



# Seize the Day

Art fairs for your travel calendar in the next quarter.

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Despite recent global instability, it seems reasonable that the world would welcome moments of respite in its innumerable forms. Culture and creativity have long been safe havens in a darkened world, and one can understand the appeal of the all-consuming

experience of art fairs. Additionally, the Art Basel and UBS survey of global collecting 2023 asserts that 77% of collectors surveyed are optimistic about the art market's performance over the next six months. With art fairs aplenty, let's see how this prediction unfolds.

What sets the London Art Fair apart from others (though many are catching up) is the effort to appeal to art lovers whose pockets may not be deep.



OPPOSITE AND LEFT:  
London Art Fair, 2023.  
COURTESY: LONDON ART  
FAIR, LONDON.

## LONDON ART FAIR

BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE, LONDON | 17 TO 21 JANUARY

This fair always excels at providing different touch points to engage with art. It's divided into sections such as Photo50, Galleries, Encounters and Platform. Encounters claims to unveil the freshest contemporary art worldwide, and often features up-and-coming galleries with emerging artists. Platform is guest curated this year by **Gemma Rolls-Bentley**, a champion for diversity in art who seeks to amplify the work of female and queer artists by exploring LGBTQIA+ identity.

London's Jealous Gallery is planning to

bring artists including **Magda Archer**, **Sophie Smallhorn**, **Kate Gibb**, **Charming Baker**, **Stanley Donwood**, **Alma Singer**, and **Danny Augustine**. The team at Jealous Gallery relishes the occasion to participate in the fair, citing: "The most exciting parts for us are the venue and the opportunity to be surrounded by so many other amazing galleries."

Common Sense Gallery, Vienna is also bringing a cross-section of its artists to the fair. The gallery is hoping to expand opportunities for artists to gain wider international

exposure, with works ranging from contemporary to classical styles. **Makiko Harris** will show works featuring an outlandish and abstract landscape, while the artist **Pauline Marcelle**, hailing from the Caribbean, creates paintings that reference and pay homage to the region's mythologies, where black heroines take centre stage. In a media release, the gallery states: "With all the artworks specifically created for the London Art Fair, our display will excite visitors looking for fresh upcoming artists... We are excited to gain international exposure for our rising stars as well as connecting on a personal level with patrons and fellow curators from across the entire Fair."

What sets the London Art Fair apart from others (though many are catching up) is the effort to appeal to art lovers whose pockets may not be deep. Certainly, for Australian and New Zealand travellers, the London Art Fair provides an immersive experience with events like Photo50 which in 2024 will be curated by **Revolv Collective** and named *Grafting: The Land and the Artist*. Centred in expanded photographic practice, the collection of works by early- and mid-career artists will explore the subject of labour and its diverse representations within the context of the land. Furthermore, its Talks and Tours section, will host several events such as a panel discussion on AI – what is it and how is it impacting the art market?





ART SG

MARINA BAY SANDS EXPO AND CONVENTION CENTRE, SINGAPORE | 19 TO 21 JANUARY

This is a blockbuster of a fair, being the largest in South East Asia, and continues in 2024 with its three different gallery sectors being GALLERIES, FOCUS and FUTURES. GALLERIES, much like the name suggests, platforms the artwork of leading international and regional galleries such as Chalk

Horse, Sydney, Gagosian, international and Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney and Melbourne. FOCUS sees galleries attuned to the exploration of different mediums, in particular digital art and new media, showcasing emerging to mid-career artists. FUTURES, in turn, supports galleries and artist-run spaces of

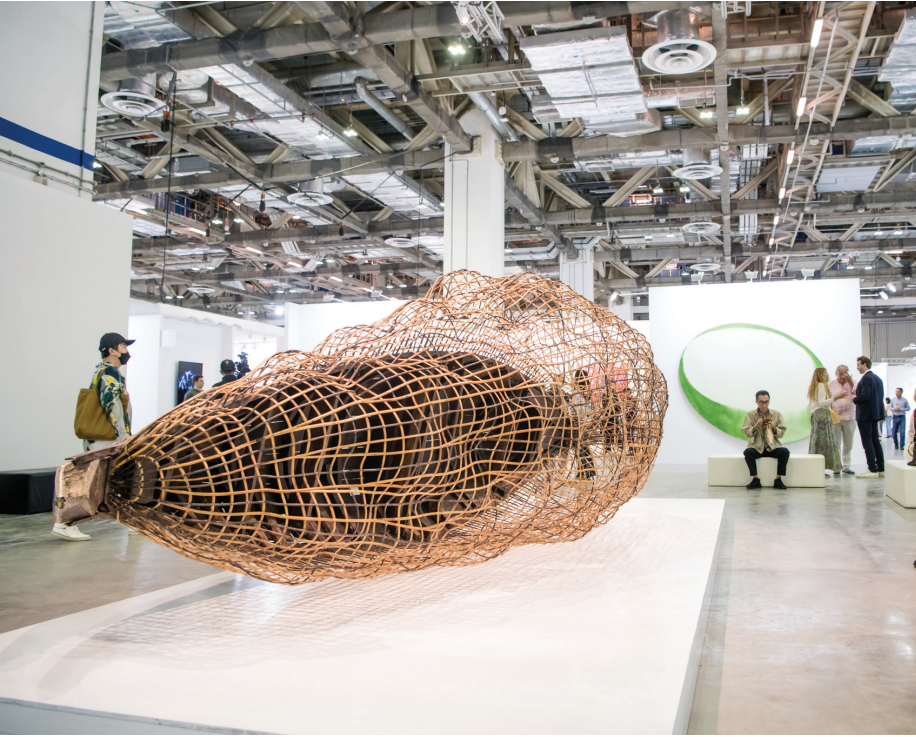
under a decade’s operation.

