



Emillions Monthly Art Market Insights

May Edition

About this Newsletter

The world of Art is filled with attention-grabbing headlines, beauty, history, undiscovered treasure, life changing wealth, and it is never boring. When you open the Emillions Monthly Art Market Insights* you open a window to a world of discovery.

Whether you are interested in the latest news on sales, stories from the murky world of fraud, upcoming international exhibitions, the latest innovations or simply some juicy words from the realm of celebrity, our mission is to keep you excited and connected to a place we are passionate about.

*Much of our insight is drawn from published news stories; they are clearly referenced and links for further reading included in our "Sources" section.

Latest Emillions Art News

We have established an exclusive relationship with a private (members only) business club, Butcher Private, in Naples Florida. This is a great opportunity for our clients to experience high value art, on an **"invitation only"** basis in a highly exclusive setting. We are also we are producing experiential events and educational content; this is exclusive and invite-only for our clients and partners.

"Storytelling Series" – "A life in art" featured Dario Campanile, featured a fireside chat in front of an audience of **40** guests. The event focused on a calling spanning 60 years in which he has mastered several styles from realism and surrealism to abstract forms. He has worked with people from Salvador Dali to Paramount Studios and the Dali Lama. He has won several awards and is a true master, producing works of value, with a compelling, inspiring and spiritual story: a true **"Life in Art"**.

We launched our new website <https://emillionsart.com/>, emphasizing our focus on a full suite of services to deliver **"the Next Level of Art and Value"**, including a focus on a smaller number of contemporary artists that we consider **"Emerging Masters"** of value.

Finally we have been appointed to represent, market and sell an outstanding private collection of Old Masters, and look forward to bringing this to our exclusive client base.

Summary and Opinion

The first quarter of the year and into April has seen Art market transactions take a positive leap forward. The first major art exhibition at the Venice Biennale has started. Reports suggest the London market looked a little stronger after Christie's 20th/21st Century and Art of the Surreal auctions on **Thursday March 7**.

Covering Impressionist, Modern, Surrealist and contemporary art, back-to-back sales achieved **£196.7 m (\$250 m)** versus an estimated **£166 m to £233 m** estimate¹. In other news a number of attention-grabbing artworks went up for auction, tinged with a degree of controversy (from Warhol/Basquiat collaborations to suggestions of Nazi related works in the mix). We saw a number of significant philanthropic projects, and innovation, through the introduction of products such as bonds backed by securitized art loans and digital art, is still high on the agenda.

Front Page News

"Front Page News" is where we present a small number of eye-catching news stories, hitting the press this month

Yayoi Kusama

Identified as the top selling contemporary artist of 2023

Many commentators are suggesting that female artists are gaining a momentum in the contemporary art category: "Auctions have seen the number of works by contemporary female artists rise by 179 percent in the past five years"². Yayoi Kusama, the Japanese artist known for her bright patterned paintings, sculptures and installations, generated \$80.9 m at auction last year, making her the best-selling contemporary artist of 2023, according to the Hiscox Artist Top 100 report. In second place with \$50.3 million was David Hockney the top-selling 21st-century artist of 2022. Kusama's highest-selling work of the year was her 2014 painting *A Flower*, which fetched nearly \$10 million at Christies in Hong Kong.



Jeff Koons

In trouble or making a leap forward?³

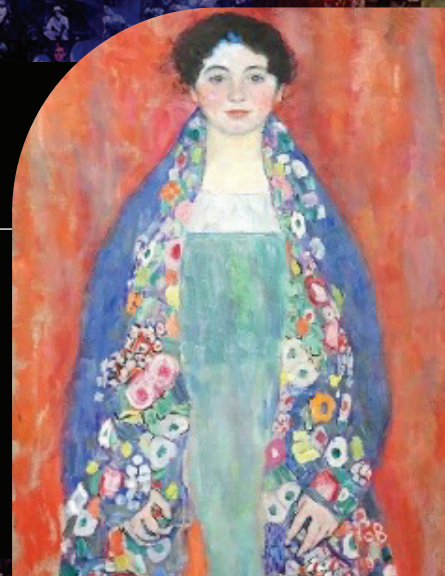
Art is officially on the moon! and it is from Jeff Koons. Seems the perfect gesture by the mastermind of pop culture, advertising, and large-scale public sculptures that has earned him the crown of most expensive living artist. His prices have underperformed from previous highs, but this high-profile artist has had his art sent to the moon and is embarking on high profile exhibitions in Hong Kong, New York and London. Art press³ is asking the question whether this trend will turn and the impact of "power-player" collectors will break \$50m for his Michael Jackson and Bubbles sculpture.



