

9 Things You Should Not Miss at Art Basel

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June 12, 2019

At the 50th edition of Art Basel, almost 300 galleries from 34 countries are offering their works. We'll tell you where to go and stay:

1. The "Car Wash" by Daniel Knorr, Unlimited

It is an old question, if you can make fun of the art world, if you are in the epicenter of it yourself. Criticizing the art market at Art Basel is like holding a climate summit on a long-haul flight where all cruise ship operators are wrapped in aluminum foil. Nevertheless, one can hardly escape the charm of Daniel Knorr's large-scale installation "Laundry" in the Unlimited section. The artist has rebuilt a car wash in such a way that she paints cozied up cars from canvases. That squirts and pants and looks like work. But it is also a successful image for the Fordian assembly line production of art and the transformation of images into commodities. The system declined then even in neon sign by all art styles, to which they could fit: Happening, Dada, Pop Art. The status symbol car disassembles Knorr as if by the way. The rudimentary road cruisers must be moved with muscle power.

Daniel Knorr "Laundry", 2019, Meyer Riegger and Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälder, Unlimited

2. Jill Mulleady at Freedman Fitzpatrick

Even at the Venice Biennale, Jill Mulleady's paintings were as captivating as they were repulsive. With her grotesque cabaret pieces, the US artist translates the painters of modernity, such as Edvard Munch and Frida Kahlo, into the present time. What remains are broken figures with tanned beauty and a spark of hope to somehow master life. At Art Basel, the images are shown in an installation of leftovers from a foreclosed house in Los Angeles. Fin de Siècle meets Housing Crisis of the present

Jill Mulleady "Erupted Citadel", Freedman Fitzpatrick Gallery, Statements

3. Benodebehari Mukherjee at Vadehra Art Gallery

The fact that modernity was not a unique feature of white Europeans and North Americans has fortunately been widely talked about. The Vadehra Art Gallery presents collages by the artist Benodebehari Mukherjee, who is regarded as a pioneer of Indian Modernism and was also seen at the Documenta in Athens and Kassel in 2017. He taught at the Khala Bavana Art Academy in Shantiniketan, which was something of the Indian Bauhaus. His paintings are

colorful whirlwinds that find their own visual language between abstraction and traditional symbols. An urgently needed refreshment in the Bauhaus year.

Benodebehari Mukherjee, Vadehra Art Gallery, Feature

4. Kapwani Kiwanga, Unlimited

It smells good in the Unlimited Hall: Kapwani Kiwanga shows a large triumphal arch of fragrant eucalyptus. He is modeled after the one established in 1962 to celebrate the independence of the state of Rwanda. In the Unlimited Hall, it will now dry up slowly. Like the hopes of many African states for whom the end of the colonial era did not mean the dawn of a happy future.

Kapwani Kiwanga: "Flowers for Africa (Rwanda)", Goodman Gallery in collaboration with Galerie Jerome Poggi and Galerie Tanja Wagner, Unlimited

5. Cauleen Smith at Kate Werble

Kate Werble Gallery from New York has lined their booth in the Feature section with an interesting wallpaper. In front of it, a banner reads "We will rock you" above a black fist. For the fair, the gallery is showing a film by African-American filmmaker Cauleen Smith (born in 1967) about the late wife of the famous jazz musician John Coltrane, Alice Coltrane, who was also a musician. The essayistic film, accompanied by a composition by Coltrane, enchants the viewer with its colors as it shows the white villa—since burned down—in which Coltrane ran an ashram, musical instruments, and the sky. Behind the camera of this tender tribute was cinematographer Arthur Jafa, winner of the Venice Biennale Golden Lion award.

Cauleen Smith, Kate Werble Gallery, Feature

6. Group show at Kurimanzutto

With a broken wooden wall by Leonor Antunes, a bunk looks quite different - and with a beautiful candlelight parade by Danh Vo and a painting by Gabriel Orozco behind it, it's easy to forget you're at a fair. Sculptures by Jimmie Durham make the appearance of the Mexican gallery Kurimanzutto perfect.

Danh Vo, Leonor Antunes, Jimmie Durham etc., Kurimanzutto

7. Marc Brandenburg, Unlimited

The danger of xenophobic attacks is not just a phenomenon of the politically heated present. Already in the early nineties brown mob marched through German cities. Would not it be

great if you could just wear a different skin color? Originally from 1992 came the "Camouflage Pullovers", which the Berlin artist Marc Brandenburg shows on the Unlimited: knit pullovers that can also cover hands and head and give their wearers a different identity. The masks are available in four skin colors, Caucasian, Asian, Arabic and African. In videos you can see their porters strolling through Berlin - a mischievous as well as allusive masquerade.

Marc Brandenburg, Camouflage Pullovers, 1992/2018, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Unlimited

8. The caravan at Neue Alte Brücke

The Frankfurter Galerie Neue Alte Brücke has completely filled its booth with a caravan with a name on it: Nancy Halt. Wasn't that a Land Art artist? Exactly, only with the above name. But now it's a collective that does somewhat crazy actions under this name. In the caravan one hears a sound installation, strange objects are placed, a pacifier, a boot. In the film you see a woman, a man and a baby on a road movie: They went to the legendary "City" of the Land Art artist Michael Heizer and wanted to leave Nancy Halts message there. Heizer threatened to shoot every intruder, a storm came - and in the end there are pictures of the "City", and fortunately also of a return trip. Baby against gigantomaniac power artist: one to zero.

Nancy Halt at the Galerie Neue Alte Brücke, Statements

9. "Parcours" - City Center Installations

Even though Art Basel is one of the most chic fairs in the world, you will notice how much crowded booths and air-poor halls can harm even good art after you go on a sculpture hunt in Basel's city center. On the "Parcours" circuit around the terribly beautiful Münsterplatz, the numb senses sharpen again when one looks for the deviations in the cityscape. Do not these bronze sculptures next to the cathedral look a bit too new? Are these pierced question marks? And is the cat with a hipster outfit in the Natural History Museum art or children's amusement? (Spoiler: art)

Matias Faldbakken's tile work blends particularly organically into Basel's everyday life. He plays a swimming pool and a basketball court directly over the Rhine. He plays on a swimming pool and a basketball court directly above the Rhine. When it comes to swimming, the art world has to retreat discreetly.