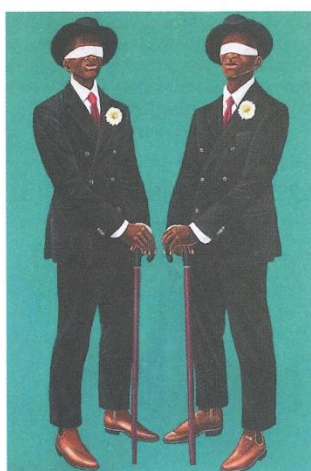


# THE ART NEWSPAPER

THE ART NEWSPAPER | **FRIEZE ART FAIR** | 15 OCTOBER 2021 | ISSUE 3 | **FREE EVERY DAY**

## Strong sales at 1-54 fair—with more African dealers than ever



**Two Apostles (2021) by Zemba Luzamba, at South Africa's Ebony/Curated gallery**

**A RECORD NUMBER OF GALLERIES FROM AFRICA**—20, among a total of 47—are participating in the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair at Somerset House in London this week (until 17 October), with some dealers taking advantage of newly relaxed pandemic travel rules in the UK. South Africa, for instance, was taken off the UK government's "red list" earlier this week, meaning that visitors from the country will no longer be subject to a mandatory ten-day hotel quarantine.

"I booked my flight to make it to the fair just in time to install," says Julie Taylor, the founder of Guns & Rain gallery in Johannesburg, which is offering works by Thina Dube priced from £1,000 and earth pigment pieces by the Botswana-based artist Ann Gollifer, ranging from £2,500 to £5,000.

Marc Stanes, the co-founder of Ebony/Curated gallery in Cape Town and in Franschoek on South Africa's

Western Cape, says that he sold around 70% of works by artists such as Kimathi Mafafo and Zemba Luzamba during the VIP preview yesterday. "This fair has built up a solid collector base; institutions also attend," Stanes says, adding that there is currently "a lot of activity in the contemporary African art market since US collectors began buying a few years ago". Price points for works on the stand range from £3,500 to £14,000.

Aissa Dione, the founder of Galerie Atiss Dakar in Senegal, noted that Covid-19 restrictions made it "extremely difficult to get here" but nevertheless considers 1-54 an important platform as "the market is very restricted in Africa". Her gallery is selling Ngimbi Bakambana's painting *Chaussures descendant un escalier* (2021), priced at €11,000, and the textile piece *Colours of the "silenced"* (2020) by Eloilo Bosoka (€7,500).

Many of the participating galleries cite the impact of Frieze, highlighting how high footfall from the fairs in Regent's Park extends to the ninth edition of 1-54. "We get a wider audience thanks to Frieze," says Nneoma Ilogu, the manager of the Lagos-based gallery SMO Contemporary Art, which sold three works by the Nigerian artist Deborah Segun during the VIP preview, priced at £6,750 each.

The Ethiopian gallery Addis Fine Art, which recently opened its first permanent London location on Eastcastle Street in the Fitzrovia gallery district, is participating in both Frieze London and 1-54. "We want to make sure we make space in the mainstream for our artists," says Rakeb Sile, the gallery's co-founder. Addis Fine Art sold four works by the Ethiopian artist Tesfaye Urgessa at the 1-54 VIP preview, priced at £10,500 each.

**Gareth Harris**

## DIARY

*Frieze Week*

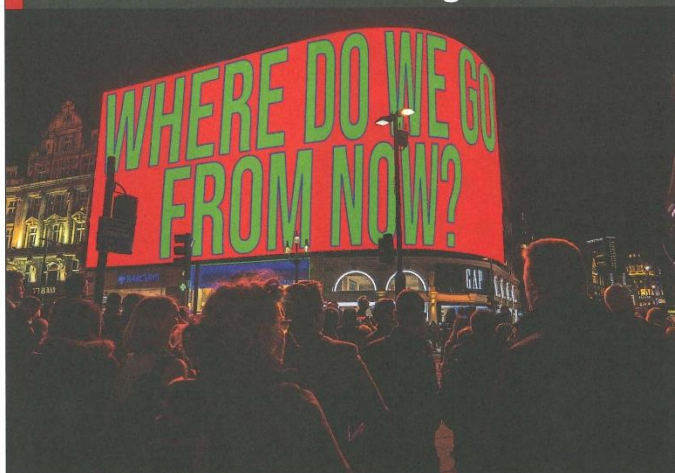
### Where art and pop collide

Faces may be covered but the art world still channelled its festive spirit at the two main parties to mark the opening of Frieze. Christie's hosted a champagne and cocktail-fuelled shindig to celebrate their show of works by Stanley Donwood, who has produced all of the visuals for Radiohead ever since meeting the band's frontman Thom Yorke at art school in Exeter. Yorke performed an experimental electronic set in front of a giant, striped Gerhard Richter painting with Radiohead bassist Colin Greenwood also in attendance. Meanwhile, the Arts Club x Evening Standard bash was presided over by the legendary house music DJ Seth Troxler, who kept the artists Conrad Shawcross, Shezad Dawood and Yinka Ilori along with Princess Eugenie on their feet until the early hours.



**Playing it straight: Radiohead's Thom Yorke performing at Christie's Frieze party, in front of a Gerhard Richter work**

### Circa hits the Circus with a big ask



**The big screen at Piccadilly Circus; the audience was later treated to an appearance by Marina Abramović**

Where do we go from now? This is a question we have all been asking ourselves over the past months and, in the lead-up to the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow at the end of this month and to celebrate its first anniversary, Circa—the digital arts platform that lights up the giant screens at Piccadilly Circus—has been eliciting some very diverse answers from art luminaries including Hans Ulrich Obrist and Marina Abramović. Many of these

are reproduced on a printed "Roadmap" that Circa is distributing at Frieze today. Ai Weiwei, David Hockney, Patti Smith and many others have also donated prints to fundraise for Circa's numerous projects aimed at the wider creative sector. Last night, Abramović appeared on the Piccadilly screen to announce the winner of their inaugural £30,000 Circa x Dazed award, which went to the queer artist, activist and drag performer Joseph Wilson.

### Unsung heroine makes a splash

Janet Sobel may well be one of the art world's best-kept secrets—and James Brett, the founder of The Gallery and Museum of Everything, is determined to shine a light on this "great unsung heroine of 20th-century art" with a presentation of her works at Frieze Masters. Sobel seems to have been erased from the canon of Abstract Expressionist art—"she has been perpetually excluded," Brett says—but some commentators argue that she pioneered the drip painting style a couple of years before Jackson Pollock splashed and smeared his way into art history. "Bad painting by Sobel's son also inspired her," Brett explains. Ouch.



**An untitled painting by Janet Sobel from the early 1940s—before she turned to drip painting, allegedly years before Jackson Pollock**

### Court artist says it with flowers

The artist Lakwena Maciver is wowing the crowds at the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair with her vibrant basketball paintings that fill the courtyard of Somerset House. Maciver is a fan of the game and even painted two full-size courts in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, last year in honour of the state senator Stephanie Anne Flowers, who spoke out against "Stand your Ground" gun laws. Meanwhile, Maciver's intricate hair arrangement, bedecked with an array of flowers, certainly caught the eye at the fair VIP preview. But the young London-based artist is not taking any chances with her floral hair do: "I took a hayfever tablet just in case!" she quipped.



THOM YORKE: COURTESY OF CHRISTIE'S; CIRCA: COURTESY OF REECE WATSON; CIRCA ART: ITS LAUREN MANDLER; COURTESY OF GARETH HARRIS; JANET SOBEL: COURTESY OF THE GALLERY OF EVERYTHING.