Buzzworthy at the New York ArtShows

8 March 2012

Leila Heller Gallery is showing Middle Eastern artists at The Armory Show, March 8-11, 2012, at Pier 94, Booth 740. Reza Derakshani, They Hunt the Pink!, 2012, Mixed media on canvas, 60 x 192 in / 152.4 x 487.7 cm
(Leila Heller Gallery)

With 10 art shows running concurrently in New York this week, and hundreds of dealer exhibitions of modern and contemporary art on view, the stage is set for an art market gauge.

Red-dot reports have already abounded from the Armory Show Contemporary where the more cutting-edge art is shown. Right out of the gate, David Zwirner sold out silkscreen posters by German artist Michael Reidel for $50,000 each. (And at The Art Show, the gallery reportedly sold out its exhibition of works by Suzan Frecon.)

Among other sales, Berlin-based Spruth Magers parted with a George Condo for $120,000 and a 1978 Cindy Sherman Untitled Film Still, for an undisclosed amount.

A painting by Kehinde Wiley, who currently is part of an exhibition at the Chrysler Museum and also has a solo exhibition at the Jewish Museum, went for $135,000 at Sean Kelly Gallery.

Leila Heller Gallery, exhibiting with JAMM of London and Kuwait, at Pier 94, featured Middle Eastern artist Farideh Lashai's video, "Rabbit in Wonderland," a projection of bunnies onto a landscape painting, which sold for $80,000. Referencing Lewis Carroll’s Alice and Wonderland, Lashai tells the story of the white rabbit's journey down the rabbit hole, but through the lens of Iran’s turbulent and uncertain recent history.
At the Armory Show Modern, DC Moore Gallery showed a spectacular Charles Burchfield, "Orion and the Moon" (1917), complimenting a Burchfield show on view at its West Gallery until March 17 as well as its booth at The Art Show across town dedicated to Romare Bearden. Also of note, Carl Hammer Gallery featured Outsider artist Bill Traylor's "Untitled Red Dog" (ca. 1930–42), priced at $350,000.

The ADAA Art Show, held at the Park Avenue Armory, exhibits its strength in numerous solo and thematic exhibitions. Of note, is the Francesca Woodman photography displayed by Marian Goodman. The artist, who died at age 22 in 1981, is the subject of a retrospective at the Guggenheim, from March 16 to June 13, 2012.

Menconi & Schoelkopf has early 20th c. American paintings, highlights include Nocturne by Joseph Stella, a painting that softens edges and transforms mundane forms into lyrical abstractions, and the bold work Untitled, Paris, March 1937 by American abstract artist Charles Biederman, whose work is also on view at the Menconi & Schoelkopf gallery on East 69th Street.

New York Art Week continues through March 11.