

Wet Paint **pro**

## Dealers on the Best and the Worst of Art Basel, and More Juicy Art World Gossip

Plus, what gallery is showing work by a European prince in New York? What celebrity-turned-artist was partying at Les Trois Rois?



Levy Gorvy Dayan. Courtesy Art Basel.

*column of original scoops. If you have a tip, email Annie Armstrong—who's spending her summer in Los Angeles—at [aarmstrong@artnet.com](mailto:aarmstrong@artnet.com).*

## **ROUND ROBIN FROM THE MESSEPLATZ**

Happy Basel week! Once more it has come and gone, just like Christmas, or my annual teeth cleaning. You've almost made it to the end of another spectacular trip to sunny, Big Pharma-loving Switzerland. I regret that I wasn't there to sip on a *schorle* with you fine folks, so in lieu of my usual on-the-ground scene reporting, I hit the phones to get the chatter from the VIP opening at the **Messeplatz**. Bad weather, long lines for wurst, and keeping optimistic through gritted teeth during a tough time for sales ran the gamut of my conversations. Here's what I got on the record, boiled down into single-sentence missives:

**David Nolan**, owner of **David Nolan Gallery**: "The line for sausages at lunch was an hour long !!! Upstairs they ran out of sausages ... cutting back too much."

**Ralph DeLuca**, advisor: "It seemed to be a mostly European audience this year. And I know the American galleries try to prioritize non U.S.-based buyers in Basel. Luckily, I have strong enough access and relationships with the galleries I buy from that the things my clients were interested in were dealt with before the fair opening."

**Alex Logsdail**, CEO of **Lisson Gallery**: "Day one in Basel is one of the few places where it is socially acceptable to drink a **Diet Coke** before lunch."

**Almine Rech**, owner/founder of **Almine Rech Gallery** : "A market subject to the weather! It wasn't great in the morning, so everyone focused on the art, some on purchasing. You couldn't really enjoy the outdoor courtyard until around 3 when the sun came out. Guests, collectors, and dealers broke to enjoy famous Swiss wurst between opening crowds."

**Isabella Icoz**, partner at **Lehmann Maupin**: "We're celebrating over 20 years of participating in Art Basel and can really attest to the fair's resiliency during more challenging times! This year, we've observed a strong demand for works by women artists who have major institutional moments, and have placed works with

**Xavier Hufkens**, founder of **Xavier Hufkens Gallery**: “The dives in **the Rhine** may have been canceled this year, but the real splash was made inside the Messe. This is Art Basel at its best.”

**Andrea Teschke**, partner at **Petzel Gallery**: “This iteration of the art fair in Basel proves once again that the quality of the art continues to be matched by its audience.”

Here, I will interject that collector **Alain Servais** disagreed with Teschke in a very savage manner on his reliably prolific Twitter account:

**alain servais**  
@aservais1 · Follow

First Choice VVIP hours at @ArtBasel Tuesday 2.40pm. Are they issuing too many VIP cards? 🤔

12:51 PM · Jun 11, 2024

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