Sullivan+Strumpf, a leader in international art fairs, will take a number of artists including **Lindy Lee**, **Dawn Ng**, **Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran**, **Alex Seton**, and **Eko Nugroho**. Lee will present a new polished steel variation of her renowned circular

perforated metal wall sculptures, while Ng will show her new video works paired with a painting on a wooden panel. The gallery is enthused to return to Art SG, “a place we have a very strong connection with and re-connect with our supporters and friends in the industry,” says **Mariia Zhuchenko**, of Sullivan+Strumpf, Sydney.

The significance of the South East Asian art market to Australian and New Zealand galleries cannot be underestimated. The galleries and collectors are realising this, alongside the importance of diversity in perspectives. Art SG is crucial to expanding our understanding on that front.

OPPOSITE: Alvin Ong, *Light of the world*, 2023. Oil on canvas, 200 x 260cm.  
COURTESY: THE ARTIST, YAVUZ GALLERY, SYDNEY AND SINGAPORE AND ART SG, SINGAPORE.  
RIGHT: ART SG 2023 showcased an assembly of leading galleries from the region and around the world.  
COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND ART SG, SINGAPORE.



INVESTEC CAPE TOWN ART FAIR

CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, SOUTH AFRICA | 16 TO 18 FEBRUARY

This fair features more than 100 galleries and 500 artists from across the world. Having been in existence for more than a decade, the fair consists of numerous sections such as Tomorrow/Today, SOLO, ALT, Editions, and Special Projects. ALT, a relatively new inclusion that debuted in 2022, is dedicated to alternative booth formats by nontraditional galleries that offer a fresh interpretation of the anti-booth. This section tends to focus on virtual and technological spaces within the art sphere, as opposed to the physical. The overall theme of the 11th edition of the fair will be Unbound. It asks: What does it mean to be unbound? How can the experience of art

liberate the mind?

First Floor Gallery Harare, Zimbabwe has been participating in this fair since 2015. It will reside in the SOLO section of the fair, exhibiting **Helen Teede**, who spent the past year at the Tracey Emin Artist Residency in the UK. It also intends to exhibit an immersive installation from **Anne Zanele Mutema** in its main booth, as well as new paintings from **Gresham Tapiwa Nyaude** and **Troy Makaza** who is representing Zimbabwe in the Venice Biennale 2024. First Floor Gallery directors **Marcus Gora** and **Valerie Kabov** say, “we come back because the fair delivers a fantastic experience to both exhibitors and collectors

alike. Cape Town in February is incredible and attracts a really diverse audience of collectors from USA, Europe and across Africa. The fair gets better with every edition.”

Many a savvy collector has its eyes on fairs of this nature. Currently the Shepparton Art Gallery in Victoria is exhibiting *The Arndt Collection: from one world to another*. Included are two works by **Johnson Eziefula**, hailing from Lagos, Nigeria. His works, when they come up at auction, often exceed high estimates by double or triple the amount expected. Long neglected, collectors are realising what contemporary artists in Africa are capable of; which this fair showcases in abundance.





LEFT: Dale Frank, *Cynthia's hot profile was a hit on Tinder but when they found out he was a 3rd year plumbers apprentice things got complicated, 2023*. Powder pigments and translucent dye in epoxyglass, epoxyglass, on perspex, 180 x 200cm.  
COURTESY: THE ARTIST AND NEON PARC, MELBOURNE.

OPPOSITE: Julien Boudet, *Pressure, 2023*.  
PHOTO: SPARK MEDIA. COURTESY: THE ARTIST, STEMS GALLERY, BELGIUM AND ART DUBAI.

