
Felix LA 2023 Press Highlights

CASE **AREA** **LOBBY** **SITE** **SOON** **REPOST**

FELIX ART FAIR 2023
HOLLYWOOD ROOSEVELT HOTEL, LOS ANGELES, USA

COVERAGE SNAPSHOT

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THE **Hollywood**
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THE ART NEWSPAPER

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TIMES

Forbes

Los Angeles Times

NOTABLE PULL QUOTES



Frieze LA secures city's status as an art market destination

“It is hard not to fall in love with the boutique Felix Art Fair. Held in the Hollywood Roosevelt hotel (where the first Academy Awards were hosted in 1929), Felix fielded 27 of its 65 galleries in the cabanas around the hotel’s David Hockney-designed swimming pool. The other galleries, on the 11th and 12th floors of the hotel tower, seemed no less loved, with views of the city and plenty of Los Angeles sunshine pouring through.”

Galerie

8 Standout Artists to Watch from Felix Art Fair in L.A.

“Overflowing with collectors anxiously trying to secure the best works in the shortest amount of time, the fifth edition of Felix Art Fair was proclaimed an outstanding success within the first few hours of its opening on February 15.”

CULTURED

A Mad Dash Around This Year's Felix LA Reveals Domestic Ecstasy

“Felix LA 2023 is the fair for the interior, not only because booths are embracing their physical truths as hotel rooms, but also because the art itself has turned inward.”



THE ART NEWSPAPER

Palms by the hotel pool: a relaxed environment for robust sales at the Felix Art Fair

“While Felix Art Fair’s poolside setting at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel has always made it the more relaxed counterpart to Frieze Los Angeles, dealers saw more intense crowds this year than ever. Having moved its opening from Thursday to Wednesday, a day before Frieze, Felix welcomed around 4,000 guests during its VIP preview, a new record for the fair.”

Los Angeles Times

Everything you need to know about L.A.'s February 2023 art fair extravaganza

“The fair aims to provide the “anti-trade show experience,” Morán says — contemporary art shown in an intimate hotel setting amid a cool, relaxed vibe. “It’s a much different experience than walking into a trade show with a ticket and sort of being herded around, in big hallways, gallery after gallery after gallery. You can take a break and sit around the pool,” he says.”

ARTnews

December 14, 2022

Doubling Down on the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Felix L.A. Names 62 Exhibitors for 2023 Fair

By Maximiliano Duron



The Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel's pool PHOTO ZACK WHITFORD.

Founded five years ago by collector Dean Valentine and dealers AI and Mills Morán, Felix L.A. has gained a reputation for being a more relaxed and intimate fair than Frieze L.A., which runs at the same time.

"The fair was always art, in a low-pressure setting, or a fun setting, to take away some of that shopping mall feeling of the larger art fairs," Valentine told ARTnews. "Our goal was never to be just another fair to have at the same time as Frieze. We wanted it to be an experience."

But when Frieze L.A. announced that it would move to the Santa Monica Airport for its 2023 edition, it was unclear if Felix would also head to the city's Westside. That won't be the case, as Felix will once again return to the iconic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

"I think the location is impossible to top," Valentine said. "Felix is not really Felix without the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel. There's a lot of that Southern California flavor here: the palm trees, the David Hockney pool, the 1920s ballroom."

To accommodate the fact that L.A. traffic might hinder people from visiting both on the same day, as has been the case in years past, Felix will open a day earlier for its 2023 edition. Bringing together 60 exhibitors—46 returning galleries and 14 first-timers—the fair will run February 15–19. (Frieze L.A.'s VIP preview day is February 16 this year.) Valentine said Felix has no plans of growing beyond its 60-exhibitor cap, as they prefer the intimacy of the fair's scale and its environs in the Hollywood Roosevelt.

Among those set to take part are several local outfits like Charlie James Gallery, Anat Ebgi, Matthew Brown Gallery, Nicodim, Morán Morán, One Trick Pony, and Wilding Cran. Other major exhibitors include Kasmin, Monique Meloche, Kavi Gupta, Adams and Ollman, Document, Gaviak, Lomex, P.P.O.W, Rachel Uffner, and the Breeder. First-time galleries include Reyes | Finn of Detroit, Rele Gallery of Los Angeles and Lagos, and SPURS Gallery of Beijing.

The full exhibitor list follows below.

56 Henry, New York
Adams and Ollman, Portland
Anat Ebgi, Los Angeles
Andersen's, Copenhagen
Artist Curated Projects, Los Angeles
Broadway, New York
Carlye Packer, Los Angeles
Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles
Charles Moffett, New York
DOCUMENT, Chicago
Tara Downs, New York
Europa Gallery, New York
Galerie Fabian Lang, Zurich
Fitzpatrick Gallery, Paris
Fridman Gallery, New York | Beacon
Gallery Vacancy, Shanghai
Gaviak, Los Angeles | Palm Beach
Harkawik, New York | Los Angeles
Harper's, New York | Los Angeles
Jack Hanley Gallery, New York
James Fuentes, New York
Josh Lilley, London

Lomex, New York
Luce Gallery, Turin
Lyles & King, New York
M+B, Los Angeles
Magenta Plains, New York
Marfa Projects, Beirut
Marinero, New York
Martos Gallery, New York
Matthew Brown Gallery, Los Angeles
Michael Benevento, Los Angeles
Monique Meloche Gallery, Chicago
Morán Morán, Los Angeles | Mexico City
mother's tankstation, Dublin | London
Mrs. Queens
Nicelle Beauchene, New York
Nicodim, Los Angeles | New York | Bucharest
One Trick Pony, Los Angeles
P.P.O.W, New York
Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York
Raster Gallery, Warsaw
Ratio3, San Francisco
Rele Gallery, Los Angeles | Lagos
Residency Art Gallery, Inglewood
Reyes | Finn, Detroit
Soft Opening, London
Sow & Tallor, Los Angeles
SPURS Gallery, Beijing
Sultana Gallery, Paris
Tanya Leighton, Los Angeles
THE BREEDER, Athens
The f/O Project, Los Angeles
Tierra Del Sol, Los Angeles
Volume Gallery, Chicago
White Columns, New York
Wilding Cran, Los Angeles

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/market/felix-la-art-fair-exhibitor-list-2023-1234650302>

"The fair was always founded on the premise that there needed to be an art fair that was really about the art, in a low-pressure setting, or a fun setting, to take away some of that shopping mall feeling of the larger art fairs," Valentine told ARTnews. "Our goal was never to be just another fair to have at the same time as Frieze. We wanted it to be an experience."

artnet

January 19, 2023

The L.A. Art Scene Is Expanding in Time for the Frieze Art Fair Amidst a Billionaire Scion's Bold Investment in an Up-And-Coming Area

Melrose Hill is the city's latest hot neighborhood for galleries as the local art ecosystem continues to stretch and strengthen.

By Katya Kazakina



The site of Hauser & Wirth West Hollywood, exterior view. Courtesy Hauser & Wirth Photo: Eilon Schoenholz Photography 2021

While reporting my ~~doom-and-gloom~~ column last week, I spotted a glimmer of hope: Los Angeles.

So I decided to follow up on it.

Indeed, the art scene in the City of Angels has been undergoing a major expansion, and anticipation is now building around the Frieze L.A. art fair in mid-February—an event that is poised not only to be a celebration of the West Coast art capital but also the year's first stress test for U.S. galleries writ large. The fair is going through

20 percent more than at last year's edition. Coinciding with Frieze are at least four other art fairs, as well as openings and other festivities by newcomers, including a cluster of New York galleries, led by David Zwirner, which is flocking to East Hollywood. (Although that opening is being delayed, more on that later.)

The locals, meanwhile are doubling down. L.A. mainstay Hauser & Wirth, for instance, is opening a new 10,500-square-foot location in West Hollywood with [George Condo](#), whose new paintings are being offered to clients for \$2.6 million or more, according to people familiar with the matter. (The gallery said prices for works in the show haven't been finalized.) Nearby, homegrown [Francis Shekari Gallery](#) will launch a 3,000-square-foot branch, its second in the city. Entrepreneur Stefan Simchowit's recent opening of a gallery in Pasadena is followed this week by a new space on the ground floor of the [Mobilflex Studios](#) downtown.

"There's a lot of momentum," said Mills Moran, co-founder of the local Morán Morán gallery and the Felix Art Fair. "L.A. is growing."

Some of the excitement can be traced to a new art hub sprouting in East Hollywood. Dubbed Melrose Hill, the area was first populated by vendors servicing Paramount Studios and later furniture showrooms, whose column-free, high-ceiling layouts seem ready-made for contemporary art galleries. These days, streets appear desolate, with empty lots and trash on the sidewalks.

