



Press Release
April 04, 2023
Art Düsseldorf 2023

The fifth edition of Art Düsseldorf offers an essential meeting point for the contemporary art world, with the galleries reporting very successful sales.

„The Art Düsseldorf fair has established itself and, in its fifth edition, shows how subtly contemporary issues can be negotiated.“

– Georg Imdahl, FAZ

The atmosphere was thriving, the mood outstanding, and the sales excellent. This is how the fifth edition of Art Düsseldorf is summed up.

Director Walter Gehlen is delighted with this year's fair: „We received very positive feedback from the galleries, collectors, institutions, and artists. Our current concepts and strategic focus have been compelling. Furthermore, the galleries could create strong impressions with the new Solo Projects section, which was also noticeable in the sales.“

This is confirmed by Judy Lybke from Eigen+Art and Priska Pasquer from Cologne, among others, who presented on the focus themes of Sustainability, Diversity and Rhineland Connection.

„Our concept of focusing on Birgit Brenner's work with a solo presentation was a complete success. The audience not only rewarded this with a lot of attention, but the sales also proved us right.“

– Judy Lybke, Berlin/Leipzig

“It made perfect sense to show a solo presentation of an artist we have already successfully shown more often at Art Düsseldorf, and who can thus be placed more firmly in the context of an evolving body of work. In an unsteady world, Fabian Herkenhoener's text-image combinations open up [new] spaces of thought. The purchase by the Kunstpalast has confirmed this for us.“

– Priska Pasquer, Cologne



Positive results from the exhibiting galleries

The galleries from the Main Section are also very satisfied by the fair and report positive results:

„We have been there from the beginning — and now for the fifth time. The atmosphere and the sales were excellent, which made us enthusiastic right from the preview.“

– *KOW Vienna, Berlin*

„I made great new contacts, which can certainly be expanded in the long term, but which have already manifested themselves in larger purchases of important works – also on an institutional level. These include a 26-piece work by Man Ray and a large-scale work by Johannes Wohnseifer.“

– *Linn Lühn, Düsseldorf*

„It was a great pleasure to present three generations of the Becher School at Art Düsseldorf: [including] rarely seen industrial facades by the Bechers themselves, as well as Thomas Ruff with a work from his current series of printed velour carpets and Candida Höfer with a new series from the Komische Oper Berlin. And as the youngest generation, Juergen Staack, a master student of Thomas Ruff, whose current works with artificial intelligence we are particularly pleased to have gone into such good hands.“

– *Galerie Fischer, Düsseldorf*

“The trade fair went exceptionally well for us. Claudia Wieser and Peppi Bottrop, in particular, have attracted much attention. Claudia Wieser, who will soon have her first solo exhibition at the Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Paris, has been purchased by the Kunstsammlung NRW.“

– *Sies+Höke, Düsseldorf*

„Art Düsseldorf is in great shape again this year. Besides the dynamic sales and new contacts, the lively atmosphere is infectious. So we return to Vienna more than satisfied.“

– *Thomas Krinzinger, Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna*

Art Düsseldorf is establishing itself perfectly alongside Art Cologne, which takes place every six months — and that’s how it’s seen on the Cologne side, as well.

„For us, the fair went very well; institutional as well as private sales showed us once again that the Rhineland definitely has the capacity for two fairs. Together, we manage to make sure that the legendary collector mentality of the Rhineland infects and motivates the next generation — and the baton is passed on.“

– *Rehbein Gallery, Cologne*



Young Positions inspire Collectors and Art Professionals

Walter Gehlen emphasizes the importance of the Next section for the fair, in which young galleries exhibit: „Through the Next section, we have brought young galleries to the fair who also report very successfully balance of sales while enriching the fair image with new positions.“

This includes, for example, Emami Gallery from Kolkata:

„We are pleased to participate in Art Düsseldorf. We were encouraged by the warmth of the fair organizers and the people we met during the fair. It is a great honor that the K21 Museum in Düsseldorf has purchased the work of our represented artist, Arpita Akhanda. We look forward to returning next year.“

– *Ushmita Sahu, Emami Gallery, Kolkata*

Stefan Kobel, from Tagesspiegel, also comments: „Anyone who wants to gain an insight into the young gallery scene in German-speaking countries is in good hands in Düsseldorf.“

This is confirmed by collector Stephan Oehmen: „Once again, I really liked the airy open atmosphere. For a collector who collects out of great personal interest and not as an investment, [the fair was] the perfect inspiration. I made two or three exciting new discoveries for myself immediately.“

Exciting positions and space for discoveries are also positively noted from the institutional side: „Art Düsseldorf was a wonderful industry meeting point, with a good mix of established positions and galleries in a great location with enough space for new discoveries and contacts,“ notes Uta Ruhkamp, Senior Curator at Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg.

Susanne Kaufmann from the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart sums up: „[It was an] exciting compilation of galleries and established positions, but also great opportunities for discoveries. The visit was absolutely worthwhile.“



Purchases by Kunstpalast and Kunstsammlung NRW

The close connection between the fair and the city was particularly evident in the extensive supporting program and the strong cooperation with Düsseldorf institutions, including the Kunstsammlung NRW, Kunstpalast, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, and the Philara Collection, among others.

