

ART MARKET

Art Basel Paris gets a second chance to make a first impression

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Art Basel Paris has a new home at the refurbished Grand Palais in Paris. Photo: Ludovic MARIN/POOL/AFP

Art Basel Paris

On the heels of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics, another jamboree is coming to town. Art Basel Paris is back with a new name – for its first two editions, it was Paris+ par Art Basel – and a new location. From the fair’s temporary home in the Grand Palais Éphémère on the Champ de Mars, it has moved to the Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées, newly reopened after a three-year closure and €466m renovation. ‘This is our second inaugural edition in three years – you could even say that it’s our true inaugural edition,’ says fair director Clément Delépine.

The Grand Palais, built for the Paris Exposition of 1900 with interiors in an art nouveau style, offers about 26 per cent more space than the fair’s previous home. This has allowed for the addition of 41 galleries – bringing the total up to 194, some 51 of which are firsttime exhibitors – and the expansion of the Emergence section for new galleries and upcoming artists.

This year also sees the debut of a new section, *Premise*, which Delépine describes as ‘a space for curatorial freedom’ with a focus on thematic displays. ‘There is this old trope in art history that sometimes the exhibition itself is the work of art. In my opinion, being a gallerist is about being a storyteller,’ says Delépine. In *Premise*, galleries are allowed to include work made before 1900: the only part of the fair where this is the case.



Untitled (1947), Janet Sobel. Courtesy The Gallery of Everything, London

Galleries taking part in the new section include Loft Art Gallery from Morocco, with a solo presentation of work by Casablanca school painter Mohamed Melehi; Brazilian gallery Nara Roesler, with sculptures by lumberjack-turned-woodcarver Chico Tabibuia; and The Gallery of Everything from London, with work by the Abstract Expressionist painter Janet Sobel.

The fair continues outside of the Grand Palais thanks to collaborations with nine public institutions and private foundations. These include the Domaine nationale du Palais-Royal, which hosts sculptures by artists including Thomas Schütte, and the Musée national Eugène-Delacroix, where two installations by Ali Cherri will be on display. The Palais d'Iéna will be what Delépine calls 'the centre of gravity' for the public programme, which allows visitors with or without Art Basel Paris tickets to enjoy exhibitions and events across the city.

This year, the fair is partnering with Miu Miu on the public programme. Artist Goshka Macuga has conceived 'Tales and Tellers', an exhibition at the Palais d'Iéna convened by Elvira Dyangani Ose, director of the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona, which features films by women artists. These will be projected and reenacted by performers 'à la Tino Sehgal', says Delépine. 'I think the fair is becoming more of a sensorium and I'm super excited about this.'

Art Basel Paris takes place in the Grand Palais, Paris, from 18–20 October.