Turning the area into a walkable, artsy, and cool destination is the passion project of [Zach Laury](#), the 32-year-old son of Marc Laury, the billionaire hedge fund manager and co-owner of NBA's Milwaukee Bucks team.

"He was just very motivated to make the neighborhood something organically interesting," said Allegra LaViola, owner of [Sargent's Daughters](#) gallery, which signed a five-year lease with the younger Laury. "He liked the idea of a neighborhood that had a little bit of a New York vibe. You get out of your car, you can go to this restaurant, go to this coffee shop, go to this gallery, to a cool boutique—instead of getting in a car, driving to one thing, getting out of the car, getting back in the car, going to another thing."

Morán Morán was first to sign on, opening a gallery near a gas station on N. Western Avenue in August 2021, with a 10-year lease. The 5,000-square-foot space with skylights was an upgrade from its former 3,000-square-foot quarters in West Hollywood.

"We were really early," Moran said. "We saw Zach's vision. It wasn't hard to visualize. They've been acquiring property there for a long time. Our conversations started before the pandemic."

Others followed. Clearing opened a temporary space in September. Sargent's Daughters and Shrine, who share a space east of Dimes Square in New York, are moving in next month to coincide with Frieze L.A. James Fuentes will follow in March, across from Morán Morán.

The biggest kahuna in the area, of course, is [David Zwirner](#), whose limited liability company paid \$6 million in 2021 for a building at 606 N. Western Avenue and another \$1 million for a two-bedroom house with bars on the windows around the corner last year, according to property records.

The gallery had [planned](#) to launch its first West Coast flagship in time for Frieze L.A. with a long-awaited show of [Njideka Akunyili Crosby](#). But the chatter mill is abuzz that the 15,000-square-foot project by

Moran said that his new neighbors are discussing coordinated openings to draw people to the up-and-coming area. Safety may be a concern, at least initially.

"There's so much homelessness, it's actually dangerous," said Simchowit, the art establishment's perennial gadfly. A homeless man threw an iron bar at his car when he was in the area this week, he said. I raised the issue of safety with some New York transplants.

"It reminds me of Delancey Street, where the gallery is in New York," said Fuentes, who signed a 10-year lease in Melrose Hill. "I never felt like I needed to be extra-concerned."

LaViola said that she always takes safety into consideration, leading her to install a buzzer at her New York gallery, but that she wasn't too worried about Melrose Hill.

Laury's plan to create denser foot traffic is part of what drew her to the area, she said. Affordable rent, a feature of a fringe locale, was another. "I would pay the same price for 500 square feet on the Upper East Side, where I would be on the third floor, as for the ground floor in Los Angeles, where we could renovate to our own specifications," she said.

She now has about 1,300 square feet of space, with access to a big backyard, a separate storage area, and a parking lot across the street. Her next-door neighbor, Shrine Gallery, which focuses on outsider artists, will have a similar space. Eventually, Zwirner will open down the block.

"Knowing that there was this built-in association was really key," LaViola said.

Los Angeles has been increasing in significance for Fuentes, who has been cautious not to overextend during his 15-year gallery career. But a generation of budding collectors has made L.A. their home since the pandemic, taking advantage of remote work policies, resulting in a new pool of clients. The area is famously home to many artists, useful for the expanding gallery, and proximate to Asia. Fuentes's artists show in the city's world-class institutions. One, [Alison Knowles](#), will be included in a [group show](#) about the rise of computer technology at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art next month.

"I am so careful with these types of decisions, and I spent a lot of time analyzing it and considering it," Fuentes said about his move. "I am going into it with optimism."

<https://news.artnet.com/news/pro-the-l-a-art-scene-is-expanding-in-time-for-the-frieze-art-fair-amidst-a-billionaire-scions-bold-investment-in-an-up-and-coming-area-2245041>

"There's a lot of momentum," said Mills Moran, co-founder of the local Morán Morán gallery and the Felix Art Fair. "L.A. is growing."

Felix LA 2023 – Previews

Los Angeles Times

February 2, 2023

Everything you need to know about L.A.'s February 2023 art fair extravaganza

By Deborah Vankin



(Tina Smith-Roberts / For The Times)

Ready your comfiest shoes, fanciest outfits and edgiest eyewear — it's art fair season.

Last spring, L.A.'s art fairs **marched forward** despite Omicron surges, an uncertain public and COVID precautions that, for many fairs, included limiting capacity. Fair dates were more staggered as well, with the L.A. Art Show opening in mid-January and three additional art fairs — Frieze Los Angeles, Felix LA and Spring/Break Art Show LA — running during what's now referred to as Frieze Week in mid-February. This year, the fairs return in full force — and all at once. The 2023 season will be bigger than ever with more international participants, full visitor capacity and one new fair added to the mix. Five art fairs will run concurrently starting Feb. 15.

So what's back, what's new a

The 28th edition of the L.A. Angeles Convention Center's to coincide with Frieze Wee

brings with it an influx of global galleries, artists and collectors. Art happenings beget art happenings as events coalesce, and the L.A. Art Show wanted to take advantage of the moment.

"We thought it'd be beneficial for collectors and galleries and attendees — for everyone — to have a [coordinated] art event, to go to multiple shows," LAAS director and producer Kassandra Voyagis says. "We confirmed the dates for 2024 as well."

The LAAS will be larger this year than last, with more than 120 participating galleries from around the country and internationally, compared with 70 last year, all showing modern and contemporary art. It will also feature a larger "global presence," Voyagis says. In addition to its European Pavilion, the fair is debuting a Japanese pavilion, featuring six galleries, and it will be showing more South Korean galleries than in the past, 14 in all.

"It's been a tough couple of years everywhere, for everyone," Voyagis says. "But it's easier to travel now than the previous two years and I wanted a more international component. And we have such a large Korean community in L.A."

The fair's long-running DIVERSEartLA, a noncommercial section curated by Marisa Caichido, is a point of differentiation for the LAAS, Voyagis says. This year, it will feature nine local and international art institutions and nonprofits addressing the global climate crisis through multimedia presentations and immersive experiences. The Museum of Latin American Art, for example, will present L.A. "so-feminist" artist Judy Baca's three-panel, double-sided mural "Matriarchal Mural: When God Was a Woman, 1980-2021." The Glendale Central Library's ReflectSpace Gallery will present Korean Artist Han Ho's apocalyptic-minded, nine-part multimedia installation, "Eternal Light," inspired by Michelangelo's "The Last Judgment."

"It's about education and museums and community engagement," Voyagis says of DIVERSEartLA. "We give 25% of our platform, meaning space and build on the fair floor, to this programming and there's no profit on our end."

As to whether there are enough collectors to sustain five simultaneous art fairs in L.A., Voyagis points to Miami and Miami Beach, which host more than a dozen concurrent art fairs between them the first week of December. "It just creates excitement and more international travel and the possibility for collectors and attendees to have more shows to visit," she says. "There's diversification, so there's choice."

The L.A. Art Show, Los Angeles Convention Center, West Hall, downtown; Feb. 15-19; laartshow.com for info and tickets.

Felix LA rings in five years

"[Frieze] is in Santa Monica and we didn't want to bottleneck people driving back and forth on a VIP day, so we elected to space that out," he says.

Felix LA 2023 will feature 65 international exhibitors, about 25% of which are new participants. The fair aims to provide the "anti-trade show experience," Morán says — contemporary art shown in an intimate hotel setting amid a cool, relaxed vibe. "It's a much different experience than walking into a trade show with a ticket and sort of being herded around, in big hallways, gallery after gallery after gallery. You can take a break and sit around the pool," he says.

Highlights this year, Morán says, include artist-led projects such as Andrea Zittel's High Desert Test Sites booth. It will exhibit ceramics and other objects from the Joshua Tree-based nonprofit. As well as a particularly meta showing by the New York-Based gallery A Hug From the Art World. It will display about 40 action figures of famous artists by Jeffrey Dalesandro — think a Jeff Koons doll with a balloon dog or a David Hockney figure perched near the hotel's David Hockney-painted pool.

"It's a poke at the art world, it's a poke at celebrity. It's really fun," Morán says.

Moran isn't worried about the five fairs cutting into one another's attendance because the fairs are all distinct.

"People seek out parts of each fair that are more interesting to them," he says. "If you're more interested in photography, you're gonna go to the photography fair. If you're really zoned in on contemporary art, Frieze and Felix will have that covered. The L.A. Art Show might have more historical [modern art] presentations. I think there's a little something for everybody."

Felix LA, the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Hollywood; Feb. 15-19; felixfair.com for info and tickets.

