



VISUAL ARTS

Eight years in, Dallas event enjoys world renown



Daniel Orensky

The Dallas Art Fair brought a diverse global crowd of gallery representatives to downtown Dallas in 2014. The fair has grown dramatically since its humble beginnings in 2009 during the Great Recession. This year's edition opens Friday.

All eyes on art fair

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Jeremy Epstein lives in London. But he loves flying to North Texas each April for the Dallas Art Fair. He revels in the chance to chow down on "the world's best Tex-Mex" and groove out on heavy metal in Deep Ellum.

This will be the third April in a row that Epstein has journeyed from his vacated Edel Assanti gallery in London to Fashion Industry Gallery

on Ross Avenue, where the fair will open its eighth edition on Friday. It closes next Sunday.

He flies to art fairs all over the world, including such heavyweights as Art Basel and Frieze New York, but when it comes to Dallas, he says, "We don't make any secret that it's our favorite."

He says he loves the trip to Texas because the gallery ownership feels valued by the fair's enterprising co-founders, art curator and consultant Chris Byrne, 34, and businessman

John Sughrue, 55. Epstein credits the pair with both staging an engaging fair and cultivating extracurricular activities that enhance the work of dealers.

More than any fair anywhere in the world, he says, the Dallas Art Fair facilitates after-hours, off-campus liaisons with the city's "rich supply" of collectors and museum heads that he says help sustain and embolden the careers of a gallery's artists.

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THE FOURTH ANNUAL DALLAS ARTS WEEK offers a smorgasbord of more than 100 cultural events, including the Dallas Art Fair. **E**