

This Month in the Art World by Artsa

Welcome to our monthly art newsletter, where we bring you the latest updates, news, and trends from the world of art. From contemporary to classical, our newsletter covers a wide range of art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, installations, and more.



<u>2026 Venice Biennale National Pavilions Begin to Take Shape</u>

As anticipation builds for the 61st Venice Biennale, countries are announcing their artists and projects for the National Pavilion exhibitions running from May to November 2026 across the Giardini, Arsenale, and the city. Confirmed participants include Austria, Estonia, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, which has selected sculptor Alma Allen to represent its pavilion. Qatar will debut a new permanent pavilion in the Giardini designed by Lina Ghotmeh, while El Salvador will make its first official national pavilion appearance with a solo project by J. Oscar Molina, underscoring the Biennale's expanding global reach and evolving national narratives.



Anselm Kiefer's Becoming the Sea Anchors Major SLAM Survey

Anselm Kiefer's *Becoming the Sea* at the Saint Louis Art Museum presents a sweeping survey of around 40 works from the 1970s to today, including over 20 recent pieces and five monumental, site-specific paintings that respond to the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. The exhibition places Kiefer's dense, materially rich canvases, layered with tar, lead, steel, poetry, and myth, in expansive galleries that allow viewers to engage both up close and from a distance, revealing physical and conceptual depth. Born in postwar Germany and renowned for confronting history, memory, and elemental forces, Kiefer has created an immersive exhibition that reflects his enduring exploration of the human experience and the natural world. *Becoming the Sea* runs through January 25, 2026, with free admission for all visitors.



The Most Exciting Museum Openings in 2026

2026 will bring a wave of major museum openings and reopenings, reshaping cultural hubs from Los Angeles to London and beyond. Highlights include LACMA's long-awaited David Geffen Galleries by Peter Zumthor, the debut of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, and London's new V&A East, alongside significant new institutions in Central Asia and Europe. Together, these projects signal a renewed global investment in museum architecture, access, and cultural infrastructure.



Christie's Unveils Specialist Highlights for Americana Week 2026

Christie's has revealed key works featured in its upcoming Americana Week sales in New York, spotlighting exceptional examples of American art, folk art, and historical material. The lineup includes paintings by 19th-century figures such as Albert Bierstadt and George Inness, alongside significant decorative arts and rare Americana that reflect the country's artistic and cultural heritage. This curated selection underscores ongoing collector interest in foundational American works as the market enters the new year.



<u>David Lynch's Paintings Take Center Stage at Pace Berlin</u>

David Lynch is bringing his lesser-seen paintings to Pace Berlin in a new exhibition that highlights his painterly practice alongside his acclaimed film and multimedia work. The show features dark, enigmatic canvases that reveal Lynch's persistent exploration of psychological depth, dream logic, and symbolic imagery. Marking a rare solo presentation of his visual art in Europe, the exhibition underscores Lynch's interdisciplinary reach and his commitment to pushing boundaries across mediums.



10 Artists to Watch in 2026 According to Frieze

Frieze identifies ten artists poised to make significant waves in 2026, spanning diverse practices and geographies—from painting and sculpture to media and installation. The list spotlights figures whose work reflects pressing cultural conversations, including identity, ecology, memory, and form, marking them as voices to watch across global exhibitions and platforms. Their growing institutional engagements and market momentum suggest a dynamic year ahead for contemporary art.



<u>Christie's to Offer Famed George Washington Portrait with \$1 Billion</u> Estimate

Christie's has announced it will auction one of the most iconic portraits of George Washington, positioning the work with an unprecedented \$1 billion estimate—potentially the highest ever for a single painting. The sale signals extraordinary demand for foundational figures in American art and history, attracting global collector and institutional interest. If realized, the result would redefine benchmarks for historical portraiture at auction.



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