Spring/Break Art Show LA is taking place in unique locations

At Spring/Break Art Show LA, also opening Feb. 15, that distinction means showing contemporary art by emerging and mid-career artists in unique, historic or underused architectural locations. Last year it occupied a former 1940s munitions factory in Culver City, where it will again be housed this year, a venue now known as Skylight Culver City. It didn't stage a 2021 fair due to COVID, but its 2020 fair filled 70,000 square feet of the industrial-looking Row DTLA. Its inaugural 2019 fair was in a former fruit and vegetable warehouse on the edge of the downtown L.A. Arts District.

"That juxtaposition of disparate elements is the key," says fair co-founder and co-director Andrew Gori.

Spring/Break Art Show LA is a curator-led fair, organized around an annual theme, at which independent curators participate free in exchange for the fair taking a cut of sales. The model is meant to eliminate overhead and encourage experimentation. The theme creates a dialogue between works in the various

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Felix LA 2023 – Previews

Forbes

February 12, 2023

Frieze Week Brings The World Of Art To Los Angeles

By Chadd Scott



An attendee holds the Frieze Week Magazine on the first day of Frieze Los Angeles, a leading ... (JAPP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

The **biggest week of art in Los Angeles** kicks off February 15, 2023, with a dizzying assortment of fairs, museum shows and gallery openings. Frieze Week—informally named for the international gold standard Frieze art fair series which debuted here in 2019—offers **more art than could possibly be seen** by one person in a month, let alone a week.

Where to begin? Start here.

Frieze Los Angeles

Frieze Los Angeles moves to the Santa Monica Airport for its fourth edition. Taking place February 16 through 19, the fair will host more than 120 of the world's leading galleries focused primarily on contemporary art.

Galerie Lelong & Co. will be debuting pastels by **Ficre Ghebreyesus (1962–2012)** who was born in Eritrea during its War of Independence, leaving as a teenage refugee ultimately settling in New Haven, CT. His vibrant works meld figuration and abstraction, suggesting the nonlinear forms of dreams, memories, and storytelling. While Ghebreyesus's art was rarely exhibited during his lifetime—*virtually kept secret* despite earning his MFA degree from Yale in 2002—recent posthumous presentations of his work include the 59th Venice Biennale.

"I think the timing didn't yet feel right to him," Lindsay Danckwerth, Director, Special Projects at Galerie Lelong & Co., told Forbes.com of Ghebreyesus' reluctance to show his work publicly. "He received encouragement from family and friends to exhibit, but he was also the head chef at a busy restaurant and had a young family. And, of course, he couldn't have known that his life would be cut short in middle age."

The restaurant, **Caffe Adults**, was opened with his two brothers as an homage to Eritrean cuisine.

"There are so many things that Ficre was passionate about: cooking, painting, photography, music, yoga, gardening, politics. He had so much curiosity and capacity to appreciate and absorb new things and all of these skills and experiences and bodies of knowledge intersected and informed each other," Danckwerth said. "Multiple reference points appear in a single work of art just as one dish would draw from multiple cuisines. For example, in the upcoming show we see him reference Eritrea and New York City in the same painting as if he's working through both meanings of home—his first home, and his new home."

Another not to be missed booth at Frieze belongs to **Nicola Vassell Gallery** where a series of rare and new works by photographer Ming Smith will be on view. The pictures represent over fifty years of Smith's practice, each embodying her keen observation of the feminine spirit and some of the most celebrated artists of the 20th century like Grace Jones, Tina Turner and Alicia Keys. Smith concurrently has an exhibition of her work on view at the **Museum of Modern Art** in New York.

Felix Art Fair

Modeled after the intimate hotel fair format popularized in the 1990s, **Felix Art Fair's** fifth edition features 60 exhibitors from around the world. Taking place February 15 through 19 at the swanky Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Felix LA offers the city's collector-base intimate access and an informal setting allowing for more extended conversations among collectors, dealers and artists alike.

For 2023, the fair has extended dates giving visitors an extra day to browse. Once again, Felix LA will take over the Hollywood Roosevelt's guest rooms on the 10th and 11th floors and the cabanas surrounding the David Hockney pool—Hockney designed the pool and painted its mural.

LA Art Show

More than 120 global galleries, museums and non-profit arts organizations exhibiting painting, sculpture,

Los Angeles Gallery and Museum Shows

With only one day, or one hour, or one artist to see, make it Ernie Barnes (1938–2009) at UTA Artist Space (403 Footfall Road, Beverly Hills). "**Ernie Barnes: Where Music and Soul Live**" (February 15 through April 1) marks an important survey exploring the history and music scene in Los Angeles where the artist lived for many years. Works in the exhibition include over 30 well-known and never-before-seen paintings made between the 1970s up until 2006.

Barnes was an artist, actor, author and the first American professional athlete to become a noted painter—he played five seasons in the NFL during the early 1960s. His paintings are known for their elongated figures and celebration of Black joy, a **popular focus of artists today**, but not so always.

"Ernie Barnes was way ahead of his time. Black joy is nothing new to him. He grew up in a **tight-knit** community during segregation. Images of humor, dance, church choirs, youth playing, music and people enjoying themselves are what he liked to see and feel as well," Luz Rodriguez, Trustee, Estate of Ernie Barnes, told Forbes.com. "Besides the necessary ferocity of his painted football scenes, his art is positive and uplifting, rarely melancholy."

Barnes is best known for his work **The Sugar Shack**, a dancing scene featured on the cover of Marvin Gaye's album "I Want You" and during the closing credits of the TV sitcom "Good Times." **The painting recently sold for \$15.3 million at Christie's.**

"The work of Ernie Barnes has always been popular and both the paintings and reproductions have been widely collected and on view in people's homes for many years. An entire generation grew up seeing Ernie's painting on TV and so many of us have known the iconic images on the many record covers of artists such as Marvin Gaye, The Crusaders, and Curtis Mayfield," Zuzanna Colek, Director, UTA Artist Space, told Forbes.com. "I think it just took time for the art market to catch up with popular demand and I'm proud that we at UTA Artist Space have been able to contribute to Ernie finally gaining the recognition he deserves in the art world."

On the occasion of "Where Music and Soul Live," UTA Artist Space, Beverly Hills, will be transformed into an immersive club and music venue evoking the 1970s by PLAYLAB to house the energetic works. The exhibition at UTA Artist Space coincides with a co-presentation of Barnes's work by Ortuzar Projects and Andrew Kreps at Frieze Los Angeles.

L.A.-based Iranian American artist Amir H. Fallah (b. 1979) debuts new paintings and sculptures inspired by his **heritage and anti-war sentiments** at **Shulamit Nazarian gallery** (616 N. La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles) from February 15 through March 25. The show runs concurrently with a solo exhibition at the **Fowler Museum** at the University of California Los Angeles.

Opening February 18 at the **William Turner Gallery** (2525 Michigan Ave. E-1 Santa Monica) and running through April 1, a show of new **Julian Lennon photography**, "**Atmosphere**," highlights the drama of nature's atmospheric forces, revealing his passion for the environment and commitment to its

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Felix LA 2023 – Previews

THE Hollywood REPORTER

February 13, 2023

The Ultimate Guide to Frieze Week L.A.'s 125-Plus Parties, Openings and Talks

L.A.'s busiest art week kicks off featuring five art fairs including Frieze Los Angeles, the LA Art Show, Felix Fair and Spring/Break Art Show, plus a host of gallery openings, museum tours and artist talks throughout the city.

By Degen Pener



Refik Anadol's 'Artificial Realities: California Landscapes' and Chris Burden's '40 Foot Stepped Skytower' COURTESY OF REFIK ANADOL STUDIO; 2023 CHRIS BURDEN/UNLICENSED BY THE CHRIS BURDEN ESTATE AND ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK PHOTO: JOSUHA WHITE/COURTESY GAGSIAM

The busiest week in Los Angeles' art world takes place this coming week as collectors from around the world descend upon the city. No less than five art fairs will unspool across L.A. this coming week, with the two biggest being [Frieze Los Angeles](#) (now in Santa Monica) and the [LA Art Show](#) (now coinciding with Frieze).

