

ARTnews

What The World's Top Collectors Bought in 2022, From Warhol Digital Works to Dazzling Abstractions

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A recent acquisition by Mato Perić, a new addition to this year's list, is overdose (1997) by Michel Majerus, who will be the subject of a major survey at the ICA Miami later this year.

PHOTO ROBERT GLOWACKI/ 2022 MICHEL MAJERUS ESTATE/COURTESY PERIĆ COLLECTION

The collectors who rank on **ARTnews**'s annual Top 200 list are often avid travelers, heading to various locales around the world to see—and buy—great art. While the pandemic's lockdown in 2020 brought all that to a halt, this summer's loosening of travel restrictions in many countries saw these collectors go on the move once again.

Many collectors, both those based in the U.S. and Europe, headed to the Venice Biennale—and a chorus of them reported that seeing Simone Leigh's U.S. Pavilion installation was a highlight of the trip. (Indeed, many of them are collectors of the artist's work.)

On their treks, collectors often hit up major museums exhibitions, gallery shows, and fairs to make their purchases. A handful of them are also known to compete for blue-chip works at the major evening sales put on by Sotheby's and Christie's each May and November, where they're bound to spend millions of dollars on art.

Each year, as **ARTnews** prepares its latest edition of the Top 200 Collectors list, we survey our collectors to gain greater insight to their collecting habits over the past 12 months.

Popular artists this year include Amanda Williams, Reggie Burrows Hodges, Shara Hughes, Rick Lowe, Alvaro Barrington, and Igshaan Adams, whose reputation in the U.S. was only bolstered by a widely acclaimed survey at the Art Institute of Chicago. Perennial favorites of the Top 200 include Jean Dubuffet, Rashid Johnson, Cecily Brown, Alicja Kwade, Vaughn Spann, and Amoako Bofo.

Many collectors are also sensitive to the shifts within the art world, and this year, some said they had focused—or in some cases continued to focus—on historically significant artists who had gone under-recognized. Among the ones collectors said they bought this time were Hughie Lee-Smith, Grace Hartigan, Norman Lewis, Jewad Selim, and Claude Cahun.

Below, a look at what our Top 200 Collectors recently purchased.



Joan Semmel, *Red Hand*, 2019.

Photo : Photo Dan Bradica/©2021 Joan Semmel/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/Courtesy Alexander Gray Associates, New York

For Elham and Tony Salamé, their best art experience in the past 12 months was “visiting the studio of Joan Semmel and reviewing the works with her. It was a beautiful moment to spend with her,” they said. That eventually led to their acquisition of two of Semmel's works: *Red Floor* (2020) and *Red Hand* (2019), both of which debuted at her 2021 exhibition at Alexander Gray Associates.