

FRIEZE LA

Friday February 15th, 2019

THE CANVAS

Amidst Downpour of Rain, Sales Pour In As Well

Amanda Sharp is probably exactly what an entertainment industry executive's image is for what an art world denizen should look like. Short, dressed in all black, somewhat untidy, but carrying an indescribable aura of cool around her, she's 'straight out of central casting' in Hollywood parlance.

However, as The Canvas watched her glad-hand Hollywood and art world luminaries alike during yesterday's VIP preview of the fair, I wonder if Endeavor really knew what it was getting itself into when in 2016 the entertainment conglomerate made a majority investment in Frieze, and launched Amanda, and her co-founder, **Matthew Slotover**, into a new strata in terms of the price level of artworks they'd now personally be able to afford.

In a year in which many expect the leading art fairs to face increasing headwinds, and with Frieze seemingly perennially cursed in the ways of weather- plus the unyielding pressure the art world has maintained over

whether or not Endeavor has returned Saudi Arabia's \$400 million investment after Jamal Khashoggi's murder- it would be understandable if they had a little buyer's remorse.

Perhaps that's one reason why support amongst the entertainment industry seemed to be a bit dampened yesterday- *dampened* being the key word. Indeed, even Endeavor CEO, **Ari Emmanuel**, who attended the opening breakfast, seemed to duck out immediately thereafter. In fact, a number of individuals from the starry host committee seemed to be MIA with **Tobey Maguire**, **Serena Williams** and **Alexis Ohanian**, **Salma Hayek Pinault** and **Francois H. Pinault** all skipping yesterday's VIP opening. In terms of the celebrities who did show up- **Brad Pitt**, **Leonardo DiCaprio**, **Sylvester Stallone**, **Jane Fonda**, and **James Corden**- they were mainly the same A-Listers who attend the fairs in Miami and New York year in and year out. As much as The Canvas likes to rub shoulders with Leo and Brad, we were expecting a bit more (**Norman Lear**, **Michael Keaton**, and **Amy Poehler** were also spotted throughout the day).

However, it's quite possible that a number of the celebrities (and collectors for that matter) were scared off by the weather. While no one would argue that yesterday's weather was an aberration for the oft sun-soaked city, the organizers of Frieze still deserve a fair amount of blame for how they handle weather related issues. After last year's air conditioning fiasco in New York, and the year before's leaking tent chaos set amidst a similarly consequential rainstorm, The Canvas specifically asked Director of Frieze Art Fairs, **Victoria Siddall**, about the fair's plans for inclement weather in the February edition of [The Canvas Monthly](#). Her response was as follows:

"Some of the Frieze Projects on the backlot will be outdoors, and others will be indoors within the replica houses and shopfronts. Much of the fair's other programming is indoors, including Frieze Talks in the Sherry Lansing Theatre, and Frieze Film in Paramount Theatre. With over a decade of experience staging fairs in London and New York, we have worked with all kinds of scenarios – we have a whole outdoor Frieze Sculpture exhibition in London – and do everything we can to ensure everyone has a great experience."

And while Frieze obviously isn't expected to control the weather, and some leeway should be given as it's the fair's first year in the City of Angels, a "great experience" it was certainly not for the well-heeled art collectors who have come to (rightfully) expect white-glove service when being asked to pony up significant amounts of cash for artworks for their home(s). The Canvas heard complaints throughout the day ranging from lack of parking, to a bizarre dearth of signage to guide visitors through the Paramount Studios lot, drop-off gate confusion, griping over ticketing times, a stifling humidity in the tent, and a noticeable lack of any kind of VIP area or lounge near the tent,

Despite all this, galleries reported a healthy dose of buying activity, and lauded the strength of the curators, directors, and collectors who showed up in force early in the day. **Eli Broad, Thelma Golden, Noah Horowitz, Caspar Jopling, Mera and Don Rubell, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Klaus Biesenbach, Michael Govan, and Allan Schwartzman**, were all seen prowling the aisles throughout the day. And the quality of the art that many of the blue-chip galleries brought to the fair, was unquestionably strong. **Marian Goodman Gallery, Pace Gallery, Hauser & Wirth, Lévy Gorvy, White Cube**, all brought prominent works that created loci of bustling activity throughout the day. And many dealers reported a sustained hum of buying activity- even if it left a fair amount of room for improvement in future years.

For some detailed sales info, check below. The Canvas will be back on Sunday with our final take on the fair, and a more thorough report on the actual buying from throughout the fair.