Read
The A
Frieze

The [Frieze Los Angeles](#) — which has moved to a new location at Santa Monica Airport — runs Feb. 16 to 19, inside the Barker Hangar as well as in a massive tent specially designed by WHY Architecture. The airport spot, says Christine Messineo, fair director of Frieze, Americas, "allows us to expand both our physical imprint but also our ambition." This year, a record 120-plus galleries are participating, while the [Frieze Projects: Now Playing](#) collaboration with Art Production Fund, which has free public admission, will showcase sculptures and installations such as Chris Burden's monumental 40 Foot Stepped Skytower and Ruben Ochoa's Class C, a mobile art gallery housed inside his family's former tortilla delivery van. Additionally, [Frieze Projects: Against the Edge](#) — encompassing five off-site activations, shepherded by Jay Ezra Naysan of the nonprofit Del Vaz Projects — is planned, including a show of work by the late artist Julie Becker exhibited inside the Santa Monica childhood home of Shirley Temple. The fair also includes a focus section spotlighting galleries that have been in operation for 12 years or fewer. General admission tickets start at \$102; [frieze.com](#)

LA Art Show

The [LA Art Show](#) is back for its 28th edition at the L.A. Convention Center, running Feb. 16 through Feb. 19 and featuring more than 120 galleries, including 14 from South Korea and six from Japan. Ashley Tisdale hosts the opening night party on Feb. 15. Programs include [DIVERSEartLA 2023](#), with a focus on water and the ongoing record drought in California. Tickets from \$30; [laartshow.com](#)

Felix Art Fair

[Felix Art Fair](#) returns for its fifth time to the Hollywood Roosevelt, Feb. 15 to 19, with galleries set up in cabana rooms as well as on two floors in the hotel tower. Look for the booth from Andrea Zittel's nonprofit High Desert Test Sites, spotlighting ceramics, and expect a party atmosphere around the hotel's famed David Hockney-painted swimming pool. Tickets from \$40; [felixfair.com](#)

Spring/Break Art Show

The [Spring/Break Art Show LA](#) welcomes visitors to Skylight Culver City through Feb. 19, featuring around 60 exhibitions put together by independent curators under this year's Neo-Renaissance theme Naked Lunch. One curator will win the Single/Palm award for Best Curator, spearheaded by designer Carlton DeWoody. Tickets from \$30; [springbreakartshow.com](#)

Photo Forward Los Angeles

A new fair, [Photo Forward Los Angeles](#), runs for two days, Feb. 18 and 19, at Bergamot Station's Danziger Gallery. Free admission; [photoforwardla.com](#)

The Week in Events

Monday, Feb. 13

Opening reception for the group show [Inmarrad](#), curated by Jack Siebert and including work by such artists as Nicole Wittenberg, Henry Glavin and Bethany Czarniecki; 526 N. Western Ave.

At the former Broad Foundation, Alex von Fürstenberg, Paul Schimmel and Gary Lang host a private reception for the exhibit Gary Lang: On Target, a survey of the artist's works curated by Schimmel; 3355 Barnard Way, Santa Monica

Artist Gala Porras-Kim and curator and author Mariana Fernandez are in conversation at the [Institute of Contemporary Art Los Angeles](#) (ICA LA); 1717 E. 7th St., DTLA

[Second Home](#) hosts a panel on "The Architecture of Art" with speakers including John K. Chan, Zeina Koraïem and Priscilla Fraser, moderated by [This by That](#) co-founder Honora Shea; 1370 N. St. Andrew's Place, Hollywood

Herloom, showcasing three recent sculptures by artist Kelly Akashi, opens at [Villa Aurora](#), part of [Frieze Projects: Against The Edge](#), curated by Jay Ezra Naysan and Del Vaz Projects. Appointment only; 520 Paseo Miramar, Pacific Palisades

Work by the late Los Angeles-artist Julie Becker is showcased in [W/In/2023](#), opening for six days at [Del Vaz Projects](#), as part of [Frieze Projects: Against the Edge](#); 259 19th St., Santa Monica

Nicola L.'s [Nous Vouloirs Entendre](#) opens at the [Thomas Mann House](#), as part of [Frieze Projects: Against The Edge](#). Appointment required; 1550 N. San Remo Dr., Pacific Palisades

Through Feb. 19, [Library Street Collective](#) hosts a pop-up of Sam Friedman's Composite Paintings; 1433 W. Jefferson Blvd., Adams-Normandie

The [Beverly Hills Hotel](#) opens an exhibit of photos by Jean "Johnny" Pigazzi, which includes portraits of Mick Jagger, Dolly Parton and Clint Eastwood; 9641 Sunset Blvd., Beverly Hills Tuesday, Feb. 14

[Refik Anadol](#), whose AI generated art was featured at the 2023 Grammys, opens his new show [Living Paintings](#) at [Jeffrey Deitch](#), with LED-screen digital artworks informed by data sets and imagery taken from national parks in California and wind and Pacific Ocean readings; 925 N. Orange Dr.

An exhibit of Tom Friedman's work opens at Deitch's other Hollywood space showing his major work [Cocktail Party](#); 7000 Santa Monica Blvd.

The Getty opens its new exhibition [Porcelain from Versailles: Vases for a King and Queen](#), bringing together two sets of Sévres vases owned by Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette; 1200 Getty Center Dr., Brentwood

The female majority and Black- and Brown-owned collective [ARTNOIR](#) hosts an invite-only conversation

Felix Art Fair returns for its fifth time to the Hollywood Roosevelt, Feb. 15 to 19, with galleries set up in cabana rooms as well as on two floors in the hotel tower. Look for the booth from Andrea Zittel's nonprofit High Desert Test Sites, spotlighting ceramics, and expect a party atmosphere around the hotel's famed David Hockney-painted swimming pool. Tickets from \$40; [felixfair.com](#)

Felix LA 2023 – Reviews



February 23, 2023

Frieze LA secures city's status as an art market destination

Sales swift at Frieze and Felix; James Fuentes seeks LA's emerging buyers; Christie's invades Uber app

By Melanie Gerlis



'Shall Rest in Honor There' by Mark Bradford (2023)

Los Angeles seems finally to have secured its spot on the international art market scene, catapulted by the Frieze fair that hosted its four sellout shows were announced for pre-selling to boost the on-the-day

There was no shortage of artists and museum curators at the fair, while Hollywood celebrities were out in force, including Owen Wilson, Elijah Wood and Gwyneth Paltrow. Prominent US collectors roaming the booths included Frieze's owner Art Emanuel, chief executive of talent agency Endeavor, with his wife, the fashion designer Sarah Staudeinger.

Artists and galleries from Los Angeles and the Bay Area proved their worth among their international peers, with highlights including Diedrick Brackens at Various Small Fires, Max Hooper Schneider at Francois Ghebaly (also at London's Maureen Paley gallery), and Sadie Barnette and Woody De Othello at Jessica Silverman. Mega-gallery Hauser & Wirth, which opened a new space in West Hollywood last week, brought a booth dedicated to 14 artists and estates from the city. They reported the priciest sale of the week, Mark Bradford's 'Shall Rest in Honor There' (2023) for \$3.5m, while Thaddeus Ropac brought a recent Georg Baselitz painting called 'In Hollywood' (2022), which went for €1.3m. Emanuel picked up another aptly named work, 'Stairway to the Stars' (c1962), from a solo booth of the late African-American painter Bob Thompson at Michael Rosenfeld Gallery. The price was not specified, though larger paintings were offered between \$1.4m and \$3.5m.

Frieze LA's latest venue — Santa Monica airport — is its third spot since the fair's launch in 2019 and prompted mixed opinions. The elevated east site housed 90 of the fair's 124 galleries and had a fittingly airy feel, enhanced by Frieze's trademark tent, although the occasional aeroplane engines from above were disconcerting. Given Los Angeles' sprawling geography, it was impossible to please everyone. For visitors coming from the beachside, Santa Monica the venue was extremely convenient, but it proved something of a trek from Beverly Hills during rush hour, never mind from downtown.

There were initial grumbles from the 39 galleries put in a separate space, the Barker Hangar, a good five-minute walk (or golf buggy ride) away and with an eclectic mix of 20th-century art and emerging contemporary works. But galleries took it very seriously: LA Louver's showing of work from the estate of Edward & Nancy Kienholz gave an immediately heavy-hitting feel (priced up to \$1.8m). Luckily too, the Barker Hangar was the drop-off point for Los Angeles' many taxis, so was busy. 'I think some people came in by mistake as they thought this was the main fair, but they definitely stayed,' enthused Chris Sharp, in the Focus section. He sold several works by Edgar Ramirez (\$12,000-\$20,000), including one The City of Santa Monica Art Bank Collection, in a partnership launched with Frieze this year. Ramirez's work addresses the impact of Los Angeles' gentrification on low-income areas.

It is hard not to fall in love with the boutique Felix Art Fair. Held in the Hollywood Roosevelt hotel (where the first Academy Awards were hosted in 1929), Felix fielded 27 of its 65 galleries in the cabanas around the hotel's David Hockney-designed swimming pool. The other galleries, on the 11th and 12th floors of the hotel tower, seemed no less loved, with views of the city and plenty of Los Angeles sunshine pouring through.

"We knew there had to be a better experience than the commodified fairs we were seeing on the circuit," says the gallerist Mills Moran, who co-founded the fair alongside Frieze LA in 2019, with his brother and Dean Valentine, a California entrepreneur.

