

Art + Auction

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BLOUINART+AUCTION

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE FOR ART COLLECTORS

APRIL 2017

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DALLAS

From Aisle to Museum



Alex N.K. Sharma, and Marlene and John Sughrue, along with the Dallas Art Fair Foundation, stepped forward to generously provide us with \$50,000 to acquire works by artists exhibited at the Dallas Art Fair. Their foresight and enthusiasm were astonishing.

What sorts of acquisitions is the museum planning to make from this year's fair?

In 2016 we acquired nine works by four artists: Michelle Grabner, Nadia Kaabi-Linke, Merlin James, and Lina Puerta. We have our eye on a few things for this year. A lot of research is carried out in advance of the fair opening, but we also like to leave some room for improvisation by the group on the day of selection.

Who is involved with the Foundation Acquisition Program decisions and how does the process actually work?

A group is assembled and is composed of the five founding families, conservators, and registrars from the museum, together with the contemporary curators. We are provided with exclusive access to the fair and preview every single booth. Ultimately the expert curators have the final responsibility, but decisions are for the most part arrived at as a group, which is part of the fun.

How has collecting in Dallas changed since the launch of the fair in 2009?

There is clearly a societal transformation taking place in Dallas that can be characterized as a highly educated community developing a growing interest and increased sophistication in regard to contemporary art.

AS THE HISTORICAL boundaries between art institutions and their commercial counterparts continue to dissolve, strategies for bridging business and curation are in abundance. At this year's edition of the Dallas Art Fair, which runs April 6 through 9 at Fashion Industry Gallery, the Dallas Museum of Art has \$100,000 to spend on art offered by participating galleries. The funds, made available through the fair's Foundation Acquisition Program, are double the amount spent last year. *Art+Auction's* Sara Roffino spoke with Gavin Delahunty, senior curator of contemporary art at the museum, about collecting trends in Dallas and the particulars of this arrangement.

What was the genesis of the Foundation Acquisition Program? What was the first year like, and what do you expect for this upcoming year?

Dallas Art Fair cofounder John Sughrue and I conceived the idea for the Dallas Art Fair Foundation Acquisition Program over lunch in 2015. In less than six months Tricia and Gil Besing, Linda and David Rogers, Susan and Shawn Bonsell, Gowri and



Clockwise from above left: *Fertig, Das Dann Kommende Im All... (Finished, Now it All Comes In)*, 2016, by Jonathan Meese, is at Tim Van Laere Gallery of Antwerp; *Anna Ostoya's Judith*, 2016, is at the fair with New York's Bortolami Gallery; *Mother's Tankstation Limited of Dublin presents Noel McKenna's Cat on Street, Night*, 2016; *Jonathan Marshall's installation The Incomplete History of Walking (for Jack)*, 2014, is available at Grimm Gallery of Amsterdam.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART; TIM VAN LAERE GALLERY, ANTWERP; BORTOLAMI GALLERY, NEW YORK; NOEL MCKENNA AND MOTHER'S TANKSTATION LIMITED, DUBLIN; JONATHAN MARSHALL AND GRIMM GALLERY, AMSTERDAM