Galerie

11 Art World Luminaries Share Their Top Picks from Frieze New York 2023

We asked Future Perfect's David Alhadeff, Whitney curator Rujeko Hockley, collector Komal Shah, and Performa founder RoseLee Goldberg what caught their eye on the opening day BY LUCY REES MAY 18, 2023



The 11th edition of Frieze New York kicked off at The Shed in Hudson Yards this week with 68 galleries from around the world setting up shop inside the striking Diller Scofidio + Renfro-designed building. On Wednesday morning, throngs of collectors and VIPs formed a long queue outside the space, eagerly hoping to get a first look at the offerings. Busier than ever, the fair inside was abuzz with energy as New Yorkers entered their second stretch of art and design fairs (TEFAF, Independent, and Future Fair all took place within the previous seven days, extending what was once New York's May art week into what feels like the entire month).

So how did Frieze New York 2023 set itself apart? Firstly, thanks to its location inside The Shed, which it has occupied since 2021, many exhibitors took the chance to form a dialogue with the city at large, presenting works that had simultaneous exhibitions around Manhattan.

Take, for example, the bicoastal gallerist David Kordansky, who presented a dazzling solo booth by L.A. artist Lauren Halsey, who also transformed the rooftop of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Or Sprüth Magers and Karma International's joint presentation of Pamela Rosenkranz's work, which coincides with her recent commission on the nearby High Line Plinth. Overall, there were a mix of exciting new discoveries by emerging artists (some standouts include Emma Prempeh at Tiwani Gallery and Rose Salane's installation at Chapter NY and Carlos/Ishikawa) as well as deep dives into more historical artists like Carlos Villa, whose work was on view at Silverlens.

"Frieze New York is an international destination," says Christine Messineo, who was appointed director of Frieze Los Angeles and Frieze New York in November 2021. "This year, the solo presentations at the fair really stand out with work by Jack Whitten (Hauser & Wirth), Nan Goldin (Gagosian), and Mary Lovelace O'Neal (Jenkins Johnson) all a real draw for our visitors on the opening day. The Focus section, for younger galleries, has also proved itself to be a major attraction, with artists such as Mónica Giron (Barro), Sam Lipp (Derosia), and Julia Yerger (Chateau Shatto). I also want to give a special mention to the Artist Plate Project to benefit the Coalition for the Homeless, who saw extraordinary lines on our opening day, with each plate sold feeding 100 hungry people. Their mission could not be more urgent."

With the who's who of the art world spotted wandering the aisles on the opening day, we asked some of the nation's leading curators, museum directors, and collectors to share what caught their eye and why it impressed them so. Explore the standout works below.

11. Harmony Hammond at Alexander Gray Associates

"I was captivated by the work of Harmony Hammond, one of the early pioneers of feminist art in New York. Her large-scale sculpture-like painting Bandaged Grid #12 (Big Gold), 2022–2023 at Alexander Gray Associates is a can't miss. The work, consisting of layered strips and patches of frayed fabric and grommets painted in ochre and brick red create a dynamic, geometric abstract grid. The physicality of the work evokes a bandaged body, implying wounds but also the process of healing, suggesting vulnerability and strength." —Klaudio Rodriguez, Executive Director, Bronx Museum of the Arts