5. Ever Baldwin at Marinero

An Upstate New York-based artist who works intuitively, **Ever Baldwin** makes hybrid painting/sculptures of transcendental subject matter. Painting body parts at various points of abstraction, Baldwin completes his otherworldly compositions by crafting strikingly hand-carved frames from beautifully blackened, charred wood. His hybrid 2022 painting *Pinned* looks like a bat, but probably references a butterfly intricately caught in someone's private collection.

6. Alice Tippit at Nicolle Beauchene Gallery

A mid-career, Chicago-based artist who's been gaining traction internationally over the past several years for her graphic depictions of figurative subjects as silhouetted, flatly-colored forms, **Alice Tippit** makes charming, small-scale oil paintings and watercolors that whimsically transform human body parts and everyday objects into ambiguous signs and symbols. Her 2021 painting *Hollow* at **Nicolle Beauchene Gallery** portrayed a pair of vertical, yellow "C" forms interrupted by two black, horizontal arch-shape forms. Creating a playful pair of eyes or breasts on a monochromatic ground, the arresting canvas says a lot with a little. Elusive in meaning, Tippit's amusing art makes you ponder what it is that you are perceiving when you are precisely in the act of seeing.

7. Alexis Ralaivao at Kasmin

Born to a Madagascan father and French mother, **Alexis Ralaivao** earned degrees in languages and communication before turning to art. Self-taught as a painter, he was inspired to pick up the brush by such Dutch Golden Age masters as Jan Steen and contemporary artists like John Currin. Creating close-cropped compositions of intimate moments observed during his daily life, Ralaivao turns diastolic scenes into sensual canvases. His 2022 fleshy painting *Madame Ingres* at **Kasmin** transformed a sophisticated shot of a stylishly dressed woman into a dreamy object of desire. Subtles changes in his nearly monochromatic palette make buttons, hands, rings and wrinkles more sensual than they ought to be in his visually exciting, soft-focus pictures.

8. Narsiso Martinez at Charlie James Gallery

Immigrating to the United States from Mexico when he was 20 years old, **Narsiso Martinez** attended a community adult school to earn his high school diploma while working at apple orchards in Washington State. Step by step he gained his Associate of Arts degree, a BFA, and finally his MFA from California State University Long Beach in 2018. Making drawings on cardboard produce boxes to commemorate the migrant experience and farm laborers for the past several years, Martinez became an overnight success with his solo show, "Superfresh," at **Charlie James Gallery** in 2020. Recently profiled in the New York Times and winner of this year's Frieze Impact Prize, he had a few fascinating drawings in the gallery's Felix presentation, including 2022's *Select Vegetables*, which poignantly captured a woman migrant worker on the packaging for food that she may have picked.

<https://galeriemagazine.com/8-standout-artists-watch-felix-art-fair/>

It is hard not to fall in love with the boutique Felix Art Fair. Held in the Hollywood Roosevelt hotel (where the first Academy Awards were hosted in 1929), Felix fielded 27 of its 65 galleries in the cabanas around the hotel's David Hockney-designed swimming pool. The other galleries, on the 11th and 12th floors of the hotel tower, seemed no less loved, with views of the city and plenty of Los Angeles sunshine pouring through.

ARTnews

February 15, 2023

The Best Booths at LA's Felix Art Fair, From Biting Art World Commentary to Innovative Approaches to Textiles

By Maximiliano Durán



The scene at the Hollywood Roosevelt's pool during the VIP preview for Felix LA on Wednesday afternoon. MAXIMILIANO DURAN/ARTNEWS.

Since it took up residence at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel five years ago, Felix LA has always been the scrappy companion to Frieze Los Angeles. When Frieze announced that it would move to Santa Monica, Felix doubled down on staying in Hollywood, opting instead to open a day earlier than Frieze—an acknowledgement that no sane person would try to make the drive between the two locales in one day.

Unfortunately, that translated to a more crowded affair than past editions. (This is Felix's fifth.) The death-by-slow-elevator effect was still felt this year, only in a more intensified form due to the amount of people there.

Still, great art abounds in this tight, curated affair. In addition to the expected paintings and sculptures, textile-based works is present this time around in abundance, reflecting a trend felt throughout the art world as of late.

Below a look at the best booths at Felix LA.

Jeffrey Daessandro at A Hug from the Art World

The most talked about presentation from this year's Felix is likely to be a hallway installation by London-based artist Jeffrey Daessandro. Though the hallway space, right off the Hollywood Roosevelt's iconic David Hockney pool, might seem like a bit of a throwaway location compared to some of the cabana rooms nearby, these environs are the perfect location for Daessandro's 53 custom-made figurines of art world personalities, since they get the most attention here.

Presented by A Hug from the Art World, the project started out when the enterprise's founder, Adam Cohen, received a figurine of Larry Gagosian from Daessandro. Cohen, whose is a director at Gagosian gallery in New York, subsequently gifted it to the mega-dealer as a birthday present. That led to Daessandro to create a figurine of notorious spec-collector Stefan Simchen. Over the past 18 months, the series has grown in scale from there. These action-hero-size works, which Daessandro fabricates and paints himself, come with a monochrome box. They're simultaneously reverential of these figures and irreverently tongue-in-cheek. Among those I recognized were Jeffrey Delich, the Rubells, Yayoi Kusama, Damien Hirst, Rashid Johnson, Beth Rudin DeWoody, David Kortansky, Ai Weiwei, Maurizio Cattelan, Kenny Schachter, and many others.

Maia Cruz Palileo at Monique Meloche

Another sculpture-related highlight at the fair was a piece by Maia Cruz Palileo, who's better known as a painter. Palileo received their MFA in sculpture from Brooklyn College in 2008, but eventually focused more on painting. Just ahead of the pandemic, Palileo was preparing for a solo show at CCA Wattis in San Francisco that was ultimately delayed until 2021. The postponement allowed them to experiment and find ways of bringing the figures from their paintings into the third dimension. The top of this work is a hand-carved and painted wood rendition of a Filipina woman, with her base made from found chair caning—a nod to the artist's Filipino heritage.

Sophie Stone at Europa

One of the best textile-based works at Felix comes courtesy of New York-based artist Sophie Stone. These intricately braided, woven, knitted, and tied works are made from dozens of found materials that she gets from friends and family or sources at thrift stops. Often, these materials have rips or strains, and she uses these imperfections as a departure point to guide her in making the work. Her pieces can be hung on the wall, displayed on the floor, or even laid out on a bed, as the one she had specifically made for Felix was.

Maia

Queens-based gallery Mtn. made the most of its hotel room. Cona Bransgam-Stell made a bedspread, curtains, and accompanying tapestry in a figurative mode; Chris Boggs contributed a bright green headboard; Marc Muloney offered a bedside table and accompanying old-school phone; and Rose Nestler had a cylinder pillow with two mirrors that seem to melt into it. Overall, it's an interesting approach to showcasing how art can really live in one's home.

Ayan Farah at Kadel Willborn

Artist Ayan Farah was born in the United Arab Emirates to Somali parents. The family then moved to Sweden, where she grew up, and Farah lived in London for a decade while pursuing her undergraduate and graduate degrees before moving back to Sweden. Her biography has shaped her practice, which manifests as elegant abstract works. To create them, Farah collects soils, minerals, flowers, and other organic compounds from all over the world and then via a labor-intensive process transforms them into dyes, which she then applies to the linen fabric in a patch-like pattern. The works then act as a map of the places she's visited.

Suchitra Mattai at Kavi Gupta

In its large hotel room, Kavi Gupta has dedicated an entire back wall, as well as some surrounding space, to a salon-style grouping of works by Suchitra Mattai, who currently has a solo show at the Chicago gallery and recently relocated from Denver to LA. The gallery brought three works made from bunched and sewn saris to its Art Basel Miami Beach booth and wanted to present a different side of her multifaceted mixed-media practice. On view here are wall-hung pieces that toe the line between collage and assemblage, with photographs, painted elements, and affixed items like a fanny pack clip or a string of pearls. One especially eye-catching work shows a red-and-white china plate against a floral background; the trick here is that about a third of the plate has been broken off and Mattai has recreated it in paint, a metaphor of filling in an absence with a sense of fiction.

Karla Ekatherine Canseco at Charlie James Gallery

Emerging artist Karla Ekatherine Canseco is part of a community of LA-based artists that includes Rafa Esparza, Guadalupe Rosales, Gabriela Ruiz, and Beatriz Cortez, her former teacher. She recently collaborated with esparza on retrofitting a kid's mechanical pony machine to resemble a low-rider for his performance *Corpo, Fiança, Jogo Guáster*, which he showed as part of Art Basel Miami Beach's Meridians section in December. An expert welder, Canseco is showing two of her sculptures with LA-based Charlie James Gallery (as well as one in M+B's booth at Felix). These are mystifying, hand-ceramic and steel works that ooze a sense of cool. In one, a black dog snuggles up atop a vase that sits on spray-painted cedar blocks, while in another, a brown dog is rolling around on his back atop a plate of steel-diamond floor plate. This is an artist worth following.