"Lost" Gustav Klimt

To be auctioned in Vienna

A painting by the Austrian artist Gustav Klimt believed lost for the past 100 years, was auctioned on 24 April in Vienna⁴. The painting's value was estimated at up to €50m (\$53m; £42m), but was finally sold for \$37m. There are many unanswered questions about the unfinished painting, *Portrait of Fraulein Lieser*, which Klimt began in 1917 - a year before his death. There are also debates about who the woman in the picture is, and what happened to the painting during the Nazi era. Art historians say the painting is of Margarethe Constance Lieser, the daughter of Adolf Lieser. Klimt's art has fetched huge sums at auction in the past: his "Lady with a Fan" piece sold for £85.3m at Sotheby's in June 2023, making it the most valuable artwork sold at auction in Europe.



Sale & Auctions

High value, collectable and investable, art is being exchanged regularly. Some of this is through high visible profile auctions; others through much less visible “off market” transactions. There are also “seasons”; typically May and November in New York and June in London where there is a flourish of activity. Here, we bring to your attention some of the most interesting coming across our radar.

Basquiat/Warhol head to auction in May: expected 6x increase in price⁵



An untitled 1984 painting by Andy Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat is due for auction at Sotheby's in a contemporary art evening sale this May. It will be the picture's first appearance at auction since it sold, in 2010 for **\$2.65m**. Sotheby's has placed its estimate this time at **\$18 million** - if it sells for that price, it will have increased in value more than 6x.

“The work is part of a famed—and polarizing—grouping of paintings that the two art stars produced collaboratively between 1984 and 1985. Basquiat was far younger than Warhol, who at that point was seen as an aging Pop artist seeking relevancy. Some accused Warhol of parasitically feeding on Basquiat's fame with these works, which combine the former's consumerist imagery with the latter's skulls and graffiti-like scrawls”.

Recap of 2023 Auctions: 10 most expensive sales⁶



Looking back to the full year 2023, the top 10 lots at auction totalled \$2.4bn, a notable drop from \$4.1 billion in 2022 (which was driven mainly by the Paul Allen sale at Christie's—the most expensive auction in history). In this environment, two artworks sold for over \$100 million; Pablo Picasso's *Femme à la montre* (1932) and Gustav Klimt's *Dame mit Fächer* (Lady with a Fan) (1917). Just three of the top 50 most expensive sales at auction in 2023 were works by female artists— Louise Bourgeois, Georgia O'Keeffe and Joan Mitchell compared to zero in 2022.

Exhibitions & Events

At Emillions Art, we love attending exhibitions and arts fairs, as they can help identify emerging artists and trends. That said, it is easy to get lost at an arts fair; preparation is key, and it is important to go with a plan.

There are several exhibitions taking place during **2024** :



Art Fair Calendar⁷

It's art fair season again and the artworld is heating up. In the source section, you can find information on over 380 art fairs world-wide. Ones to watch for the coming month include:

- Art Basel – 13 June
- Art Monte-Carlo – 6 July
- Hamptons Fine Art Fair – 11 July



12 “Must See” European Exhibitions⁸

A detailed list can be found in our sources section. Highlights include 'Angelica Kauffman' at Royal Academy of Arts, London, (1 March to 30 June). 'Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment' at Musée d'Orsay (26 March to 14 July 2024). 'Jean Cocteau: The Juggler's Revenge' Peggy Guggenheim Collection (13 April 2024 to 16 Sept). 'The Last Caravaggio' at London's National Gallery (18 April to 21 July)

Frauds, Fakes & Politics

Some interesting and “juicy” issues hit the artworld recently, ranging from the conviction of a US citizen for selling counterfeit art on the internet, to discussion surrounding the issue of “Nazi” art.

