

10 Highlights you need to see at Art Brussels

20.04.2018

By Jane Gayduk

10 HIGHLIGHTS YOU NEED TO SEE AT ART BRUSSELS

By Jane Gayduk

Published April 20, 2018

Art Brussels opens today for its 50th consecutive year—the most institutionalized gathering of contemporary art available in the Belgian capital.

Since the city has no native contemporary or modern art museums, Art Brussels tends to fill the void, even if only for a few days, by inviting international and local galleries to display their best work a la Art Basel. This fair, however, is much smaller and while it lacks the star power of bold-faced names like Jeff Koons, it leaves room for newcomers and diverse young talent. Out of the 759 artists on view, 93 percent are living, and 30 percent are under 40 years old. The space is divided into galleries displaying a presentation of mixed artists, a solo show or installation for one established artist, or a discovery booth that supports emerging international artists relatively unknown to Europe.

For the 50th anniversary, Elena Sorokina also curated an artistic project examining the concept of possession in art: does translated text belong to the writer or the translator, at what point does a historically important work of art become public cultural property? It's a meta question to be posed at a fair, where the bottomline goal means facilitating the transfer of ownership between artist, gallery, and buyer, and not one that's easy to answer when considered in the context of intellectual property—something to see certainly if you're heading to Art Brussels, and so are these 10 things!

Ieri Ikebana by Alessandro Piangiamore

Flowers die quickly, but not at the hands of Italian artist Alessandro Piangiamore, who is known to utilize natural elements—seashells, coral, a puddle of rainwater—in his sculptural work. For *Ieri Ikebana*, Piangiamore poured concrete over a flower bouquet to create this meditative piece. The result is an archaeological trace of nature's fleeting wonders. It's nearly impossible to stop staring. Find it at the Irène Laub booth.

IRÈNE LAUB

GALLERY

10 Highlights you need to see at Art Brussels

20.04.2018

By Jane Gayduk



ALESSANDRO PIANGIAMORE, IERI IKEBANA 29032017, 2017, CONCRETE, FLORA, AND METAL, 141 x 101 x 2.5 CM. COPYRIGHT GIORGIO BENNI, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.