MELBOURNE ART FAIR

MELBOURNE CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE,  
SOUTH WHARF | 22 TO 25 FEBRUARY

Owned and run by the Melbourne Art Foundation, a non-profit Australian arts organisation, this fair will see the fruition of many exciting ventures, one of which is **Julie Rrap** being awarded the 2024 Melbourne Art Foundation Commission in partnership with the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth. A life-size casting in bronze of herself, twice

over and placed on top of each other, the piece *SOMOS (Standing on My Own Shoulders)* will be exhibited at the fair.

**Wanapati Yunupingu**, being shown by Tolarno Galleries, Melbourne, will exhibit works in which he continues to explore his vision of Australia's landscape. Diane Singer Gallery, Melbourne, will present

three-dimensional magazine collage works by **Zoë Croggon** who fuses twin interests of the body and architecture in her work.

Neon Parc, Melbourne, will bring to the fair the liquid-like abstractions of its premier artist **Dale Frank**, whom they have represented since 2015, with new works created specifically for the fair. **Madé Spencer-Castle**, associate director of Neon Parc says that, "in these new paintings, vivid colours ranging from fluorescent blues to pastel pinks oscillate between tiny flecks of colour and large opulent spills. The viscosity of the ink differs from the powdered pigments Frank has previously used, allowing colours to bleed and bloom within the picture plane. These frozen gestures feel as though the audience has caught them mid-flight, as the transparent dyes seem weightless – suspended in the thick layers of resin which give the paintings immense depth and physicality."

With uncertainties caused by Covid-19 in recent iterations of this fair, many participating galleries hedged their bets by showing several artists from their stable at the stand at the fair. Galleries this year now seem more willing to take risks and hang their hat on one or possibly two chosen from their stable's most preeminent artists.



ART DUBAI

MADINAT JUMEIRAH CONFERENCE & EVENTS CENTRE, DUBAI | 28 FEBRUARY TO 3 MARCH

Promoted as the leading international art fair in the Middle East, the 17th edition of this fair is one to take note of. It's very much supported at a government level, as the country is committed to diversification into finance, trade, technology, and tourism, as it attempts to move away from a reliance on oil revenues. In recent years one would be forgiven for thinking that most of the world's social media influencers were based in Dubai. The fact is many are invited there to promote the image of the region as an alluring and tourist-friendly destination.

The 2024 iteration of the fair looks to expand the definition of Global South beyond traditional geographic and economic boundaries. Art Dubai's media release notes that the fair

is "emphasising the shared histories and distinct narratives of communities worldwide, from Delhi, Tehran and Cairo to Bogotá and Guatemala City, as well as diasporic and migrant histories from global centres like London, Paris and New York."

The fair acknowledges the growing importance of digital art in its third edition of Art Dubai Digital. TAKE on Art x Art Dubai is a section solely dedicated to providing "an annual 360-degree snapshot of the digital art landscape, exploring how artists are utilizing new, immersive technologies to collapse the boundaries of the traditional art world."

The fair also features sections such as Art Dubai Modern, highlighting cultural

exchanges with the Soviet Union, where leading artists from the region were invited to study in the 1960s. The emerging gallery section Bawwaba will feature a highly curated series of solo artist presentations on the theme of healing. Art Dubai Contemporary, with its focus on the Global South, will see 72 exhibitors from more than 50 cities across five continents showcase their works. Some new exhibitors to this section are Peres Projects, Berlin, Seoul and Milan; Gajah Gallery, Singapore; and Voloshyn Gallery, Ukraine. Kyiv-based Voloshyn Gallery has, in recent times, been very active in promoting its artists at fairs internationally, despite the dire situation Ukraine is amid domestically.





## AOTEAROA ART FAIR

VIADUCT EVENTS CENTRE IN WYNYARD QUARTER, AUCKLAND | 18 TO 21 APRIL

Despite being on the smaller scale of art fairs, Aotearoa Art Fair is one of the most significant art events in New Zealand's cultural calendar, seeing the participation of prominent galleries – locally, from Australia, and from the wider Pacific Rim. Some Australian galleries that previously participated are Michael Bugelli Gallery, Hobart, N. Smith Gallery, Sydney, and Redbase Art Gallery, Sydney.

It will be interesting to see the changes, with the founders of Sydney Contemporary

having acquired this art fair. Marketing manager **Bonnie Lee** notes: “We look forward to working collaboratively on both arts events to form a stronger relationship between the visual art communities in both regions, sharing insights, resources and knowledge to further build commercial and cultural exchanges for the benefit of galleries, artists, collectors and visitors alike.” Lee further details that, “In 2024, the fair offers programs such as artist talks, insightful panel

Aotearoa Art Fair, 2022.  
COURTESY: AOTEAROA ART FAIR.

discussions, engaging workshops, plus a range of exciting dining options, and is set to excite visitors with elements that cater to diverse tastes and interests.”

For the visitor, this fair is easily digestible in less than a day. Being considerably smaller than most other art fairs, it is a pleasurable and comfortable experience for everyone.