

An Insider Guide to New York's Art Fair —The Standouts, Discoveries, and Texas' Best

The Armory Show Launches the Global Art Season

BY CATHERINE D. ANSPON // 09.08.22

2 8 years ago — a lifetime ago in contemporary art, and nearly a decade before the first Art Basel Miami Beach was staged — a micro art fair was born that would go on to shape both the New York and U.S. collecting scene for a generation to come. It eclipsed the then-dominant Art Expo in Chicago and built a brand, with curatorial chops and a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Just four dealers participated that first year, setting up in rented rooms in the art-filled Gramercy Park Hotel. The fair expanded, with a move to the Upper East Side's historic 69th Street Regiment Armory, then to the West Side Piers, and now its latest home, Javits Center.

This year's Armory Show offers stimulating and robust programming, as well as the main attraction: a roster of more than 240 dealers (up since last year's count of 212), encompassing galleries from 30 countries as well as America's finest, including more than 60 from the heart of the American scene, New York, as well as far-flung art capitals including New Delhi, Budapest, Dubai, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Shanghai, and London.

In our age of discontent, fraught with extreme global social and political challenges, The Armory Show brings the art world — and welcomes the curious — to a big-table, inclusive dialogue that’s always about more than a canvas on the wall. Calendar these dates: by-invitation VIP Preview, Thursday, September 8; public days Friday through Sunday, September 9 through 11.

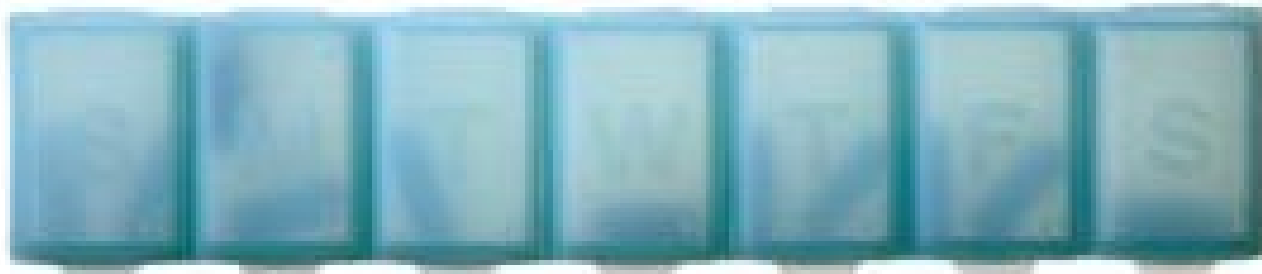


Chuck Ramirez's "Long-Term Survivor: Chaps," 1999, 2019, at Ruiz-Healy Art

Texas' Best at The Armory Show

Kerry Inman is one of four Texas dealers on the Armory stage. Two, including Inman Gallery, are returning exhibitors, while two are making their Armory debut. In the Galleries section, the Houston-based Inman Gallery presents a tightly curated quintet of artists, four mid-career and one emerging talent: Jamal Cyrus (fresh from his epic Blaffer and Texas Southern shows last year), Shaun O'Dell, Demetrius Oliver, Robyn O'Neil, and introducing Alexis Pye, a Houston artist whose portrait paintings joyfully place Black men in bucolic gardens.

Newcomers to The Armory Show also bring buzz. San Antonio dealer Ruiz-Healy Art (who also has an Upper East Side, New York, location) showcases in Focus photographic images by Chuck Ramirez, the late artist whose estate she represents. Ramirez, an openly gay man living with AIDS, bravely addressed issues of gender, religion, and the AIDS crisis as a beloved figure of the San Antonio community. More than a decade after his early death from a bicycle accident, Ramirez's work couldn't be more visceral or timely.



Chuck Ramirez's *Long Term Survivor: Cocktail*, 1999, 2019/2022, at Ruiz-Healy Art

All images courtesy of the artists and their respective galleries