Shellyne Rodriguez at P.P.O.W.

New York-based Shellyne Rodriguez is offering a preview of her first solo show with P.P.O.W., which will feature art about an array of pressing societal issues. An activist and educator in addition to being an artist, Rodriguez often focuses on gentrification, displacement, and the violent policing of Black and Brown people. In this 2022 painting, Rodriguez shows how officers who are people of color can also uphold systemic racism. The work's title also cleverly points to this: BICOPs on the Third of May, a 1793 painting by Jacques-Louis David that depicts the guillotining of the French Revolution's enemies of May 1808.

Still, great art abounds in this tight, curated affair. In addition to the expected paintings and sculptures, textile-based works is present this time around in abundance, reflecting a trend felt throughout the art world as of late.

HYPERALLERGIC

February 16, 2023

At LA's Felix Art Fair, More Is More

The art displayed in the rooms of Hollywood's Roosevelt Hotel this year proves that Minimalism is officially dead.

By Renée Reizman



Alien inflatables by Danish artist Esben Weile Kjaem at Felix Art Fair (all photos Renée Reizman/Hyperallergic)

LOS ANGELES — Felix, the art fair that takes over the Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood, has fully embraced its reputation as the informal, laid-back alternative to Frieze Los Angeles. At the opening of the show's fifth iteration yesterday, February 15, every room felt like a tiny party. The pool was filled with alien inflatables by Danish artist Esben Weile Kjaem at Felix Art Fair (all photos Renée Reizman/Hyperallergic)

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Felix welcomed 64 galleries this year, channeling that fun atmosphere right into the artwork brought to their “booths” (which, if you haven’t guessed yet, are simply hotel rooms). Minimalism seems to be officially dead. Now we’re seeing glitter earnestly applied to canvases, complex patterns woven onto tapestries, and explosions of deeply saturated colors that would pair well with Pantone’s color of the year, Viva Magenta, but needs no such corporate seal of approval.

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While art galleries dare not utter the word “craft” inside their white cubes, one thing that immediately stood out was the abundance of artworks made with textiles or clay. At One Trick Pony, artist Se Oh was showing his porcelain sculptures made with black clay and volcanic glaze. He explained that his organic, flowering forms were inspired by his night walks. “You’d be surprised by how sinister things look,” Oh said. “All of these [things] are sweet and beautiful in the light, but once the sun’s gone, what’s left of the form is kind of scary.”

Textile works included Christy Matson’s weavings of acrylic and linen mounted to canvas, exhibited by Volume Gallery, based in Chicago; and Oona Brangam-Snell’s “Grand Baby Bedding Set” (2018), a hand-woven duvet cover with blue scribbles made by children surrounded by illustrations of Kewpie doll-like figures, presented by Mrs., a gallery based in Queens.

Mrs.’s booth also featured colorful, waffle-gridded chairs by Thomas Barger and a serpentine sculpture by Chris Bogia, “Viper’s Nest (Headboard)” (2023), that transformed Brangam-Snell’s bedding into a full piece of furniture. “We decided to learn into what the fair really is, so we made a facsimile of the hotel room,” Mrs. employee Emily Janowick told Hyperallergic.

The fair was the most crowded I’d ever seen, even though I was at a supposedly exclusive VIP opening. There were long lines for slow elevators, and the hallways accumulated clusters of people waiting to enter packed rooms. I observed plenty of art dealing and name dropping, and very few art outsiders, but Frieze hadn’t opened yet. On Thursday, the art world traverses to the Westside, making room for regular folks in Hollywood.

Even without a full-scale installation, domestic spaces were depicted in many paintings. Though it feels like the pandemic is over, many artists are still emerging from a few years trapped at home, painting their interiors, families, and friends. At Rele Gallery, which spotlights African artists and has locations in Los Angeles and Lagos, Nigena, David Oturu’s painting “Daydreaming II” (2022) portrayed three men lounging in their borderless interior, bored with their books and basketball, contemplating the new world.

It was Rele Gallery’s first time at Felix. “It just made sense,” Director Adenrele Sonarwo explained. “So that people can know that we’re in the LA community and we want to continue to be here.”

Below are more photos from the fair, which will be running through the weekend.

<https://hyperallergic.com/801435/at-las-felix-art-fair-more-is-more/>

CULTURED

February 16, 2023

A Mad Dash Around This Year's Felix LA Reveals Domestic Ecstasy

If the annual art fair that runs parallel to Frieze LA is to be trusted as a bellwether, interiors are trending at the 2023 edition, according to CULTURED editor-at-large Kat Herriman.

By Kat Herriman



Sol Thornton. *A redacted and amended view, 2023*. Image courtesy of the artist and Morán Morán.

At 10:50 a.m. yesterday, the foyer of the Roosevelt Hotel is stuffed near full in anticipation of Felix's VIP opening. Like the exhibitors concealed behind its doors, attendees in queue are a mélange of first-timers and regulars, that latter of whom are wise enough to know to start the fair from its top floors and work their way down. It's a formula that allows me to woosh around all the various crevices of the beloved, hotel-bound fair before it becomes impossible to do so. As I make my way through the maze of halls and

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As far as trending hunting for painting and drawing, I have my work cut out for me. Felix LA is expectedly loaded with frames and stretchers that occupy every available inch in every available dimension. I was recommended by nearly everybody to check out the fair's bathrooms, but I won't tell that to you, although I do appreciate when galleries put their naughty stuff in there. So, on second thought, look in bathrooms if the rest of the booths makes you wonder. Lock yourself in with the art. Sit with it.

figurines by Los Angeles-based Aura Herrera at Tierra del Sol, a non-profit and gallery. No cynicism present here, just an accomplished relationship to the way clay holds even the slightest press of a finger.

As far as trending hunting for painting and drawing, I have my work cut out for me. Felix LA is expectedly loaded with frames and stretchers that occupy every available inch in every available dimension. I was recommended by nearly everybody to check out the fair's bathrooms, but I won't tell that to you, although I do appreciate when galleries put their naughty stuff in there. So, on second thought, look in bathrooms if the rest of the booths makes you wonder. Lock yourself in with the art. Sit with it.

Back in the fair, it takes a while to uncover this year's overt themes, until, finally, my naivety catches up to my eye. Felix LA 2023 is the fair for the interior, not only because booths are embracing their physical truths as hotel rooms, but also because the art itself has turned inward. What I find is not quite Abstract Expression nor is it didactically clear. Instead, it floats somewhere in between with a heavy emphasis on spaces and still lifes as a genre that implies but also obscures the body.

Some of the spaces are breath stoppingly real, like the delicate and diaper detailed paintings and drawings of Quentin James McCaffrey at Nicelle Beauchene, while others like Annabelle Häfner's work at Downs and Ross are much more dream-like, retaining the legible basics: a ceiling, a wall, a bed. I bemoan the scale of Häfner; her paintings are so minimalist and paradoxically juicy like Allen Jones that I want one big enough to step inside.

Matthew Brown, who has quickly become an LA staple, reinforces my on the fly hypothesis with a large Nick Goss painting entitled Golden House, and small devotional windows by Sula Bermúdez-Silverman. More windows are to be had at 56 Henry, where a set of shades by Kevin Reinhardt do little to block out the noontime sun that shines through.

Across from the Reinhardts, a Cynthia Talmadge pointillism piece teases me. It says Remember this is Los Angeles, kid! There has been precedence mounting for this domestic shift for years, especially in a city of angels where Laura Owens's shadow runs long and Jones Wood cut his fortune out of a kitchen sink.

Neither of those influences fed the paintings that stayed with me as I exit the fray. Rent free will stay the suite of works by Liza Lacroix for Magenta Plains. Lacroix's imposing abstractions, under the slightest suggestion, begin to morph into torrid flashes of the familiar. Living somewhere between Charline von Hoff's salines and Cecily Brown's illegible bedrooms, Lacroix's work builds out an imaginative space large enough to get lost in.

https://www.culturedmag.com/article/2023/02/16/felix-la-2023-art-fair-preview?goal=0_0e7277aada-d914696379-118206923&mc_cid=d914696379&mc_eid=b77c1a1ace

Felix LA 2023 – Reviews



February 16, 2023

Inside Felix Art Fair's Bustling Fifth Edition

By Casey Lesser



Installation view of Kavi Gupta's booth at Felix Art Fair, 2023. Photo by James Jackman. Courtesy of Felix Art Fair

If the success of an art fair could be determined by the number of people willing to queue up to get inside, Felix Art Fair's 2023 edition was a triumph, pre-kicked off at 11 a.m. on Wednesday in Los Ang by a line that snaked through the hotel lobby, u into a large auditorium—just to get a wristband.

