist Samantha Humphreys will build further on this theme through an interactive performance making bespoke on-site woodblock artworks for visitors based on their smartphone displays. By taking a momentary snapshot of phone screen content, Humphreys will create a permanent record of each participant's online lives in order to critique the proliferation of smartphone technologies and remote connectivity.

Artist Steve Macleod will also look at themes of art and society, in his discussion on art as therapy alongside the founders of Hospital Rooms (a charity that brings together artists and mental health units to improve patient wellbeing). Apollo Magazine will also present a discussion on the ways in which nature is represented in art and how artists have often led the way in examining humanity's relationship to our environment.

THURSDAY LATE

London Art Fair's popular **Thursday Late**, which runs from 5pm-9pm, offers the opportunity to enjoy the Fair after dark. This year's sponsor, Vellum Magazine, will be providing complimentary tote bags to Thursday Late ticket holders and presenting an installation of prints and drawings by

Artist Diana Wege at Stand M5 in Art Projects (Gallery Level 1). Live music will be provided courtesy of Rough Trade, who will take over the Photo50 café, and visitors can also experience a performance by Samantha Humphreys staged in the Screening Room. The Campari Spiritello bar will be providing refreshments throughout the duration of the Fair.



GUIDED TOURS AND WORKSHOP

45-minute themed tours led by art students from London Art Fair's Official Tours Partner, Sotheby's Institute of Art, provide an engaged commentary on the art displayed at the Fair multiple times per day. Tours focus on Modern British art, Contemporary art, prints

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and editions, textiles and emerging markets as well as photography on Photography Focus Day.

On 26 January, Hackney-based PEER Ambassador and artist Devinya Thomas will host a drop-in interactive workshop using analogue photographic processes (such as pinhole photography) as part of the Fair's education programme, inspired by arts charity PEER UK's local audience programme. All ages are welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

Full information is available at londonartfair.co.uk/talks, where spaces for all talks and tours can be pre-booked.

NOTES TO EDITORS

LONDON ART FAIR

22- 26 January 2020 (Preview 21 January)

Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH

www.londonartfair.co.uk

Tickets: £22, £17 in advance. Full ticket types and prices at: londonartfair.co.uk/tickets.

For our latest news, follow @LondonArtFair on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (#LAF20)

PRESS CONTACTS

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IMAGE CREDITS

- London Art Fair 2019. Image: Charlotte Swinburn

ABOUT LONDON ART FAIR

London Art Fair will return to London for its 32nd edition in 2020. Recognised as a platform for connecting the best galleries from around the world with both seasoned and aspiring collectors, London Art Fair provides a unique opportunity to discover and champion outstanding modern and contemporary art.

The Fair seeks to nurture collecting at all levels whilst providing expert insight into the changing international market. Sitting alongside the main Fair, curated sections Art Projects and Photo50 feature the next generation of artists, collectives and gallerists; showcasing increasingly innovative and interactive ways to engage with art. The Fair's strong gallery line up is also complemented by an extensive programme of engaging talks, panel discussions, interactive performance art, and onsite activations from the Fair's partners.

Taking place from 22 – 26 January 2020 (VIP Preview 21 January), London Art Fair is an unmissable opening to the international art calendar. www.londonartfair.co.uk

ABOUT VELLUM MAGAZINE

Vellum Magazine is a publication dedicated to emerging artists in all disciplines. It is written in a non-critical format focused on the artist's studio practice. Their aim is to reach a wide range demographic with a goal of touching not only art connoisseurs but everyday people who might not otherwise be exposed to young contemporary art.

Currently their main distribution points are art fairs around the globe and their reach from these Fair's is over 1 million. Some of the fairs they participate in include Art Basel (Miami, Basel, Hong Kong), The Armory Show, Art Miami, Expo Chicago, Zona Maco, Art Paris, Art Toronto, Art Dubai, Art Brussels, Sydney Contemporary, India Art Fair, Photofairs Shanghai, Art Fair Tokyo and Frieze.

Vellum Projects is based in Brooklyn, NY. Their mission is to expand on the magazine's editorial vision and present shows which are thought-provoking and socially conscious. As part of their presence at London Art Fair they will be presenting Diana Wege's Reject Violence prints which communicate a message that is a visual and linguistic

PRESS RELEASE

assault on the culture of violence. Made to mimic billboard advertisements commonly seen on bus and telephone kiosks found in large cities, the multi-colored prints use bold block letters and plain language to behold the power of street advertising in order to confront a more provocative message. One that can affect the viewer directly or subliminally by its placement in a public environment.

ABOUT CAMPARI

Campari's evocative history runs parallel to the journey of modern Italy, its birthplace Milan, and the arrival of aperitivo and the cocktail hour. The story began in 1860, when Gaspare Campari invented the recipe, then started serving bitter cocktails and cordials alongside artisan snacks at his Café Campari overlooking the Duomo. Young Milanese flocked here and later to the Camparino bar when it opened in 1915 in the fashionable Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II.

Since Davide Campari took over the company in 1910, Campari has had a close association with the world of art and design. Davide understood the unrivalled power of design and creativity in building brand recognition around the world. He engaged the brand with the arts, getting to know leading international designers, illustrators and filmmakers, and in doing so played his part in championing the avant-garde.

Because of this close association with the arts that has lasted over 100 years, Campari will bring the Campari Spiritello bar to London Art Fair.

ABOUT AUDLEY

Audley will be the London Art Fair's VIP Programme Sponsor for 2020. While great art provides a lens to see the world through, Audley's destination experts' extensive knowledge and local insight provides its clients with meaningful travel experiences in the very locations that have inspired artists throughout history. Audley believe that when travel is meticulously planned around you, it doesn't end when you get back home. While others claim to provide tailor-made travel, only Audley can provide experiences that are meticulously planned around your needs.

Audley is able to offer unique travel experiences in over 85 countries by employing genuine specialists with detailed, in-depth knowledge of the countries they visited backed by a no-compromise attitude towards quality and service. Audley's award-winning service has seen the tour operator win many prestigious accolades over the last 20 years, most recently named Which? Recommended Provider for Escorted Tours, The Telegraph's Best Tour Operator and The Times and Sunday Times Best Luxury Tour Operator.

ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ART MARKET REPORT

Researched and written by Lucy Rose Sollitt, and including Sarah Monk as one of the interviewees, the Future of the Art Market Report examines the past and present influences that have forged the current position and considers the market's future. It has a specific focus on the impact of trends in the mid and low segments which provide a unique place for artists to grow, gain exposure and experiment. The report reflects on the major changes which are shaping today's market.

In line with this year's Talks Programme featuring talks looking at the role of technology in art, the report explores the rise of digital art and how new technologies and the internet have transformed the operating conditions of the market. With this comes an interesting discussion related to the value of digital technologies in art, challenging traditional models of artistic practice and distribution. As the market diversifies and younger more tech-savvy generations become the dominant consumers, the appeal of digital art grows. More are responding to the increasing demand for experience-based art and reflecting upon the role that social media platforms can play in the dissemination and recognition of their work.