

LEILA HELLER GALLERY.

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62 Women Share Their Secrets to Art World Success: Part One

Sarah Cascone, Wednesday, May 27, 2015

What are the secrets to a successful career in the art world? We asked 62 women in the upper echelons of museums, galleries, art PR firms, and art non-profits to tell us what they've learned over the course of their careers, and to offer their advice for women looking to break into the business (see [12 Must-Read Tips for a Successful Career in the Art World](#), [We Asked 20 Women "Is the Art World Biased?" Here's What They Said](#), and [The 100 Most Powerful Women in Art: Part One](#), [Part Two](#), and [Part Three](#)).

The survey did bring a few tongue-in-cheek responses.

Simon de Pury, husband and business partner of the dealer Michaela de Pury, offered this: "act like a man look like a woman," while his better half provided more practical advice. Of course, much of what our respondents had to say will be relevant to everyone. As Daniella Luxembourg noted after delivering her words of wisdom, this was advice she "would give to women and men alike."

Here is what the first half of our participants had to say, in no particular order. (For the second part, see [62 Women Share Their secrets to Art World Success: Part Two](#)).



Leila Heller.

Photo: Lana Kurtz, courtesy *Canvas Magazine*.

27. Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller, founder and president of Leila Heller Gallery, New York

The key to my success is built on three things: my passion for the arts, my well-honed people skills, and my determination to never take "no" for an answer.