Another queue was the price to get into an elev and 12th floors. While the fair booths hosted in accessible, however, more of them than not wer

Why the massive influx of guests all at once? Clearly, Felix has been doing something right for the past five years. The fair also chose to open a day before Frieze Los Angeles this year, meaning the art world need not choose between the two VIP days, and in theory, could easily enjoy both. And while the crowds were something of a frustration for fairgoers, Felix redeemed itself through other measures of success: sales and the art itself.

"Everybody's here," said Mills Morán, who co-founded the fair in 2018 with his brother Al Morán alongside Dean Valentine. "We always knew it'd be better to open the day before [Frieze]... But literally everyone showed up at 11 a.m. And the hotel and our staff managed as best as we could. I'm sure people are gonna complain, but I thought it went really well." He noted that most people waited at most for 20 or so minutes.

Now in its fifth edition, Felix has become "somewhat iconic" in L.A., said Morán. "On top of really high-quality art, I think it's a really fun environment that gets people mingling in a very casual way, but talking about serious topics, whether it's world politics or identity politics, really everything that art brings out... I think in this more casual environment we can not take it so seriously, but take it seriously enough." And yet while some fairs' efforts to create a social atmosphere can detract from the point of art fairs—to sell art—that's not the case here. Morán noted that his gallery, Morán Morán, was having a very good day.

"I also called in every favor I could to get the sun out today," Morán quipped, gesturing to the sunny warm weather that made for an enviable, buzzing scene at the iconic David Hockney-painted pool nearby.

Felix's reputation is largely fueled by its curation—only invited galleries can participate. "My brother and I own our own gallery [Morán Morán], so we do fairs all over the world all year, and that's actually our recruiting ground," Morán explained. "We walk around Basel and various different fairs, looking at galleries and taking note of what they're doing."

Among Morán's highlights this year is Detroit-based gallery Reyes I Finn, which is exhibiting for the first time; Dublin-based gallery mother's tankation; and New York's 56 Henry, a longtime exhibitor. "Ellie Rines from 56 Henry has been here since day one in the same booth, and I'm super proud of that. I've seen her gallery grow over the years," Morán added. "This has been one of the best days we've ever had in the five years of Felix, it just feels so fun and interesting and very additive to the L.A. art scene," he explained.

Invited galleries don't seem to have a reason not to participate: gallerists at this year's fair resoundingly praised the communal feel; the intimate, unusual setting (namely, the pool); and many out-of-towners who were keen to have an excuse to come to L.A. and get some sun.

Fridman Gallery director Carolina Wheat noted that the gallery is showing at Felix for the first time this year, though she'd admired it as a visitor for the past few years. "I always really appreciated the

Meanwhile, the galleries in the 11th- and 12th-floor guest rooms must contend with beige and gray two-toned walls, narrow hallways and alcoves, and limited lighting. The most inspired use of the hotel room setting was undoubtedly achieved by the Maspeh, Queens-based gallery Mrs., which opted to keep the bed in its room and bedecked the space with art and design objects, including paper pulp chairs and a lounge by Thomas Barner; an emerald green, snake-like headboard by Chris Bogia; sconces by Rosa Nestler; shaped like hands punctured by candles emerging from the walls; and a humorous SpongeBob medicine cabinet in the bathroom by Mark Mulrooney that could be opened to reveal a surprise.

Most galleries made use of the bathrooms, hanging works above sinks and toilets, or in the glassed-in shower. Fridman placed five small, encasing Alisa Gramann paintings above the commode (all of which had sold to different collectors in the first hour—at \$850 apiece). Though slightly jarring, it's a refreshing touch, making good on the fair's not-taking-itself-too-seriously aims.

Fridman was showing works by several of its most esteemed artists, including Nate Lewis and Dinda McCann. Wheat, the gallery's director, was particularly enthused to be showing McCann's work, including a 1977 piece featuring a pregnant woman smoking, which is the last of its kind. "We've been working with her for the past five years and she's 75 years young," Wheat said, pointing to a textile piece in the booth that was made last year.

It is no coincidence that some of the most striking booths that had completely sold out were those featuring artists who will be new discoveries for many.

Harkawik's selection of swirling paintings by Egyptian artist Hamd Samir are perhaps the most exciting figurative works at the fair, drawing comparison from fairgoers with the works of Cecily Brown. Several works had been placed with institutions. Harkawik's project coordinator Lauren Gagnon noted that while Samir's works vibrate with tantalizing energy, their origins are in fact rather dark, reflecting the artist's experience as a child growing up in Cairo and contending with death from a young age.

Charles Moffet Gallery sold out its presentation of plein air paintings by Canadian artist Keiran Brennan Hinton, priced between \$4,000 and \$15,000. One wall is filled with small-scale gems, including a row of very "L.A." paintings that the artist made in the past few days while staying at the Hollywood Roosevelt. Felix marks the gallery's first solo showing of the artist, who will have a show at the New York gallery this September.

Canadian artist Liza Lacroix's sold-out solo booth with first-time exhibitor Magenta Plains includes three large abstract paintings (priced between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each) and two sound pieces. Lacroix's works, showing in L.A. for the first time, were created specifically for Felix and reference the artist's own experiences at the Roosevelt Hotel, as well as its history as the site of the Academy Awards.

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artnet

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Feelin' It at Felix: Here's What Dealers Had to Say About the Art-Market Excitement at L.A.'s Cool Hotel Fair

Local and far-flung galleries love the crowds of influencers that descend on the Roosevelt Hotel for the event.

By Eileen Kinsella



Felix Art Fair opened on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at the Hollywood Roosevelt in Los Angeles. Photograph by Casey Kelbaugh.

Few art events we've attended have the unique regional flair of Felix, the five-year old fair that was co-founded by top collector and patron Dean Valentine along with brothers Mills Morán and Al Morán.

Held each year at the storied Hollywood Roosevelt hotel, the fair takes place across three levels. On the ground floor, in the cabanas section, galleries occupy individual rooms and hang their art on walls, even

the famous David Hockney-designed pool, which is buzzing with hip guests and fairgoers at all hours of the day.

It makes for an indubitably great art-viewing experience as you wind your way in and out of rooms, either via hallway or sliding doors with hedges and poolside views.

Meanwhile, the upper floors of the hotel are taken over by galleries that also fill the sunlit rooms with artists and works from their programs. The backdrop is sweeping views of the city—including the Hollywood sign in the distance, to really tie a bow on the whole spectacle.

"We've had a great Felix so far," said veteran Los Angeles dealer Charlie James, who was participating for the second time. (The VIP preview took place Wednesday, one day ahead of the Frieze fair opening). The fair's first day "had a wealth of good collectors coming through all day."

James added that he made a significant sale to a famous L.A. collector he had not met before. "L.A. collectors tend not to find you organically out in the world as a rule, no matter how well you might be doing, so pushing them all through a small space like the Roosevelt is gainful."

Charles Moffett gallery told Artnet News it sold out its presentation of 25 new intricate and lushly painted landscapes by Ontario-based artist Keiran Brennan Hinton during the preview day, with prices ranging from \$4,000 to \$15,000.

The presentation at Felix comprises three new bodies of work for Hinton: a series of paintings created last summer and fall at the artist's homes in Canada; a collection of paintings created in January 2023 at the Beecher Residency in Litchfield, Connecticut; and a group of paintings created on-site at the Hollywood Roosevelt last week where the artist took up residency before the art world arrived.

The Felix presentation marks the artist's first solo outing with the gallery since joining the program last spring, and comes in advance of a New York solo show opening at the gallery in September.

Los Angeles gallery Tierra del Sol, which is associated with the Tierra del Sol Foundation and works to assist people with developmental disabilities through careers in the arts, was also on hand.

It presented a dynamic mix of ceramics by Aura Herrera, an artist whose painted ceramics explore themes of beauty, mortality, and representation. And artist Kyle Johnson's eye-catching Hockney-esque palette was on view across a mix of work from paintings to textiles, all incorporating poetry.

Within the first three hours of the preview, Portland, Oregon gallery Adams and Olman sold over 20 works ranging in prices from \$5,000 to \$24,000, including works by Jose Bonell, Katherine Bradford, Marlee Capanna, Rob Lyon, Marlon Mullen, Todd Norsten, and others from the gallery's program.

