

No. 7 / November 2017, Cologne  
#colognefineart2017

## In a class of its own: COLOGNE FINE ART convinces with a unique art selection in Germany

Exhibitors report good sales and praise an expert public - Very good mood, full passages - Once again around 16,000 visitors

Concentrated, elegant and with positive emotions; COLOGNE FINE ART 2017 closed its doors on Saturday, 26 November 2017 after five successful days. A total of around 16,000 visitors came to the art fair. "Staged as a temporary chamber of curiosities that combines old and new at the highest level and at the same time with a great sense of lightness, we have been successful with COLOGNE FINE ART in positioning a completely independent approach in the midst of the large number of art fairs. The considerable reduction in size of the fair, more international exhibitors and the diverse selection of exquisite objects with presentations that partially represent museum quality, as well as the completely revised appearance of the fair, have entirely convinced the public", according to Katharina Hamma, Chief Operating Officer of Koelnmesse.

"COLOGNE FINE ART is the best German art fair in this offering segment", praises the Zurich-based top gallery owner Laszlo von Vertes, "it is compact, beautifully designed, and has this year once again experienced high-class growth. We also noticed synergy effects in combination with RETRO CLASSICS and EXPONATEC." In addition to numerous sales, Von Vertes also accepted a reservation for a painting of the Japanese painter Yayoi Kusama, which, at over a million Euros, was one of the most expensive works of this year's event. "The appearance is wonderful, the offering segments have been optimised", found the Cologne Pop Art specialist Klaus Benden, who sold works by Andy Warhol and an early pencil drawing by Alex Katz to collectors.

"COLOGNE FINE ART is absolutely consistent in terms of quality", confirmed COFA veteran Rainer Ludorff (Düsseldorf), "visitors are satisfied with the reduction in size". "It's a beautiful air fair that can't be replaced in the region, because it extends across eras", is the appraisal of Samandar Setareh, who added that "the eclectic selection is of high quality and even better than in the previous year". Setareh was successful with works from Otto Piene, Norbert Kricke, Hans Hartung and Imi Knoebel. Praise also came from Johannes Schilling from the Galerie Boisseree (Cologne). "The feature of this trade fair is the unbelievably solid, well-funded and decisive public", according to the fair participant of many years.

Great sales success was reported by Thole Rotermund, who brokered Emil Nolde's watercolour "Weite Marschlandschaft mit Bauernhöfen" (Expansive marsh landscape with farms) (mid 6-figure range) to a new customer. The "Young Designer Space", represented for the first time, is also "a good thing", found the Hamburg art dealer,



Cologne Fine Art  
23.11. - 26.11.2017  
www.colognefineart.com

Your contact:  
Peggy Krause  
Tel.  
+49 221 821-2076  
Fax  
+49 221 821-3544  
e-mail  
p.krause@koelnmesse.de

Koelnmesse GmbH  
Messeplatz 1  
50679 Köln  
P.O. Box 21 07 60  
50532 Köln  
Germany  
Tel. +49 221 821-0  
Fax +49 221 821-2574  
www.koelnmesse.com

Executive Board:  
Gerald Böse (President and Chief Executive Officer)  
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Chairwoman of the Supervisory Board:  
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who also had younger collectors visit his stand. "We had the best opening in a long time", reported **Dr Doris Möllers** from the art agency of the same name. The start of the trade fair was tremendous, and the numerous buyers included many new customers. "The trade fair is very elegant, and many top-quality collectors were there", Jinhee Choi from the young Cologne gallery **Choi & Lager** determined.

Dierk **Dierking** (Zurich) was pleased at the "great response" to his curated stand, at which he juxtaposed ceramics works by Thomas Virnich with ceramics from West Africa. Dierking sold pieces from both areas. "COFA was very successful for us", Maïke Denker from the **Galerie Kunst & Denker** shared, "the art fair is of very high quality and offers a lovely mixture of modern and old art". "We are always very happy in Cologne", says Ofer Gildor, Director of **Gilden's Art Gallery** from London, which was successful with German Expressionism works and works of Sam Francis. Simon Mills from **Trinity House Paintings** was able to welcome old customers to the stand and establish new contacts. "It's fantastic here in Cologne", the London gallery director reported enthusiastically.

Positive responses also came from the high quality new exhibitors. The **Stern Pissarro Gallery** from London also had visitors from neighbouring countries at its stand and was able to establish many new contacts. David Stern praised the high quality of the trade fair and the good balance between old and new art. Works by André Masson and Lélia Pissarro, as well as a sculpture by Yves Dana were sold. "We'll be coming again", David Stern assured. The **Galerie Marcilhac** from Paris was also pleased about new contacts and new customers; the same applied for the **Galerie Hélène Bailly** (Paris), which was taking part in its first German trade fair ever. "It is important for us to be in Germany, because we want to create a network here", Jeanne Dehaye shared. Works by Hans Hartung and Albert Haberpointner were sold.

