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Dallas Arts Week: Where the Art World Meets Southern Hospitality

By Ann Binlot

Every week there's an art fair somewhere around the world, and last week, the art-world's jet set headed to Dallas for the Dallas Art Fair, the anchor fair for Dallas Arts Week. Like its many counterparts around the world, the week is filled with wealthy collectors, art dealers, artists, museum directors, art writers, and the like, champagne, exclusive events, late-night revelry and well, art. But unlike Miami Beach, London, New York or any of the other locations that have similar festivities, there's just something about that southern hospitality that creates a tight-knit, community feel. For one thing the amount of events are manageable, and its denizens welcome the art world with open arms and the usually insular art crowd opens up, making for one week filled with sales, exhibitions and lots of Southern fun.

Dallas Art Fair

The seventh edition of the Dallas Art Fair, which was founded by Chris Byrne and John Sughrue, brought in 95 exhibitors from around the world. Sales were brisk, and before the fair's preview gala began on April Turin's Luce Gallery had already sold out of every Hugo McCloud canvas. Other big sales include British artists Frank Bowling, whose paintings that were priced at between \$111,000 to \$371,000 were selling like hotcakes at Hales Gallery. Galerie Perrotin sold pieces by KAWS, Daniel Arsham and Elmgreen & Dragset, while Johannes Vogt's inventory of Mernet Larsen, Josh Reames and Larissa Lockshin nearly sold out.



The Dallas Art Fair Preview Gala (Kelly Taub/BFANYC.com)

Welcome to Dallas, ArtPrize!

Dallas showed that its art scene isn't exclusive by starting its very own edition of ArtPrize, the Grand Rapids-based city-wide art show where people are invited to vote to give the artist behind the winning artwork \$200,000. Dallas kicked off its own ArtPrize, which will launch next year, by exhibiting the 2014 winner Anila Quayyum Agha's beautiful installation, a shadow box that touches on issues of gender, religion and exclusion, titled *Intersections*, at Dallas Contemporary.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/abinlot/2015/04/15/dallas-arts-week-where-the-art-world-meets-southern-hospitality/>

The Nate and Dan Show

Good friends Nate Lowman and Dan Colen were a big part of this year's Dallas Arts Week. Lowman displayed a giant, abstract map of the United States at Dallas Contemporary as part of his exhibition titled America Sneezes, while Colen displayed a coat rack of bondage gear along with images of shirts and sweaters culled from J. Crew catalogs at Dallas gallery And Now. The two even curated the music for the MTV MTV RE:DEFINE benefit, selecting the band I.U.D.

FriendsWithYou Became Friends With Everybody

Sam Borkson and Arturo Sandoval, the members of the Los Angeles-based art duo FriendsWithYou, spread their good vibes all around Dallas, installing their illuminated Light Cave outside of Dallas Contemporary. Their cute characters also popped up all throughout Dallas Arts Week, conjuring up smiles from even the most conservative Dallasonians.

Michael Craig-Martin Honored at MTV RE:DEFINE

The annual gala raised over \$2.2 million for the MTV Staying Alive Foundation and the Dallas Contemporary.

The Dallas Art Ball BLL +0.13% Turns 50

The Dallas Museum of Art got lucky on April 11, thanks to its 50th Dallas Art Ball. Selfies abound due to its self-portrait theme, Solange Knowles and Kitty Carmichael performed, and the Dallas social scene showed up in everything from Chanel Chanel to Dior to Jeremy Scott's Budweiser Budweiser cape for Moschino.

The Eye Ball

The Eye Ball, Dallas Arts Week's closing party at the Joule Hotel, turned into an adult playground set against Tony Tasset's enormous eyeball. Orange arms eerily popped out of a wall at the entryway, while circus performers were strewn about. There was even a giant swing set. The highlight, no doubt, was not the hamburger shaped cupcake burgers, or the delicious Tex-Mex, but the young performer Leon Bridges, whose soulful voice impressed the crowd.