

London's Marlborough Contemporary

Marlborough Fine Art gallery in the exclusive Mayfair neighborhood of London recently acquired a peer. The London based international mega-gallery Marlborough, with galleries in New York since 1963, launched their new venture Marlborough Contemporary on the first floor of the Marlborough Fine Art gallery on Albemarle Street last month.

The gallery was founded in 1946 by Frank Lloyd and Harry Fisher and has consequently represented many greats of the post-war era, including Francis Bacon, Paula Rego and Frank Auerbach. The gallery is recognized in the art world for its range of artists but also for its controversial decision in the 90s to be the first gallery in the western world to show contemporary art from China. The new Contemporary, designed by British architects Long & Kentish, will be featuring a fresh roster of artists including Ângela Ferreira, Koen van den Broek, João Onofre, Ian Whittlesea, Adam Chodzko and Jason Brooks among others.

The current director of Marlborough Fine Art Gilbert Lloyd is now be joined by Professor Andrew Renton, who is continuing as head of Goldsmith University's post-graduate curatorial department, as the director of the Marlborough Contemporary.

With a stand for each of these galleries at Art Basel, Marlborough launched the new division. With a clever juxtaposition, Fine Art exhibited the most expensive work shown at the fair, Rothko's "Untitled 1954", at their stand and Contemporary showed the cheapest work on show, Onofre's "Untitled", published from a local newspaper. Talking about the launch Renton says, "Art Basel was a great place to launch Marlborough Contemporary. Making an installation in Basel is challenge enough, but set against the presence of Rothko's "Untitled" painting from 1954, made it all the more daunting".

The first Marlborough Contemporary exhibition is featuring work by Ângela Ferreira, the Portuguese-born artist from Mozambique, known for her installations often incorporating film, photography, and sound. Her work explores the discrepancies, cracks of displaced modernist utopias and local history, and according to Renton is "a perfect opening act for the gallery". The gallery will then follow with Belgian artist Koen van den Broek, in his first solo show in the UK since 2007, who uses snapshots to highlight line, shape and structure within the urban landscape.

<http://www.marlboroughcontemporary.com/>

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