The gallery's presentation at the fair is also a way of celebrating and highlighting its 10th anniversary. An upcoming show opens next week, titled (after the opening of *Lady Lazarus* by Sylvia Plath), "*I have done it again / One year in every ten I manage it—*" on view at the gallery in Portland from February 25 to March 25.

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Palms by the hotel pool: a relaxed environment for robust sales at the Felix Art Fair

A pre-Frieze opening, record VIP visitors and strong in-person engagement are helping the homegrown fair go from strength to strength

By Janelle Zara



Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel's poolside rooms have been transformed into stands. Photo: Eric Thayer.

While Felix Art Fair's poolside setting at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel has always made it the more relaxed and comfortable environment for guests during the fair.

"It was an amazing experience selling 20 and emerging artists where we

In-person engagement has always been a defining feature with the Hollywood Roosevelt's poolside hotel rooms, a decidedly more inviting environment than the typical art-fair stand. "People feel comfortable here," says Gleason, whose Felix suite includes a generous leather sofa and bar. "The conversations that we have in this room are just far more sustained than we would have in any convention centre setting. They don't feel the need to be pulled in a million different directions because they're looking at works at five other booths while they're in our booth."

room also included examples of the exquisite corpse collages that André Breton, Jacqueline Lamba and Yves Tanguy made together one weekend in 1938.

The New York dealer Charles Moffett sold out his presentation of 25 new paintings by Keiran Brennan Hinton during Wednesday's preview. Inglewood-based Residency Art Gallery placed works from its room in the collection of Beth Rudin DeWoody. Adam Cohen of New York's A Hug From the Art World reported selling 90% of his offerings and receiving more than 50 commissions for the popular art-world figurines by Jeffrey Dalessandro he was showing.

The Los Angeles dealer Charlie James came with works by more than a dozen of his artists, making opening hours sales of works by Jay Lynn Gomez, Patrick Martinez, Manuel López and Jeffrey Sincich. In his second outing at Felix, James was enthusiastic about the quality of collectors who had turned up.

"You're running heavies through such a small space," he says. "I found that it's been fantastic both times." The Los Angeles gallerist Carlye Packer also came with a cross-section of artists, including Ireland Wisdom, Taylor Marie Prendergast and Adam Stamp, achieving a personal goal of only selling to new clients. Her strategy, she says, was refusing to pre-sell, a common practice among some galleries seeking to drum up interest and urgency around fairs.

"When I've pre-sold in the past, I've felt that people come without the intention of buying on-site, which takes out the excitement of buying and selling on the floor," she says. "It's also nice for buyers to see works in person rather than in a PDF. This image-based economy creates paintings that are made for photos and look different in real life."

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- Felix Art Fair, until 19 February, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, Los Angeles

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/02/18/felix-art-fair-report-los-angeles>

Felix LA 2023 – Reviews

Galerie

February 20, 2023

8 Standout Artists to Watch from Felix Art Fair in L.A.

On view from February 15 to 19 at the famous Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the fair presented 65 galleries from around the world

By Paul Laster



Felix Art Fair 2023. PHOTO: CASEY KELBAUGH

Overflying with collectors anxiously trying to secure the best works in the shortest amount of time, the fifth edition of *Felix Art Fair* was proclaimed an outstanding success within the first few hours of its opening on February 15.

Founded in 2011, the goal of creating a platform for collectors, dealers,

On view February 15-19 at the famous Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the fair presented 65 galleries from around the world in the pool cabanas of the hotel and in the more expansive rooms on the 11th and 12th floors above.

"I made every phone I could to get the sun out this week," Mills Moran told Galerie. "I called in every favor from everyone I knew. In the five years of the fair, there was never a day so nice. You could tell by the buzz around the pool and the galleries were all crowded. This year finally felt like we were back to normal."

Adams and Olman sold 20 pieces in the first three hours and continued to make significant sales every day of the fair. See the fair highlights below and the artist to keep on your art collecting radar.

1. Kinke Kool at Adams and Olman

A Dutch female artist exploring issues of gender equality and notions of the other through drawing and collage, Kinke Kool makes magical artworks encompassing playful objects. Her whimsical, 2020 work *Why Do Men Have Nipples?* at Adams and Olman depicted fleshy breast-like forms, topped with buttons and shells as nipples. Simulated strings of pearls, seemingly drawn light to create the accumulated breasts' outer shape completes the spirited piece, which could amusingly be seen as an impish aerial view of a wildly surreal, anthropomorphic garden.

2. Clementine Keith-Roach at PPOW Gallery

A British artist who lives on a rural farm outside of London, *Clementine Keith-Roach* originally studied art history before turning to ceramics as her creative medium. Inspired by travels through Greece, Turkey and the Middle East, she began collecting old ceramic vessels which she employs as what Marcel Duchamp dubbed an "assisted readymade" by casting her own body parts and attaching them to these utilitarian objects. Painting her hands to match the patina of a found terracotta vessel, her 2023 *Colonnade II* sculpture almost makes a funny face as the artist's clutching hands become supporting stems that keep the transformed vessel afloat.

3. Anne Dicke at Anat Ebl

Another talented Dutch female artist, *Anne Dicke* is widely known for her cutting and altering of fashion magazine imagery, as captured in a new monograph of her amazing artworks, published by Walther Koenig. Making inventive use of existing photographs, she incises, sands and scratches the glossy surface of the fashion shots to make far edgier pictures. Reprinting images culled from magazines and books, she creates an absence of form by rubbing the pictures with sandpaper, by cutting out defining parts, by blowing ink on depicted bodies from ballpoint pens and by painting over areas with cosmetic foundation. Her 2023 picture *189 Spread* takes a magazine editorial spread as its point of departure and then turns the piece into a haunting landscape with a mysterious figure trying to periously pop out.

4. Anne Buckwalter at Rachel Uffner

Inspired by folk art traditions of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, where she spent her childhood, Anne Buckwalter makes similarly patterned depictions of domestic interiors and pointed arrangements of personal objects in her realistic paintings and works on paper. Mixing hex signs, quilt patterns and

5. Ever Baldwin at Marinaro

An Upstate New York-based artist who works intuitively, *Ever Baldwin* makes hybrid paintings/sculptures of transcendental subject matter. Painting body parts at various points of abstraction, Baldwin completes his otherworldly compositions by crafting strikingly hand-carved frames from beautifully blackened, charred wood. His hybrid 2022 painting *Finned* looks like a bat, but probably references a butterfly ironically caught in someone's private collection.

6. Alice Tippit at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery

A mid-career, Chicago-based artist who's been gaining traction internationally over the past several years for her graphic depictions of figurative subjects as silhouetted, flatly-colored forms, *Alice Tippit* makes charming, small-scale oil paintings and watercolors that whimsically transform human body parts and everyday objects into ambiguous signs and symbols. Her 2021 painting *Hollow* at *Nicelle Beauchene Gallery* portrayed a pair of vertical, yellow "C" forms interrupted by two black, horizontal arch-shape forms. Creating a playful pair of eyes or breasts on a monochromatic ground, the arresting canvas says a lot with a little. Elusive in meaning, Tippit's amusing art makes you ponder what it is that you are perceiving when you are precisely in the act of seeing.

7. Alexis Ralaivao at Kasmin

Born to a Madagascan father and French mother, *Alexis Ralaivao* earned degrees in languages and communication before turning to art. Self-taught as a painter, he was inspired to pick up the brush by such Dutch Golden Age masters as Jan Steen and contemporary artists like John Currin. Creating close-cropped compositions of intimate moments observed during his daily life, *Ralaivao* turns diastatic scenes into sensual canvases. His 2022 fleshy painting *Madame Ingres* at *Kasmin* transformed a sophisticated shot of a stylishly dressed woman into a dreamy object of desire. Subtle changes in his nearly monochromatic palette make buttons, hands, rings and wrinkles more sensual than they ought to be in his visually exciting, soft-focus pictures.

8. Narsiso Martinez at Charlie James Gallery

Immigrating to the United States from Mexico when he was 20 years old, *Narsiso Martinez* attended a community adult school to earn his high school diploma while working at apple orchards in Washington State. Stepping up to gain his Associate of Arts degree, a BFA, and finally his MFA from California State University Long Beach in 2018. Making drawings on cardboard produce boxes to commemorate the migrant experience and farm laborers for the past several years, *Martinez* became an overnight success with his solo show, "Superfresh," at *Charlie James Gallery* in 2020. Recently profiled in the *New York Times* and winner of this year's *Frieze Impact Prize*, he had a few fascinating drawings in the gallery's *Felix* presentation, including 2022's *Select Vegetables*, which poignantly captured a woman migrant worker on the packaging for food that she may have picked.

<https://galeriemagazine.com/8-standout-artists-watch-felix-art-fair/>

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