Thaddaeus Ropac

Anton Gormley "State XXV" £400,000

Anton Gormley "Contain" £400,000

Andy Warhol "Georgia O'Keeffe" \$875,000

Alex Katz "CK 23, 2017" \$750,000

Ali Banisadr "Rhizome" \$225,000

David Kordansky Gallery

Eleven works by **Kathryn Andrews**, each titled "Hollywood Dahlia" sold for \$40,000 a piece. Another Kathryn Andrews sculpture, "T-1000" sold for \$85,000

Pace Gallery

Alex Katz "Blue Flag" for an undisclosed price

Tara Donovan "Drawing (Pins)" for \$225,000

An **Alexander Calder** "Untitled" work on paper from 1967 for \$200,000

Michal Rovner "Blue Hills" for \$150,000

An interactive digital work, "Flowers and People-Dark" by **teamLab** sold for \$150,000

Adam Pendleton "OK DADA OK BLACK DADA OK (DA DA)" for \$120,000

Studio Drift "Bicycle" for \$52,000

Six works by **Loie Hollowell** for prices ranging between \$15,000-\$80,000

Hauser & Wirth

The gallery announced the sale of **Mike Kelley's** *UnisexLove Nest* (1999) to a private European Foundation for \$1.8 million in the first few hours of sale.

Lévy Gorvy

Günther Uecker "Spirale III" for \$1.2 million

Yayoi Kusama "Infinity Nets (B-A-Y)" for \$1.6 million

Pat Steir's "Mauve and Green Spring Sea with Stars of Many Colors" sold for an undisclosed price

The Three Things People Are Talking About

1. Oh Mary. Phones lit up across Frieze's tent yesterday, as the news began to spread that art world veteran (and friend of many a Canvas reader), **Mary Boone** was sentenced to 30 months prison time for tax fraud. Despite an all-star line up of friends urging the judge to exercise leniency in her sentencing- friends that included **Ai Weiwei, Arne Glimcher, Julian Schnabel, Peter Brant, and Jerry Saltz**- the court decided the dealer needed to serve time in prison in order to discourage others from following her path in financial chicanery. The news came as a surprise to many people at the fair, with the sentencing eerily timed to coincide with Frieze's VIP day, thereby stirring maximum attention in the art world. Oh well. At least Boone's long time second-in-command, **Ron Warren**, has a chance to be free now. Fly Ron, fly.

2. **UTA Artist Space** threw a wildly successful opening for its new show, 'Dreamweavers', hosted in collaboration with Kasseem "**Swizz Beatz**" Dean, and his art adviser/curator, **Nicola Vassell** on the eve of Frieze LA this past Wednesday night. Artists featured in the show included **Kehinde Wiley, Nick Cave, Cy Gavin, Nari Ward, Pope L. Arthur Jafa, David Hammons, Deana Lawson**, and a new work by **Kerry James Marshall**. Spotted at the opening were hip-hop royalty such as, **Jay-Z** and **Beyoncé, Pharrell, Major Lazer, Troy Carter**; as well as art world insiders, **Elizabeth Dee, Jeffrey Deitch, Elaine Wynn, Alex Israel, and Kyle DeWoody**.

3. **Marc Glimcher's** blockbuster interview in the February edition of The Canvas Monthly has caused quite a stir in the upper echelons of the art world. Coming in at a whopping 4,500 words, Glimcher didn't mince words and touched on a number of the art world's thorniest topics including the corporatization of the mega-galleries, the poaching of artists and estates from one gallery to the next, and the struggles that many medium-sized galleries are facing in today's market. Asked about the causative effect that the success some galleries have had to the detriment of others, Glimcher responded:

"The real causation is that the dealers who aren't struggling saw a different base- they started to be in the art world at a different time for a different

*reason. The reason **Andrea Rosen** closed isn't because she was going out of business, it's because she didn't like it anymore. The reason **Cheim & Read** are switching to a private practice is because they don't like it anymore. Yeah, they're facing some struggles and challenges, but the real cause of these people saying they're going to try something else is because it isn't fun for a lot of people anymore. They got into the art world for a different reason and those reasons have started to morph. The balance of reasons for why someone would want to be an art dealer is very different from when my father first started."*

To find out what those balance of reasons are, and to read the full interview, subscribe by clicking the button below to receive the full February edition of The Canvas Monthly in your inbox today. February's other features include interviews with **David Kordansky**, **Victoria Siddall** and **Bettina Korek**, and **David Maupin**.

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Six Must-See Booths At Frieze LA

[Marian Goodman Gallery \(Booth B12\)](#)

[Hauser & Wirth \(Booth B13\)](#)

[Hannah Hoffman Gallery \(Booth C39\)](#)

[Regen Projects \(Booth C7\)](#)

[White Cube \(Booth B14\)](#)

[David Zwirner \(Booth C13\)](#)

The Party Circuit

GARAGE Magazine Celebrates Issue 16 (Spotted: Billie Eilish, Takashi Murakmai, Dasha Zhukova, Mark Guiducci, Tavi Gevinson, Chloe Wise, Ellie Goulding, Wendi Deng Murdoch, and Derek Blasberg)

2019 Whitney Art Party (Spotted: Poppy, Adam Weinberg, Micaela Erlanger, Natasha Lyonne, Scott Rothkopf, and Maddie Ziegler)

The Winter Show Opening Night Party (Spotted: Michael Bloomberg, Max and Nina Hollein, Leonard Lauder, Jessica Craig-Martin, and Jamie Drake)

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Follow along on our Instagram page [here](#) as we share pictures from the Paramount Studios lot at Frieze LA, ALAC, and all the parties you couldn't swing an invite to. Don't worry- there's always next year (we hope!).

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