14 months in Prison for selling 145 counterfeit Peter Max paintings online¹⁰

Nicholas Hatch, from Winton Connecticut, sold 145 fake Peter Max paintings from around April 2020 to January 2022, collecting \$248,600 and defrauding 43 customers. He provided customers with certificates of authenticity in addition to using several aliases.

Comment: *This case highlights the need for collectors to be very clear about authenticity and the identity of the seller, before making a financial commitment; something on which we at Emillions Art are laser focused.*



The spectre of “Nazi” Art surrounding “lost” Gustav Klimt⁴



Research suggests the Henriette Lieser's daughter is the girl in the painting who was ultimately deported by the Nazis and died at Auschwitz during the Holocaust. The auction house said in a statement that the exact fate of the painting after 1925 was "unclear". The identity of the current Austrian owners has not been made public. The painting is being sold based on the “Washington Principles” - an international agreement to return Nazi-looted art to the descendants of the people the pieces were taken from.

However Erika Jakubovits, the executive director of the Presidency of the Austrian Jewish Community, said there were still “many unanswered questions” calling for the case to be researched by “an independent party”. “Art restitution is a very sensitive issue, all research must be carried out accurately and in detail, and the result must be comprehensible and transparent,” Ms Jakubovits said.

Inigo Phillips, convicted of \$80m Art Fraud, released after 4 years: plans his future career in Art¹¹

Vanity Fair published a wide-ranging article from the perspective of Inigo Phillips and his TV celebrity wife, telling “their side of the story”. Reported at the time¹², the legal ramifications of a 7-year sentence covering \$80m of art fraud: “His was a smoke-and-mirrors trade that involved selling a total of more than 100% of an artwork to multiple investors without their knowledge, using works as collateral on loans without informing their co-owners, and falsifying documents to inflate artwork values, with one contract listing a stolen identity as the seller, according to the US Department of Justice”.

VANITY FAIR

In the Vanity Fair interview “Of course, I did things the wrong way,” says Philbrick. “But creatively and with the best of intentions. I’ll have to tick the box for the felony. But I believe the art world is sophisticated enough to understand that I wasn’t Bernie Madoff (who never made an actual investment).” Indeed, he foresees a professional future. “I’d like to get reestablished as an art dealer,” he says. “And that’s going to require a lot of listening and discussing with friends, clients, colleagues. I’ve had some indications of interest from friends in helping me get started, but it’s too early to say more.”

Comment: *Art dealing is unregulated and there are dangers for buyers and sellers. Choosing your dealer and ensuring they are acting transparently and with integrity is critical. At Emillions Art we live by integrity and ensure our clients are in control of all aspects of the deal and their route to value.*

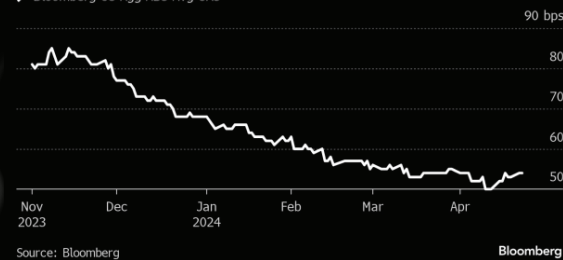
Innovation (Finance & Technology)

At Emillions Art, one of our core values is “Being at the Forefront”. Innovation in the form of new sources of value, financial mechanisms and technology is happening faster than ever before. In our newsletter we identify examples of innovation that we believe are pointing the way to future opportunity.

ABS Spreads Have Tightened Over the Last Six Months

Spreads are lower by over 30 basis points since November's peak

✓ Bloomberg US Agg ABS Avg OAS



Art Loans finding a home in bond markets for credit investors¹³

The clamor for asset-backed securities is moving to alternative forms of debt to package into bonds, including art and even internet addresses. Global internet provider Cogent Communications is offering a \$206m bond backed by IP addresses; auction house Sotheby's recently sold \$700m of bonds backed by securities (in a structure is similar to many asset-backed securities, including those backed by credit-card loans or auto loans,) created from personal loans made to art collectors “art secured loans”. Barrons14 identify the global art-secured lending space as expecting to reach between \$29bn and \$39bn.