„There were many exciting new positions to discover at Art Düsseldorf. For example, at Galerie Russi Klenner from Berlin, I acquired a fantastic work by Oska Gutheil. We are happy that the many great guests at Art Düsseldorf also visited our collection.“

– *Gil Bronner, Philara, Düsseldorf*

Both the Kunstpalast and the Kunstsammlung NRW made purchases at the fair. „As always, we acquired great works for the Kunstsammlung at Art Düsseldorf. In addition to works by young artists from Düsseldorf galleries, we also acquired a work by Arpita Akhanda from an Indian gallery in Calcutta. I'm really excited that Art Düsseldorf has now become so international.“

– *Susanne Gaensheimer, Director Kunstsammlung NRW*

In addition to private sales and museum-collecting activities, the fair also served as a meeting place, information point, and marketplace for corporate collecting activities.

„With this year's Art Düsseldorf, the fair has firmly established itself in the art calendars with new momentum. For the LBBW Collection, which, in addition to its early regional origins, has always had close ties to the neighboring Rhineland and its artists, here is the opportunity to gain a concentrated and high-quality overview of the status of important positions of the earlier and more recent generations of our collection based on the fair's offerings from over 90 galleries operating nationally and, in some cases, internationally.“

– *Lutz Casper, LBBW Collection*



Art Düsseldorf thrives on-site and online

Full exhibition halls and 20,000 unique visitors underline the importance and weight that the art fair now has with the public. After massively expanding its digital offering in 2022, the trade fair also strengthened its online services in 2023. Both the guided Art Tours and the Art Talks program could be attended online in the live stream. Here, Art Düsseldorf repeatedly demonstrated that it is driving its technological development. In the live stream, online visitors could watch the many top-tier guests in our Talk program discuss relevant issues in contemporary art and also jump into our professional Art Tours. The fair's Online Store will also be live until the beginning of July. Here, artworks from the exhibiting galleries can still be purchased over the next several months.

The fact that Art Düsseldorf is sharpening its profile and increasingly establishing itself as a platform for current discourse is proven by the Art Talks program, which covered such topics as the generational change in the Rhineland and the future of collaboration, including collective work. Consistently well-attended, the Talk Lounge offered guests such as Udo Kittelmann, Fatima Hellberg, Ramesch Daha, Till Fellrath, and Çağla İlk, among others, a place to engage in a lively exchange among themselves as a captivated audience watched the talks. As a result of the discourse, a lot of consensus between the generations was observed, as the young generation continues to grow and change the established structures and relationships of the Rhineland art scene.

„It was great to return to Düsseldorf once again under these auspices, to find the rich art scene of the Rhineland mirrored at Art Düsseldorf, and to reflect this in the exciting talks.“

– Udo Kittelmann, *Museum Frieder Burda*

The next Art Düsseldorf will take place from April 11-14, 2024.



Allianz

Main Partner

This year, Allianz, a partner, and insurer of Art Düsseldorf since 2017, supported the fair with an inclusive new campaign. On the professionally guided Art Tours, both an Allianz art expert and a sign language interpreter were available so that hearing, hearing-impaired, and deaf art lovers were able to engage in the fair equally.

„Inclusion is an important social issue that should not stop at art,“ says Antonella Forte-Wolf, Project Manager for Art and Culture Sponsorship at Allianz. „Art should be accessible to everyone. That’s what Allianz stands for, and that’s also very important to me personally.“

Allianz also maintained a presence at the fair with its Allianz Lounge — this year including two interactive artworks by photo artist Hubertus Hamm for viewers to engage with.

The first artwork, „Portrait VIII,“ featured an installation of a flexible steel cloth containing glass crystals. If the visitor stood in front of this cloth and interacted with the sensor, their portrait appeared, pulsating like waves in his heartbeat.

At first glance, the second work of art, „Portrait XI, Mirror No. 3,“ showed a black image. However, if the visitor was directly in front of the installation, a unique silhouette of the viewer appeared on a red background, which only the visitor could perceive.

Both interactions created an intimate experience for the viewer with the installations, creating unique works of art that transformed each individual’s eye. In addition, Hubertus Hamm was available for discussions in the Allianz Lounge for the fair’s duration. Both the tours and the Allianz Lounge generated a positive response.

About Allianz:

The Allianz Group is represented in more than 70 countries and is one of the largest financial services providers in the world. One of the company’s most important markets is Germany, where Allianz began operations in 1890. With its property and casualty insurance, life insurance, and health insurance, Allianz helps its customers in Germany protect themselves against risks and to take advantage of financial opportunities. It is supported in this by the more than 8,000 representatives of Allianz Beratungs- und Vertriebs-AG, who advise and support both private and corporate customers and Allianz Kunde und Markt, which is responsible for Allianz’s overall market and customer presence in Germany.



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Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter:

www.art-dus.de

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