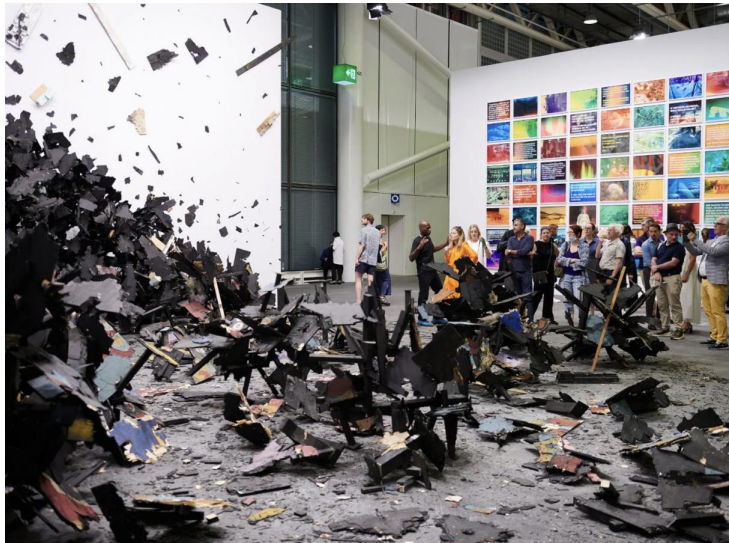


OCULA

The Swiss fair announced 285 galleries this year, 21 of whom will show in Basel for the first time.

By Sam Gaskin 27 February 2023



Art Basel returns to Messe Basel from 13 to 18 June.

'With 21 newcomers, and 12 galleries newly entering the principal sector of the fair, this year's show feels particularly invigorated and rich in discoveries,' said Vincenzo de Bellis, Art Basel's Director, Fairs and Exhibition Platforms.

Among those participating for the first time, three will enter directly into the main Galleries

sector: blank projects (Cape Town), Empty Gallery (Hong Kong), and Offer Waterman (London).

Another eight will join in the Feature sector, which focuses on art historical projects. They are: acb (Budapest), David Castillo (Miami), Thomas Erben Gallery (New York), Gajah Gallery (Jakarta, Yogyakarta, and Singapore), M77 Gallery (Milan), Martos Gallery (New York), Jacky Strenz (Frankfurt), and Galerie Bene Taschen (Cologne).

The first-time exhibitors appearing in the Statements sector, devoted to emerging artists from around the globe, are: Broadway (New York), Cooper Cole (Toronto), Gaga (Mexico City and Los Angeles), Hua International (Beijing and Berlin), Jhaveri Contemporary (Mumbai), LC Queisser (Tbilisi), Kendra Jayne Patrick (Bern and New York), sans titre (Paris), SMAC Art Gallery (Cape Town, Johannesburg, and Stellenbosch), and Soft Opening (London).

¹ Art Basel, Basel (16–19 June 2022). Courtesy Art Basel.

Outside of the gallery booths, Giovanni Carmine, Director of the Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen, will curate the fair's Unlimited sector with some 70 large-scale installations and performances.

'Additionally, I am thrilled that internationally renowned artist Latifa Echakhch will take over the city's Messeplatz with her ambitious, interdisciplinary installation, inviting fair-goers and passers-by to rediscover the public dimension of the square,' de Bellis said.

Born in Morocco, Echakhch represented Switzerland at the 59th Venice Biennale in 2022. She will build a 'sprawling superstructure' that will act as a backdrop for a series of concerts and performances.

Art Basel CEO Noah Horowitz added that, 'I am incredibly excited to welcome the international art community to Basel in June for another premier edition of our show and my first as the organisation's CEO.' —[O]

Artists described a cold and lonely winter, making work by candlelight, and an acute sensitivity to the sounds of engines and explosions. Despite everything, they expressed hope and gratitude.



Daniel Spivakov. Courtesy Daniel Spivakov and Stallmann Galleries.

Today, Russia's invasion of Ukraine enters its second year. Events have been organised around the art world to mark this sombre anniversary.

Among them is the exhibition *Eternal February*, which opens today at Ugallery in Tbilisi. It showcases multimedia work by Russian artist Alexei Garikovich, who fled to Georgia with his Ukrainian children after the invasion.

