

VOLTA BASEL

PRESS SECTION 2021



VOLTA Art Fair at Elsäasserstrasse 215 in Basel. Click on the image to download a high-res version.

VOLTA BASEL
SEPTEMBER 20 – 26, 2021
DISCOVER. CONNECT. COLLECT.

VOLTA Art Fair returns to Basel for its 16th edition during this year's Basel Art Fair Week. 69 galleries from across five continents and 50 cities assemble at the renovated venue of Elsäasserstrasse 215, showcasing compelling new projects from artists of over 40 nations for a real life fair experience. Directed by **Kamiar Maleki**, VOLTA fosters galleries in staging ambitious solo and group presentations, refining the experience to its essential elements: the artists and their work.

Connected via shuttle bus or tram between Art Basel, visitors may escape the Messe's hectic pace and immerse within VOLTA's focused booth curation. The fair extends viewing hours from **Monday, September 20, through Sunday, September 26**.

"We are more than excited to welcome you back to an in real life fair experience at our newly renovated venue. Basel has always been and always will be the true centre of art fairs, and while we have been extremely busy in the background – re-branding, strategizing, and developing our fair – we are ready to resume action and provide a platform for our galleries to showcase some amazing art.", says VOLTA Director **Kamiar Maleki**. "Our vision is to position VOLTA as the leading satellite fair in the cities it exhibits in. A fair for grass root collectors. We aim to make art more accessible by showcasing positions from different regions but trying to remain focused on a local collector base. VOLTA is about discovering, connecting and ultimately about collecting."

The full list of exhibiting galleries at VOLTA's September edition in Basel, along with their artist projects, can be found [here](#).



VOLTA Director Kamiar Maleki. Click on the image to download a high-res version.

EXHIBITOR LIST 2021

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS

One third of the participating galleries have elected to showcase solo or two artists in a dialogue presentation. First time exhibitor **Saradipour Art International** (Los Angeles/Mahshahr, established in 2018) presents two Iranian artists of the same generation, **Abbas Nasle Shamloo** and **Mahdieh Abolhasan** create physically and emotionally charged depictions of humanity's complicated, and destructive, relationship with the environment. **Retro Africa** from Abuja curates a solo presentation by Nigerian artist **Alimi Adewale** under the theme *Changing Faces: New Frontiers in Figurative Art* for its inaugural participation in Basel.

Long-time exhibiting **Gallery Kagure** from Tokyo present new works by ceramic artist **Yoca Muta**, bringing together traditional Japanese Kutani-yaki, as well as elements of pop culture such as western drawings, and contemporary Japanese manga.



Austin Eddy, *The River Is Moving, The Black Bird Must Be Flying, To Rest On A Summer's Night*, 2019-2020, Oil, Rashe, paper on canvas, 24 x 48 in.

For this September edition, **Léna Roselli Gallery** (Budapest) stages a two-booth presentation with sculpture artist **BOLDI** and painter **Mózes Incze** about *How Humans Relate to the World*. For their second presentation *Playful Nature* the gallery brings together new works by **Ivan Lordschneider** and **Daniel Tarsci**. **Nuwaland** (Oosterzee-Buren, established in 2017) gathers three South African artists to engage with the underlying violence within beauty. Featuring **Morné Visagie** (printmaking), **Samell Aggenbach** (deconstructed painting), and **Pierre Fouché** (woven and lacework). **Bavan Gallery** (Tehran, established 2018) unveils three individual approaches to contemporary life in Iran, linked with a broader international discourse, via **Elham Etemadi**, **Poyam Qelichy**, and **Keimon Mahabadi**. Returning VOLTA New York exhibitor **Abigail Orliv Gallery** (Boston) introduces her emphasis on concept-driven artwork by showcasing new paintings by **Austin Eddy** and **Natalia Wróbel** for her inaugural participation in Switzerland. Among the fair's patron galleries **Galerie Thomas Fuchs** (Stuttgart) will bring new works by **Rainer Fetting**, **Sebastian Gumpinger**, **Jochen Hein**, **Ruprecht von Kaufmann**, and **Yongchul Kim** to Basel. **Charlie Smith London** (London) curates their booth around an exploration of folk within contemporary painting, emphasizing notions of fable, mythology, fairytale, and narrative. Artists will include **Sam Jackson**, **Simon Keenleyside**, **Melissa Kime**, **Concha Martinez Barreto**, **Richard Moon**, and **Dominic Shepherd**.



