

DOWNLOAD OUR APP
FOR IPAD, IPHONE
AND ANDROID



ISSN 0960-685



INTERNATIONAL EDITION

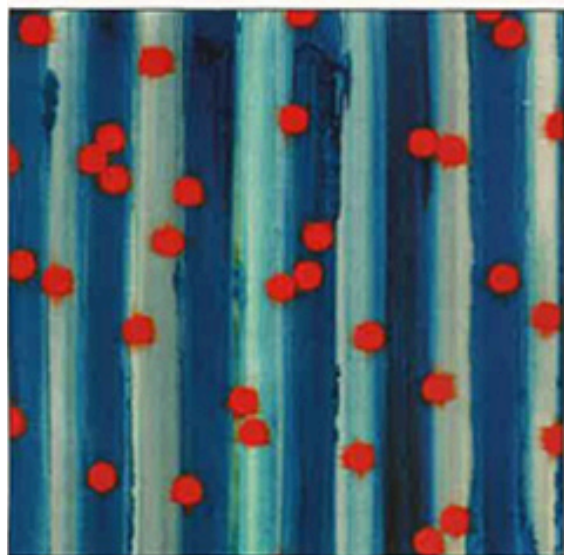
THE ART NEWSPAPER™

U. ALLEMANDI & CO. PUBLISHING LTD. EVENTS, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS MONTHLY. EST. 1983, VOL. XXII, NO. 249, SEPTEMBER 2013

UK £8.50/EUROPE €12.50/US \$16.99/ROW €18.50

ART MARKET

Fairs & Auctions



Mark Francis's *Pyxis*, 2013, is being shown at the booth of Kerlin Gallery, Dublin; Pace Gallery is showing Yto Barrada's *Restaurant-Villa Harris, Fig. 3*, 2010

Gateway to the Middle East

Istanbul's new fair organisers are undeterred by recent protests

NEW FAIR

Istanbul. The galleries taking part in the inaugural edition of ArtInternational Istanbul, a contemporary and Modern art fair based at the heart of the Turkish art hub, are bullish about the event's prospects. "It offers the perfect opportunity to serve our loyal Turkish collectors while at the same time, [helping us to] bridge the gap between Europe, Russia and the Middle East. In this respect, it stands out on the international circuit," claims Mollie Dent-Brocklehurst, the president of Pace London. The gallery will show works by 19 artists, such as George Condo, Zhang Xiaogang and Yto Barrada.

Sixty-two dealers are testing the waters in Turkey: ten local galleries, including Rampa, four dealers from the US and a mixture of mid-market, emerging and established European dealers, from Yvon Lambert in Paris to Rome's Galleria Sales. "It's a complete mix of galleries, from younger dealers to mid-range galleries with friendly price points. Pace Gallery and Lisson Gallery [of London] are also showing in Istanbul for the first time," says Dyala Nusseibeh, the fair's director.

The event should provide an opportunity to meet new collectors, particularly from the Middle East, which is especially useful for the participating Turkish galleries, Nusseibeh says. She adds: "It also helps that there are various bilateral trade agreements between Turkey and the countries in the Gulf." A selection of dealers view Istanbul as a key location for capitalising on lucrative emerging markets.

"The Middle East and Asia are the fastest growing markets for

contemporary art right now," says Dianne Dec, a partner at San Francisco's Hosfelt Gallery, which will show works by Shahzia Sikander, Rina Banerjee, Jim Campbell and Driss Ouadahi; prices range from \$7,000 to \$40,000.

Recent anti-government protests across the country have not deterred dealers – but whether collectors will be put off remains to be seen. "One can take the view that the recently expressed will for change is a creative one," says Darragh Hogan, the director of Dublin's Kerlin Gallery. He will present works by five artists, including paintings by Sean Scully (*Cut Ground Green Magenta*, 2011, \$300,000) and Callum Innes (*Untitled No.6*, 2013, £45,000).

"The political tension has heightened interest in engaged, politically expressive art"

"The political tension has heightened the interest in engaged, politically expressive art in the Turkish art scene," says Pierre d'Alancaise, the director of London's Waterside Contemporary gallery, which will show George Barber's video installation *The Freestone Drone*, 2013 (the piece, and associated works, are priced between £5,000 and £15,000).

The fair's organisers also hope that visitors to the 13th Istanbul Biennial will overcome their art fatigue and head to the fair as well. "A precedent for us is the combination of Art Dubai with the Sharjah Biennial," Nusseibeh says. Like most other fairs today, ArtInternational Istanbul is a hybrid of cultural and commercial concerns; its

non-profit artistic projects programme, for instance, includes specially commissioned works by David Claerbout, Camila Rocha and Ahmet Ogut.

A talks forum, now obligatory at fairs, features speakers such as Vasif Kortun, the director of research and programmes at the non-profit Salt space in Istanbul, and Aaron Cezar of London's Delfina Foundation. A VIP programme is also a staple of the 21st-century fair. VIP guests will visit collectors' residences, attend breakfasts hosted by Sotheby's Turkey and the privately run Elgiz Museum. Studio visits are also in the programme, including a stop at the workspace of Kezban Arca Batibeki, who makes short films and installations. She is represented by the New York-based Leila Heller Gallery. Heller is on the gallery selection committee along with Ursula Krinzinger of the eponymous Austrian gallery.

The co-founder of ArtInternational Istanbul is the fair veteran Sandy Angus of the company Angus Montgomery Ltd. Angus co-founded Art HK, the Hong Kong International Art Fair, along with Tim Etchells in 2008. Here, he teamed up with the Turkish and Italian firm Fiera Milano Interteks to launch the new event.

The fair's board of patrons reflects Angus's influence; high-profile members include Roxane Zand, the deputy chairman of Sotheby's Middle East, and Hanan Sayed Worrell, the senior representative and adviser for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in Abu Dhabi.

Gareth Harris

• ArtInternational Istanbul, Haliç Congress Centre, Istanbul, 16-18 September

• For more on the 13th Istanbul Biennial, see main paper p27