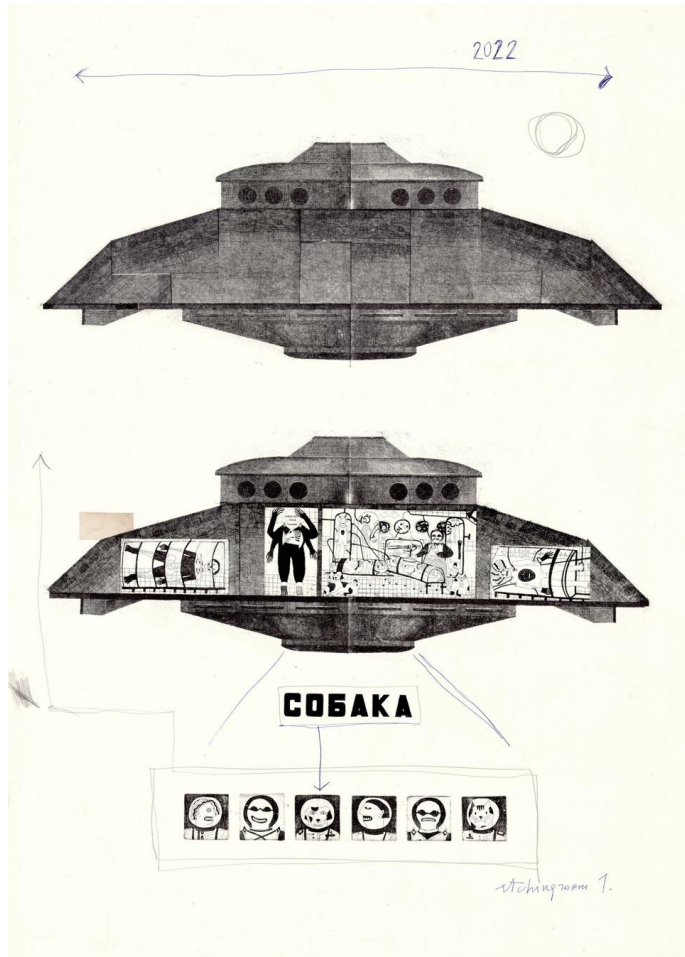
'I watched as the Putin regime turned stillborn ideas into a new ideology,' explained Garikovich, who was born in Moscow. 'I want to expose the nature of Putin's evil and its manipulative mechanisms. My hope is it will open someone's eyes.'



Alexei Garikovich, *IDOL SERIES* (2022). Acrylic on canvas. 60 x 40 cm. Courtesy the artist and Ugallery.

ArtEast Gallery in Berlin is opening the exhibition *The Time Has Come* in collaboration with Open Society Foundations to commemorate the anniversary. Featuring ten artists and duos, the exhibition seeks to capture the resilience of Ukrainians' artistic spirit even at wartime.

To support Ukrainian artists, ArtEast founders Cornélia Marang-Schmidmayr and Ivanna Bogdanova-Bertrand believe that 'the most important thing is still that we listen to the artists, that we adapt to their specific needs (mobility, flexibility, stability) and allow them to work.'



Other exhibitions promoting Ukrainian artists include forthcoming group shows at the Castello di Rivoli, Turin and the Albertinum, Dresden.

Ukrainians will also feature at upcoming art fairs. Stanislava Pinchuk, for instance, is showing with Yavuz Gallery as part of Art Basel Hong Kong's Encounters section next month.

Based in Sarajevo, Pinchuk describes a 'period of unscrambling' after the invasion, 'figuring out what I could pour my grief and anger and resistance into, and figuring out what I had to do to stay afloat', both spiritually and practically.

'I think to make it through this time you have to have a wild amount of hope,' she said. 'And

that's what art is — hope and refuge for the soul.'

Artist WAONE described difficult conditions on returning to his Kyiv studio in December 2022 after travelling to Paris to paint a mural.

'During blackouts we had no water, no centralised heating in the studio or at home, no internet and cellphone connection,' he said. Works created then were 'painted by candlelight.'

² Stanislava Pinchuk. Photo: Luca Caizzi.

WAONE is now back in France, where he's working on an exhibition with art print store Idem Paris.

Given the conditions in Ukraine, it's no surprise that many artists have had to move their practice abroad.

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Berlin-based painter Daniel Spivakov left before the war, but its effects are still painfully present in his life and work. Defining art as an 'act of radical hope', he shows no signs of slowing down despite the horrors at home.

Spivakov explains, 'There's been no time in my life when that hope is needed more than now, and so I never

made more paintings than I have since the war began.' His macabre paintings will be on display in two exhibitions next month: a London solo show by emerging art dealer Martin Schlombs, followed by his museum debut in the group show Chronorama Redux at Palazzo Grassi in Venice.

While many have become refugees, others, like artist Tiberiy Szilvashi, have had to remain in Ukraine. He describes a lonely, freezing winter, the streets beyond his Kyiv studio barren.

³ Stanislava Pinchuk. Photo: Luca Caizzi.



WAONE, *From Legend to Discovery* (2022). Mural commissioned by The Standard, East Village. 48 feet. Courtesy the artist and The Standard, East Village. Photo: Mike Vitelli.

'You begin to distinguish sounds,' he explained. 'Distinguish the sounds of the engine of cars; military diesel or passenger car, earthly or heavenly sounds.

The sound of a helicopter, the sound of a rocket. Distance to explosions.' Nevertheless, Szilvashi finds hope in the 'worldwide solidarity' that has developed since Russia invaded Ukraine one year ago.

'I thank all acquaintances and strangers,' he said. 'I felt your touch on my hand that was outstretched to you. And I feel it now.' —[O]

Additional reporting by Sam Gaskin