Daniel Tarsci, *Lights Trough Trees I*, 2021, oil on canvas, 120 x 160 cm, presented by [Léna Roselli Gallery](#) (Budapest). Click on the image to download a high-res version.



Jochen Hein, *Antarctica*, 2021, acrylic on cotton, 80 x 80 cm, presented by [Galerie Thomas Fuchs](#) (Stuttgart). Click on the image to download a high-res version.

CONNECTING TO ITS SWISS ROOTS

Founded in Basel in 2005, the fair is excited to welcome three Swiss galleries to their exhibitor roster for the September edition. Basel and Fujisawa based **Selene Art Media** (Basel) introduces Japanese artists **Souun Takeda** and **Kohel Kyomori**. While **ARTPOWHER Contemporary** (Zurich) stages a solo presentation by British-Nigerian artist **Sola Olulode**.

VOLTA ENCOURAGES COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN GALLERIES

Zurich based **Pythongallery** and **Von Fraunberg Art Gallery** (Düsseldorf) collaborate on a shared presentation for *Nature and Provocation*: Pythongallery balances the real with the surreal via **Willy Verginer**'s figurative wood sculptures, which are lifelike yet somehow "wrong" and "strange" and are painted in swaths of flat acrylic. Photographer **Georg Küttiger**, whose imagery fragments to infinity behind layers of plexiglas. Von Fraunberg Art Gallery likewise engages with figuration and pure abstraction via **Christoph Rode**'s interiors and **Maxim Wakultschik**'s portraits, both of which hover at the lifelike/abstract border, segueing into the soft-focus color forms of **Rita Rohlfing**'s acrylic glass and paint reliefs.

London based **Kahn Gallery** and **Nadia Arnold Ltd.**, collaborate in short surveys of their respective programs, featuring an international roster of emerging artists. Kahn will bring **Eduard Merzouk**, **Gregory Watin**, **Anna Valverde**, and **Ulla-Stiner Wikander**, complemented by Arnold's selection of **Adam Riches**, **Schalk van der Merwe**, **Felix Dolah**, and **Stefan Gunnesch**.



The artist Sola Olulode in her studio. Presented by [ARTPOWHER Contemporary](#) (Zurich). Click on the image to download a high-res version.

VOLTA'S HISTORY

VOLTA debuted in Basel in 2005 as an art fair collaboration between dealers and friends. The aim was to secure a platform for international galleries beyond young art fair lists and market heavyweight Art Basel. VOLTA's New York fair followed in 2008, offering a solo and boutique alternative to the crowded trade show tradition of Armory Week in March. Concerns and aspirations of the exhibiting galleries have been of the utmost importance since VOLTA's inception, resulting in eclectic and dynamic solo presentations and multiple artists in curated conversations.

In autumn 2019, **Ramsay Fairs** acquired VOLTA, sparking fresh ideas toward future editions. Under the new leadership of **Kamiar Maleki**, VOLTA returned to New York in March 2020 closer to its origins as an immersive experience that invites discovery, welcoming 53 international galleries to the intimate Metropolitan West. With editions in **Basel**, **Miami**, and **New York**, VOLTA builds the foundation and platform for younger galleries to participate in the art markets' major cities.

VOLTA Art Fair's inaugural **Miami** edition will take place from Tuesday, November 30, through Sunday, December 5, coinciding with Miami Art Fair Week. The location at 1348 N Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33136 is in close proximity to NADA and Art Miami. Applications for [VOLTA Miami 2021](#) are now open.

VISITING THE FAIR

VOLTA's highest priority remains the health and safety of its staff, exhibitors, and visitors. In compliance with the regulations set forth by the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, all visitors to the fair need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, provide a recent negative COVID-19 test, or be fully recovered within the past six months.

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