An investor and collector to watch: the traditional art mindset ready to transform digital collecting Pablo Rodriguez-Fraile¹⁵

The proprietor of RFC Art Collection, with his wife Desiree Casoni, has consistently been early to collecting many of the biggest names in onchain art, including blue-chip artists Beeple and Refik Anadol. Boasting over **2,000** artworks with a self-described focus on “sophisticated, tokenized digital art,” he made headlines with the landmark donation of Anadol's “Unsupervised – Machine Hallucinations – MoMA” to the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) — the first tokenized artwork to enter its permanent collection.

Pablo is clear “... I'm considering establishing a foundation to offer grants, support exhibitions, and expand digital art beyond our current echo chambers. This move is critical for bridging the gap between digital and traditional art worlds”.



Comment: At Emillions Art we have direct experience of NFTs and digital art, having built and exited an NFT platform. We found that the “gold rush” for NFTs created unhealthy dynamics and expectations between artists and collectors. Pablo represents the emergence of the truly Savvy investor, one who just might be able to play his part in the transformation of this space from one of the clique to be more accessible.

Philanthropy

Art is the type of asset that is often seen as representing a legacy for generations. Whether it be gifting, inheritance planning or seeking to have an impact in society, art has a significant role to play in the field of Philanthropy. The world of philanthropy also offers opportunity for wealth management through areas such as tax and estate planning.



Gift of Calder Sculptures set to have huge impact on Seattle Art Museum and City¹⁶

What started with a gift of 48 artworks (the group of works was valued at \$200 million) from Jon and Kim Shirley, transformed into an enduring legacy with a \$10m endowment and an annual commitment of \$250,000 to \$500,000. In addition to covering the preservation and conservation expenses for the donated collection, the funding will enable the museum to host Calder-related events, including curator tours, lectures, art-making workshops, a festival for families, and workshops.

ART
INSTITUTE
CHICAGO

Nichols Family Foundation creating legacy for Art in Chicago¹⁷

A \$25 million gift from the John D. and Alexandra C. Nichols Family Foundation will support aspirational campus evolution and visitor-centered spaces at the Art Institute of Chicago, with a focus on the Nichols Family Skyline Garden. This is a continuation of the generosity to the Art Institute of Chicago for decades, including the Nichols Bridgeway that spans Monroe Street and links the museum to Millennium Park.

The Nichols family's ongoing commitment to the Art Institute of Chicago totals nearly \$50 million over 43 years in support of enhancing visitor experiences through our world-class collection, constructing new space in our ever-evolving campus, and investing in the future of the cultural community and civic life in downtown Chicago.

Comment: The above are just two examples of wealthy individuals taking action to leave an enduring legacy; clearly individuals, families and their foundations are hugely active in philanthropic causes across the world. Deeply philanthropic, there are also wealth management advantages, and this is increasingly an aspect of the discussion and services provided to our clients at Emillions Art.

Tantalising Tidbits

For those of you interested in gossip and celebrity news, here are few tantalising tidbits.

Proud Mom Madonna “drops in” on Son Rocco’s Miami Art Show¹⁸

Madonna took a night off from her Celebration world tour in Miami to view son Rocco Ritchie’s latest works at a gallery in Miami’s Design District during April. According to the Miami Herald, the works are priced at \$25,000 each.

Rocco Ritchie—whose dad is the film director Guy Ritchie— is quietly making his name as an artist. Last year he had a solo show of work in London and in an interview with Artnet News, Ritchie points out that he studied at Central Saint Martins and the Royal Drawing School in the city, citing Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud as influences



\$4m for art from Playboy and Marilyn Monroe memorabilia¹⁹

In life, Hugh Hefner and Marilyn Monroe never met. In death, their assorted miscellany has raised more than \$4 million at a sale held by Julien’s Auctions. The sale brought together artworks Hefner had collected, as well as those displayed throughout the headquarters of Playboy, the magazine he founded in 1960 and grew into a media empire.





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