



## These Are the Standout Moments from Frieze Los Angeles 2022

With over 100 exhibitors, the international art fair is returning to Southern California stronger than ever

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Two years ago, the art world descended on Los Angeles for Frieze L.A., what would turn out to be the last fair in the U.S. before the world came to a grinding halt due to the pandemic. After canceling its West Coast edition entirely last year, Frieze L.A. is returning from February 17 to 20 stronger than ever. On Thursday, the fair's VIP opening boasted a decidedly jubilant and buzzy mood. And with the exception of everyone wearing masks and a few vaccine protocols thrown in, it felt just like the social fair days of old.

Adding to the excitement was that seemingly every gallery has recently announced plans to open a Los Angeles space, including Pace and Sean Kelly, resulting in the global art world closely following the flourishing cultural scene—and it did not disappoint. In its smart new location in Beverly Hills, adjacent to the iconic Beverly Hilton Hotel, a large white tent designed by the Los Angeles darling of architecture Kulapat Yantrasast and his firm, WHY, has been erected opposite the Beverly Hilton.

The iconic hot-pink Frieze logo wall beckons visitors at the entrance, encouraging plenty of selfies and photos before check in. Compared to the scaled-down version of Frieze New York last year, with just 60 galleries at the Shed, Frieze L.A. returns with gusto, upping its gallery count to some 100 exhibitors. Inside, it was as busy as ever. Booths were jam-packed with fairgoers embracing and excitedly chatting, making it at times difficult to walk through the aisles for the first few hours. It wouldn't be an L.A. moment without some celebrities of course, and spotted meandering the booths in the first hour were Pierce Brosnan at Pace Gallery (admiring a large *Gazing Ball* sculpture by Jeff Koons, no less), Owen Wilson, Amy Pohler, Leonardo DiCapro, Rita Ora, and the Weeknd.

Below, *Galerie* shares a selection of standout artworks and booths that made a big impression.

## **2. Legendary Artist Joan Semmel's Unflinching Nudes Cause a Stir at Alexander Gray Associates**

At 89 years old, Joan Semmel has been exploring the theme of the naked body since the early 1970s, when she made her mark on the art world painting large-scale oil paintings of couples having intercourse. Since then, she has turned the attention inward, using her highly personal paintings as a means to document her nude body as it has aged over the years. Three large-scale works by Semmel make an immediate impact of the booth of Alexander Gray Associates.

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Spaced Out by Joan Semmel, 2019.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALEXANDER GRAY ASSOCIATES.

One of the more recent works that is particularly breathtaking; *Spaced Out* which she created in 2019, depicts a top-down, close up, view of her fleshy breasts, arms and stomach. rendered in a vivid palette of reds, oranges, and purples against an acidic turquoise green, lending the work an almost supernatural glow. Semmel is currently having a big year, with her first and long overdue museum retrospective. Titled "Skin in the Game," it covers more than six decades of her practice and is on view at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts (PAFA) in Philadelphia. The works had all sold on opening morning.