

# ART DÜSSEL DORF

## Press Release

November 11, 2019  
Düsseldorf

## **Art Düsseldorf 2019: International Performance with Strong Cooperation in the Region November 15 to 17, 2019**

Out of around 100 exhibitors, half are from abroad, with a high proportion from the Benelux countries and Europe and 10% from Asia and the USA. All in all, the fair recorded an increase in the number of exhibitors of around 10% compared to the previous year. Art Düsseldorf positions itself as an international fair with strong regional roots.

### **Statement by the fair director, Walter Gehlen**

*The third edition shows that we continue to strategically expand international networking and that Art Düsseldorf is also establishing itself as a driver for the local art scene. Our close cooperation with the private collections, institutions and galleries in the Rhineland emphasizes the dynamic networking within the region. The topic of young talent remains to be of central importance to us, which is why we have highlighted the young galleries at the fair with the rsvp sector. We are continuing our partnerships, such as the acquisition by Freunde des Kunstpalast, and are entering into new ones, such as with Rhineland Independent. As a platform for exchange on current and future-oriented topics, we deal with digital change in the art world in our talk program over the three days of the fair and have international speakers present their perspectives on the issue. As an international fair with strong regional roots, we exhibit the confidence to identify, communicate and promote quality. I am looking forward to welcoming numerous visitors, interested collectors and a committed professional audience that will contribute to a lively discussion.*

### **Highlights of Art Düsseldorf at a glance**

+++ International appeal with around 100 galleries from Europe, Asia and the USA  
+++ Promotion of young artists with the rsvp sector  
+++ Merging of private collections with Rhineland Independent  
+++ *Samsung x Julia Stoschek Collection Presenting Time-Based Art*  
+++ Special projects with Düsseldorf's twin city Warsaw and the Contemporary Art Foundation, Tokyo  
+++ Talk program with international guests from New York, Brussels, London, Tokyo, Paris  
+++ Acquisition by Freunde des Kunstpalast  
+++ Special opening hours of the institutions  
+++ Gallery Opening-Night +++

## **Comments on the third edition by participating gallery owners**

### **Galerie Max Mayer, Düsseldorf**

*The quality of the fair increases from year to year so that collectors and visitors can expect the best possible fair presentation in the unique halls of Areal Böhler.*

### **Tina Keng Gallery, Peking/Taipei**

*Armed with a centuries-old art scene, the city has cultivated a mature art market, and a collector base with a refined taste and singular vision for greater diversity in contemporary art.*

### **Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo/Brussels/New York**

*Düsseldorf is an easily accessible location for people from Belgium, Netherlands, Germany and France with potential to draw big crowds. Besides the fair, the old city center provides the perfect combo for collectors for a weekend away.*

### **Axel Vervoordt Gallery, Antwerp**

*For us, it is always exciting to see our friends from Düsseldorf. My passion for art started meeting the artists connected to Zero, like Uecker or Verheyen, so in a way, it's like coming home.*

**The complete list of exhibitors:** [www.art-dus.de/galleries-2019/](http://www.art-dus.de/galleries-2019/)

### **Next Generation – rsvp**

The promotion of young galleries will also be continued in the third edition. With rsvp, Art Düsseldorf offers a platform for galleries that have been founded in the last ten years and show current works by young artists. The presentations by Lucas Hirsch, TALION GALLERY, SPERLING, DREI, Galerie Tobias Naehring, Carbon 12, Weiss Berlin, Svetlana, Damien & The Love Guru as well as Lars Kristian Bode focus on the next generation of artistic talents within a challenging and clear framework.

### **Sculpture Plazas**

The Viehof Collection, one of the most important private collections of contemporary art in Germany, is showing Carl Andre's work "81 Steel Cardinal" from 1989 on the central sculpture plaza. The US American artist achieved an international breakthrough in the 1960s with his first European exhibition at the Galerie Konrad Fischer. At that time, a comparable floor piece made of steel plates was exhibited. The gallery visitors could walk over the minimalistic artwork, which was presented in the middle of a gateway of Düsseldorf's Old Town, where Konrad Fischer's gallery had just opened.

