

Asia Now transports the visitor to other worlds

The fair continues its exploration of the artistic voices of Asia and its diaspora, challenging boundaries, both real and imagined. For this 11th edition, West Asia, or the Middle East, unveils all its attractions.



Manal Aldowayan, *The Cheerleaders*, 2015, painting and silkscreen ink on canvas and copper, 105x105cm. © Courtesy of the artist and Sabrina Amrani

Our selection of off-fairs during Art Basel Paris

Several events are organized during Paris Art Week, covering almost all specialties, from ceramics to contemporary African art and design. Here's an overview.

After being captivated by Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, and Hong Kong, all eyes now seem to be turning to other "Meccas of contemporary art": Riyadh, Dubai, and AlUla. Visitors are greeted by an installation by Saudi artist Mohammad Al Faraj as they enter the grand hall of the Monnaie de Paris, where each column is draped in palm tree prints, echoing the Al Hassa region, his birthplace. Curated by Arnaud Morand, and commissioned by the French Agency for the Development of AlUla (AFALULA), an installation by Chinese artist Han Mengyun, entitled *Under the Aegis of the Moon*, also transports visitors to another world: that of this majestic oasis, where the artist immersed herself during a months-long residency to create this poetic work.

At the Madrid-based gallery Sabrina Amrani, it's the recent canvases of Saudi artist Manal AlDowayan that are capturing everyone's attention. Playing on ambiguity, her mountain landscapes, bordering on abstraction, reveal themselves to be, in reality, women's legs, poised to leap and rise again. " *On the very first day of the fair, we sold all of her works [priced between 10,000 and 20,000 euros] to three private foundations* ," Sabrina Amrani happily reports.

Forward-looking and uninhibited, this 11th edition of Asia Now also offers the opportunity to introduce the public to artists who are too little known in the West, such as the Indian artist Sumakshi Singh, represented by the 193 Gallery, whose installation - the staircase of her family home destroyed after the partition, transcribed in an arachnid embroidery - is a small miracle of poetry (€33,500).

Photography enthusiasts, meanwhile, should be tempted by the silver gelatin prints of South Korean photographer Han Youngsoo offered by the Korean gallery Baik Art at 4,000 euros.



La La Lande gallery stand, Asia Now 2025.
Photo: DR

The Iranian art scene is well represented by the Parisian gallery La La Lande, which is exhibiting the pop and dreamlike works of the artist duo Mamali Shafahi and Domenico Gutknecht, priced around €15,000. The gallery has just opened the exhibition "Archaic Resonances" in its renovated space near the Centre Pompidou, bringing together nine artists, some of whom hail from this region, including some already highly regarded figures, from Aïcha Snoussi to Younes Ben Slimane (until November 28). Finally, to get a feel for the artistic scene in Azerbaijan, a visit to the Gazelli Art House booth (London) is highly recommended. Exploring themes of identity and vulnerability, the canvases of the young artist Agil Abdullayev are truly beautiful. For now, their price does not exceed €10,000.