

## Art Observed October 11, 2011

### AO on Site – London: Frieze Art Fair Preview and News Summary, October 13-16, 2011

By A. Bregman

The ninth annual Frieze Art Fair will be held this week with 173 exhibiting galleries from 31 countries. The event has been held in London every October since 2003, and is known for its highly innovative contemporary gallery and artist showcase. The Frieze Frame and Frieze Projects have evolved to help divide the myriad of international artists into mainstays and up-and-comers. Interactive components, including Frieze Talks, Frieze Film, and Frieze Education, further diversify the aesthetic and conceptual basis of the event. Founding Directors Amanda Sharp and Matthew Slotover created Frieze magazine in the early 1990s and continue to develop beyond the fall showcase, with plans for an Old Masters' exhibition at next fall's fair. A spring plan to host a Randall's Island venue in 2012 is also in the works.

Overarching themes include internationalism and consequent interconnectivity. Frieze Talks, a series of lectures, touches on the relevance of the English language, the importance of television, and a discussion of photojournalism in art by photographer Taryn Simon. Simon's work is currently on view at the Tate Modern, alongside a retrospective of Gerhard Richter that opened this week.

Among the fresh events is a free Sculpture Park in London's Regent's Park, adjacent to Frieze Art Fair's entrance, which features artists such as Neha Choksi of Mumbai and Tina Kim of Seoul alongside Western-based artists Gavin Turk and Kiki Smith. New and notable works include *Hermaphrodite* by Thomas Houseago, and Johan Creten's bronze bench, *Le Banc des Amoureux*, and Turk's oversized door-frame, which opens into the garden.

Deutsche Bank sponsors the fair every year, and the Frieze Art Fair Fund further benefits the Tate Collection, successfully propagating the purchase of 83 works since 2003. For the first time, Frieze Projects is additionally funded by the Emdash Foundation, introducing the Emdash Award. Although announced in May, the award will officially be presented to Iranian artist Anahita Razmi this week for her work with Tehran rooftops as commentary on recent election protests. The video installation was based on a similar work by Trisha Brown in 1971, which was set in New York City.

Razmi's work will be showcased at Frieze Projects, along with eight other commissioned works by Bik Van der Pol, Pierre Huyghe, Christian Jankowski, Oliver Laric, LuckyPDF, Peles Empire, Laure Prouvost and Cara Tolmie. Frieze Films also features five commissions from Ed Atkins, Lutz Bacher, Anthea Hamilton, Judith Hopf, and Katarina Zdjelar, which will be shown in the on-site auditorium and broadcast on Britain's Channel 4.

Peres Projects of Berlin brings works by Dorothy Iannone, Dan Colen, Leo Gabin, Eddie Martinez and Alex Israel. Colen's piece, titled *53rd and 3rd*, is a collection of

chewing gum on canvas. Peres Projects also brought works to Remap 3, a still-ongoing art fair in Athens.

Team Gallery brings Santiago Sierra, Ryan McGinley, Cory Arcangel, Slater Bradley, and David Ratcliff, among others.

The experimental atmosphere carries over even to more established galleries, with Lehmann Maupin highlighting whimsical and mystical works – namely, Do Ho Suh's *Cause and Effect*, which uses more than 5,000 figurines, and new works by Tim Rollins, K. O. S., Klara Kristalova and Billy Childish. Next month, both Kristalova and Childish will be opening solo exhibitions at Lehmann's galleries in New York. Lehmann also brings art by Tracey Emin, whose work features in simultaneous contemporary auctions.

Perhaps ironic in lieu of the international gaze, Alex Zachary presents Ken Okiishi's *thinking about moving uptown*, a new work about New York, after the well-received (*Goodbye to*) *Manhattan* exhibition.

Despite the diverse showcase, uncertainty about art sales have continued to affect Frieze since the collapse of Lehman Brothers in 2008. Although the fair has maintained relative profits, they do not compare to the boom-times prior.

Instead, Frieze Frame, established in 2009, hosts young galleries (open less than six years) who are new to both the fair and an international forum, seeking to reap the benefits of globalized exposure. These galleries are arguably not seeking high sales indefinitely, but look to gain experience and contacts. South American galleries, Ignacio Liprandi Arte Contemporaneo from Argentina, Revolver from Peru, and Casas Riegner Gallery from Columbia are among the featured 21, as advised by curators Cecilia Alemani of Italy, and Brazil-based Rodrigo Moura.

Coinciding with the fall program is a slew of contemporary art auctions this week at Christie's, Sotheby's, Phillips de Pury, as well as Bonhams' first "Contemporary One" sale. Andy Warhol, Lucian Freud, and the Young British Artists are listed in numbers. Bloomberg reports over 500 million dollars worth of art will be up for sale this week, with 88.4 million of that revenue expected to be generated by auctions.

On October 11th, Christie's will host The Bidoun Charity Auction, featuring work by Hans-Ulrich Obrist, among others. Bidoun is an organization that emphasizes art promotion in the middle east, ultimately indicative of the new market attention directed east, and the Arab Emirates' relationship to Christie's. In 2010, the Emir of Qatar was suggested to take interest in bidding to purchase the entirety of the auction house, although the transaction did not come to pass.

Multiple fairs are also happening currently in London. The Sunday Fair on Marleybone Road, the Moniker Fair and the Pavilion of Art and Design all run concurrent to Frieze, (PAD) being the largest with 57 exhibitors, featuring works by Joan Miró and Anish Kapoor at first-timer gallery Eykyn Maclean. Christopher Eykyn and Nicholas Maclean formerly co-headed the Impressionist and Modern Art department at Christie's before founding the gallery in 2006.

Art London ended yesterday, which showed works by the late Indian painter M.F.

Husain. After Frieze, FIAC in Paris will be held October 20-23rd. Galleries such as Hauser & Wirth, David Zwirner and 303 will move from London to Paris' Grand Palais after this week.

The atmosphere in London is expected to be lively and festive. Nowness, a site branded by LVMH (owned by collector Francois Pinault, who also owns Christie's) has commissioned rapid-fire drawings of notable people at Frieze by French artist Damien Florébert Cuypers. His "two-minute portraits" originated with crayons in a Paris bar, and have come to be his trademark in various publications. Cuypers' work is indicative of the experimental nature at Frieze, and the promise of fast paced art and people this week. AO will be on site during the fair and contextualize events with reporting during the week.