The second sculpture plaza will be presented this year by the König Galerie with "Absorption (Dolomit)", 2018, by Alicja Kwade. This piece was conceived for the Biennale Gherdëina and installed in the pedestrian zone of St. Ulrich. The artist uses an original dolomite stone and transforms its 3D scan into two other objects that represent alternatives to the same stone and merge seamlessly. The artist thus confronts the viewer's perception: the mirror surfaces between the stones expand the space into seemingly parallel realities and reflect the surroundings, or - as the title suggests - literally absorb them. Thus, the interaction between nature and the human being play a major role in the tense exchange between sensual and cognitive perception.

### **Acquisition by Freunde des Kunstpalast at the Fair**

For the second time, a purchase for the collection of the Kunstpalast is taking place this year. The purchase sum amounts to 25,000 euros, including 20,000 euros from private donations by committed members of the Freunde des Kunstpalast. A further 5,000 euros are provided by Art Düsseldorf.

## **Rhineland Independent**

As Rhineland Independent, the Julia Stoschek Collection, KAI 10 | Arthena Foundation, Langen Foundation and Philara Collection, four private foundations and collections on modern and contemporary art in the Rhineland will team up during Art Düsseldorf to present their program at the fair and to consider new projects in the future.

## **International Cooperations**

### **Poland**

**Friend of a Friend (FOAF)**, Poland's first international gallery sharing initiative, was launched in 2018 by the Warsaw galleries stereo and Wschód. Warsaw and Düsseldorf are celebrating the 30th anniversary of their city partnership this year. Now, after two editions in Berlin and Prague, the initiators of FOAF, together with Galeria LETO, Piktogram, Pola Magnetyczne, Galeria Dawid Radziszewski and Galeria Raster, are presenting their own booth at Art Düsseldorf 2019.

At the FOAF Warsaw booth (120 sqm), the seven exhibitors will show works by selected Polish and international artists. The aim of FOAF is to build new networks, exchange ideas and offer guests - gallery owners, artists, curators, art critics and collectors - a comprehensive overview of contemporary art in Poland and the Warsaw art scene.

### **Japan**

For decades, the North Rhine-Westphalian capital and Japan have been closely linked by one of the strongest Japanese communities in Europe. Art Düsseldorf relies on this long-standing relationship and opens doors for new collaborations between the two art worlds. The Japanese art collector Daisuke Miyatsu, for example, enriches this year's talk program and reports on the development of his collection of contemporary art, which he once began as a simple employee and has made now accessible to the public in his private home.

Art Düsseldorf is particularly pleased about the close cooperation with the **Contemporary Art Foundation**, Tokyo. The foundation headed by the collector and entrepreneur Yusaku Maezawa is dedicated to promoting contemporary art and young artists in Japan. As part of this partnership, VR artist Shoma Kimura, born in Osaka in 1996, invites art students from the Düsseldorf Art Academy to work in his "Floating Studio" in virtual space on Saturday, November 16 at Art Düsseldorf.

### **Talk Program**

By inviting international speakers, Art Düsseldorf discusses different perspectives and the potential of digital transformation in the art world over three days. How do digital evaluation and analysis mechanisms change the role of art criticism? How do collectors react to an art world in a time of digital upheaval? What does this mean for young galleries? Does artistic work change in the context of a digitized art market? And how do intelligent technologies influence the interaction of institutions, collectors, artists and galleries? **Participants include Emma Enderby, Alain Servais, Ben Vickers, Felix Krämer, Coraly von Bismarck, Ulrike Groos, Carolin Scharpff-Striebich, Silvia Ammon and Nina Raftopoulos.**

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**Art Düsseldorf**

Press Conference: November 14, 2019, 10 am  
Preview and Opening: November 14, 2019  
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40549 Düsseldorf

Please find further information at [www.art-dus.de](http://www.art-dus.de).

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