
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.



Alchemy and Memory: Anselm Kiefer Takes Over Palazzo Reale

Opening this February, the monumental exhibition *Le Alchimiste* transforms Milan's Sala delle Cariatidi into a theater of history. Kiefer presents a cycle of new large-scale canvases that engage directly with the historic scars of the venue, exploring themes of destruction, rebirth, and the alchemical process. The German master uses his signature materials lead, straw, and ash to create a tactile dialogue with the Neoclassical architecture. This immersive show stands as a testament to art's ability to confront the past, making it a profound visual experience that is already defining the 2026 art calendar.



Must See Exhibitions in February 2026

In February 2026, a wide-ranging group of exhibitions draws attention across major cultural centres. Highlights include Roberto Burle Marx at Andrew Kreps Gallery in New York, Bernd & Hilla Becher at Sprüth Magers in London, and Chanakya School at Experimenter in Kolkata, alongside Shubigi Rao at Tensta Konsthall in Stockholm. Further presentations feature Dominique White at Kunsthalle Basel, Jakkai Siributr at Canal Projects in New York, Ali Cherri at Almine Rech in New York, Rutherford Chang at UCCA Beijing, the group exhibition Sak-da at MMCA Seoul, and Julian Dashper at Michael Lett in Auckland, together reflecting a curatorial focus on materiality, memory, and re-examined histories.

LATIN AMERICA'S GIANT: ZONA MACO

Mexico City's Zona Maco returned as the centrepiece of Mexico City Art



Week 2026, running from 4 to 8 February at Centro Banamex. Marking its 22nd edition, the fair once again transformed the city into an international destination for collectors, curators, and art audiences. Bringing together over 220 galleries from 26 countries, Zona Maco spanned contemporary and modern art, design, photography, antiquities, and publications, balancing long-standing exhibitors with more than 40 new participants and signalling both continuity and renewal.



Art Basel Qatar 2026 Highlights

At its inaugural edition in Doha, Art Basel Qatar brought together 87 exhibitors from 31 countries. Structured around the theme *Becoming* and overseen by artistic director Wael Shawky, the fair adopted a distinctly curatorial framework. Sales activity was cautious but telling: Galerie Krinzinger reserved a wall installation by Maha Malluh (around \$80,000), Fergus McCaffrey presented a \$850,000 mixed-media work by Shigeko Kubota, and Al Markhiya Gallery showed a large-scale textile sculpture by Bouthayna Al Muftah priced at \$285,000. International galleries including Hauser & Wirth anchored the upper end of the market with Philip Guston works from the 1970s priced between \$9.5 million and \$14 million, signalling a measured but strategic entry into the global fair circuit.



Abu Dhabi Launches Art Customs Duty Waiver Programme

As Abu Dhabi strengthens its position on the global cultural and art scene, the capital emirate has introduced an art customs waiver programme, offering a secure and expertly governed framework for high-net-worth collectors and family offices. The initiative supports the preservation of significant artworks valued at AED 10 million and above, providing financial incentives alongside long-term reputational and cultural benefits.



Hollywood's Art Moment: Frieze Los Angeles Returns

The art world descends on the Santa Monica Airport from February 26 to March 1 for its most vibrant edition yet. This year brings together nearly 100 leading global galleries alongside a curated *Focus* section dedicated to discovering emerging talent and galleries under 12 years old. Beyond the commercial booths, the fair expands its footprint with site-specific

installations by the Art Production Fund that embrace LA's unique open air culture. With a strong emphasis on solo artist presentations, Frieze LA continues to solidify its reputation as the essential bridge between the entertainment industry and the contemporary art market.



Future Forecast: Hans Ulrich Obrist's Vision for 2026

What will define the art zeitgeist this year? Mega curator Hans Ulrich Obrist predicts a decisive shift away from "novelty" AI images toward using technology for collective action and social good. He also forecasts a rise in "long durational" artworks projects that unfold over years in gardens or farms highlighting artists like Otobong Nkanga who treat ecology as a method rather than just a theme. Furthermore, Obrist points to the booming intersection of video games and fine art, suggesting that virtual worlds will become the most critical new spaces for artist experimentation in 2026.



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