Ferdinand Funk from the Munich-based **Galerie 20/21 Modern & Contemporary**, which primarily sold silver, was full of praise for the Rhenish public, which was appreciative of art, and the elegant appearance of the trade fair. Great appreciation was shown for the chamber of curiosities objects at the stand of **Theatrum Mundi** (Arezzo), which sold fossil objects and established many contacts, as Luca Cableri reported. Successful from the start was **Traute Conrad** (Asperg), which specialises in Vintage Couture costume jewellery. Already on the opening evening, they sold various pieces of jewellery and travel luggage from Louis Vuitton owned by the American entrepreneur family Firestone. Sylvia **Kovacek** (Vienna) was also satisfied with her COFA debut. She sold glasses and paintings, and praised the "knowledgeable public". "I really like it here", said the gallery owner. "We will be sure to come again next year", her Vienna colleague **Florian Kolhammer** summarised; he had many discussions and was pleased at the visit of museum people. The new exhibitor **Igra Lignum Antiquités** (Dompierre) praised the "sophisticated public", which was able to appreciate the offering. "We feel very welcome here", said art and furniture dealer Luca Bizzozero. New exhibitor **Kitsune**, specialising in Japanese art, was not only honoured by the vetting committee of the fair for the **best stand design** of COLOGNE FINE ART, but was also pleased at sales in all offering segments. "COFA is exactly the right size", the Brussels gallery owner Arie Vos found. "Everyone registered that the fair has become

even more lovely“, summarised **André Kirbach**, who praised the "brilliant opening".  
"I haven't seen such an atmosphere in a long time. The visitors were ecstatic."

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## Reported sales

### Galerie Klaus Benden

Andy Warhol "Santa Claus" one-of-a-kind drawing, trial proof and print run  
€ 165,000; "Jackie I" trial proof; pencil drawing by Alex Katz € 9,000

.

### Galerie Boisserée

Top-class graphic work between € 10,000 and 40,000; great positive response to  
Chillida

.

### Graphisches Antiquariat Braun

Old maps of Cologne and South America; flower bouquet of an unknown master

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### Choi & Lager

Painting by Helena Parada Kim € 6,000; work by James Hopkins € 4,000

.

### Traute Conrad

Travel luggage from Louis Vuitton and Vintage Couture costume jewellery

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### Dierk Dierking

Ceramics by Thomas Virnich and ceramics pieces from West Africa

### Galerie am Elisengarten

Oil painting by Armand Jamar for between € 2,000 and 12,000

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### Gilden`s Art Gallery

Works by Sam Francis and works of German Expressionism

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### Galerie Hafenrichter

Various works of the street artist Mr. Brainwash, € 8.500 each

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### Kunsthandel Hagemeier

Sculpture by Karl-Heinz Krause; 2 works of Alex Katz

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### Kunsthaus Kende

Sold art nouveau and Art Deco silver

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### Teppichkunst Hirschberg

Meditation rug "Abstract Tiger" € 22,000, several valuable kilims and other pieces

.

### André Kirbach

Works by Heiner Koch

### KK Kiez Kabinett

Day bed from Auping € 1,900; large chandelier € 5,900

**Galerie Koch**

Horst Antes' "Alte rote Figur in grün" (Old red figure in green), € 100,000, watercolour by E.W. Nay, works by Karl Bohrmann

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**Galerie Kovacek**

Glasses, paintings, 2 works by Arnulf Rainer

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**Galerie Maulberger**

Work by Herbert Zangs € 88,000; works by Karl Fred Dahmen

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**Patrick Mestdagh**

Ozeanische Stücke (Oceanic pieces)

.

**Kunstkontor Doris Möllers**

Colour lithography by Otto Dix "Katze und Hund" (Cat and dog) € 16,000; etching by Schmidt-Rottluff; art nouveau lamp € 28,000

**Thole Rotermund**

Emil Nolde "Weite Marschlandschaft mit Bauernhöfen" (Expansive marsh landscape with farms), mid 6-figure range

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**Samuelis Baumgarte**

Two canvases by Heinz Mack; photographs by Astrid Lowack, works by Peter Zimmermann

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**Galerie von Vertes**

Reservation for a painting by Yayoi Kusama, painting by Hans Hartung € 150,000; painting by Jawlensky € 250,000, Raoul Dufy, work on paper by Marino Marini € 100,000

**Note for editorial offices:**

COLOGNE FINE ART photos are available in our image database on the Internet at [www.colognefineart.com](http://www.colognefineart.com) in the "Press" section. Press information is available at: [www.colognefineart.com/Pressinformation](http://www.colognefineart.com/Pressinformation)

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**Your contact:**

Peggy Krause  
Communications Manager

Koelnmesse GmbH  
Messeplatz 1  
50679 Cologne  
Germany  
Tel.: + 49 221 821-2076

Fax:: + 49 221 821-3544  
p.krause@koelnmesse.de  
www.koelnmesse.com

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