

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013



7 “Affordable” Pieces from Frieze New York November 18, 2015

Early May is an important time on the fine art calendar, marking both the opening of Frieze New York and marquee contemporary sales from Sotheby's and Christies. But between billion-dollar auctions, record-breaking works by Picasso and the inevitable DiCaprio sightings, this week's slate of art events can feel pretty intimidating to anyone who doesn't have the resources — or the stomach — to make seven-figure acquisitions. These stories may occupy the headlines, but they belie the reality that art fairs are full of incredible, striking works that one can purchase without a collateralized loan.

To prove our point, we asked the up-and-coming art advisor Andi Potamkin to suss out some of the best works for the budget-minded. Potamkin is quickly building her reputation as an influential consultant and advisor to collectors. She's also one-half of the team behind Kasher Potamkin, a gallery-cum-boutique-cum-salon in New York City's Chelsea neighborhood. And, at only 25-years-old, Potamkin is well-versed in the notion that an art collection can begin at any age and at any price level.

With this in mind, we tapped Potamkin to venture into the massive tent at Frieze in order to suss out the best pieces for value-oriented collectors. Of course, this being a swanky contemporary art fair, we went with a pretty liberal definition of “affordable”: under \$15,000. Read on as Potamkin walks us through her favorite pieces that won't (completely) break the bank.

Frieze is the place to go if you want to see blue-chip, jaw-dropping pieces — so being tasked with finding attainably priced works was a bit overwhelming at first. But I found the challenge terribly fun and approached it with a treasure-hunting attitude.

As I walked down the aisles and through the booths, I realized that a lot of the work by emerging artists featured in the fair exuded a sort of playfulness in attitude and color consistent with the arrival of spring. Perhaps it's just that I'm thrilled about the change in season, but I found an irresistible humor and lightness in the pieces below.

Inspired and uplifted by what I had seen, I walked out of Frieze in quite a jovial mood — though I was weighed down by at least 15 pounds of books (the ArtBook store at the South Entrance of the fair is a treasure trove for art tomes and catalogues).

2. Ken Tisa, *Boyfriend*, from Kate Werble Gallery — \$7,000



KATE WERBLE GALLERY

83 VANDAM STREET NEW YORK, NY 10013

Ken Tisa's work is fantastical and playful. I loved the cartoonish characters and cheeky text the artist uses to refer to psychedelic '70s-era San Francisco, where he lived and worked. Classically trained as a painter, Tisa gives his ceramics a ton of personality, but it was his framed embroideries (read on) that really made my heart sing.

3. Ken Tisa, *Swelling Thighs So Friendly*, from Kate Werble Gallery — \$12,000



Another favorite of mine by Tisa. I haven't been able to stop thinking about Swelling Thighs So Friendly and I might need to get this one for my personal collection.