

WopArt Work on Paper Fair

WopArt 2019. Fourth edition of the international fair devoted to works on paper

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THE FOURTH EDITION OF WOPART, THE INTERNATIONAL FAIR IN LUGANO PRIMARILY DEVOTED TO WORKS ON PAPER CLOSED WITH A GREAT SUCCESS OF SALES AND PUBLIC

Lugano, 1st October 2019 - The fourth edition of **WopArt**, the international fair devoted to works on paper founded by **Paolo Manazza**, drew to a close on Sunday 22nd September. This edition allowed **WopArt** to reassert its leading status on the international fair scene for works on paper recording a notable rise in both the number of visitors and sales, reinforced by plenty of positive feedback from collectors, the press and people operating in the industry.

Over **15.000** visitors attended the fair during the three days of opening to the public. **12.000** VIPs, international collectors who attended a 'first choice preview' held on Wednesday 18th September, and **2.000** guests who livened up the opening ceremony held on Thursday 19th, including lots of people working in the industry and curators of both public and private museums. **150** journalists visited the fair expressing their satisfaction with the artworks displayed by **102** exhibitors from **16** nations worldwide and with the **7** collateral exhibition hosted inside the pavilions.

There was an increase in sales in all four sections at the 2019 edition compared to 2018, illustrating once again the versatility of *works on paper* and proving they are an appetising prospect both for major collectors with notable purchasing power and also absolute beginners approaching the world of collecting for the very first time.

Sales in the main sections showed a tendency to seek out iconic artworks by both historically important and up-and-coming artists. Paper offers various possibilities for exploring the art market right across the board.

Suppan Fine Arts, for example, sold a piece by Hebert Brandl for €7.000 and one by Julian Opie for €18.500. **[dip]**: a Wang Tong at €3.000 € and a Paolo Canevari at €20.000 €. **Imago Art Gallery** sold a mixed technique work by Bob Krieger for €40.00, an oil on cardboard by Alessandro Busci for €23.000 and also a Serena Maisto for €15.000, a Gloc for €10.000 and a work on paper by Alighiero Boetti for €60.000. **Galleria Barbara Paci** sold works by young up-and-coming artists like Andrea

Collesano and Sara Lovari at prices of less than €5.000. **Lullin+Ferrari** and **Raphaël Lévy** sold a Martin Disler for €20.000. **Wilde Gallery** sold a Javier Perez for €10.000. **Salamon Fine Art** sold a Marzio Tamer for €15.000 €. **Lucio Morini** sold some screens from the Japanese Edo period (between €8.000 and €15.00). **VitArt** sold an Alighiero Boetti for €80.000 and a Tom Wesselmann for €90.000. **Massimo De Carlo** sold some works by Gianfranco Barruchello for between \$5- 80.000. Some stands also sold works on paper by Old Masters at between €5-35.000. Deals still being brokered include those for an iconic work by Marino Marini and an interest has been shown in drawings by Amedeo Modigliani and Giorgio de Chirico and works by di Antony Gormley.

The galleries in the new **Dialogues** section were also pleased with the outcome of the fair. Purchases included some artist's books and designer graphics by Emilio Isgrò (**Colophonarte**), a set of Magritte prints (**Samhart Gallery**), a number of works by Mimmo Rotella (**Spirale Milano**) and even canticles by Dante Alighieri on display at Elena Dal Molin's **Atipografia** stand. **Alidem** sold numerous art photographs.

According to **Massimo Ferrarotti** from the **Spirale Milano gallery**: *“The fourth edition of WopArt moved up a level. There were various carefully thought-out new installations, a new Wednesday evening format for a well-informed and educated audience, and carefully selected collectors who also responded on a commercial level to the fair. Spirale Milano came up with a brand-new project. A selection of museum-scale works by Mimmo Rotella, which really hit the mark on both an image and business level. There were plenty of visitors throughout the entire fair with Wednesday and Sunday being the most interesting days. Taking stock, it was a positive experience conveying a sense of increasingly ambitious fair of international scope and standing”*.

Barbara Paci, from the gallery of the same name in Pietrasanta (Lucca), told us: *“This was the first time we have been involved in WopArt, the art fair devoted to works on paper, and we are extremely pleased with the outcome of the 2019 event. We noticed that all the visitors were extremely interested and, although not that numerous, they were extremely competent and well-informed, which also translated into interesting sales. Among all the numerous generic art fairs both in Italy and abroad, I think WopArt has its very own distinctive character, making it an annual art events that definitely should not be missed. Its logistical location is also worth noting: Lugano is strategically well-located at the natural crossroads between Italy and northern Europe making it easy to reach. So, we are delighted to announce that we are planning to take part in the forthcoming 2020 edition as well, which we imagine will be even better and more synergic with other museum institutes in the city”*.

Luciano Tellaroli from **Galleria Carte Scoperte** (Milan) said: *“I think Lo Savio's “Filtri” are the most sophisticated works on paper I can think of; light and space merge together across the various layers of semi-transparent paper taking the classical shape of a circle set inside two squares. Generally speaking, artistic thinking can be put down on paper in a less elaborate manner: pencil, crayons, charcoal, Indian ink and other inks, biro and temperas.... they are the means for giving initial shape to a notion of art and paper is the initial surface on which this shape takes form. The idea of devoting an entire fair to this kind of art is extraordinary, because it manages to capture art in its nascent state and compare its various languages. I am convinced that WopArt, in its extraordinary postcard location in Lugano, will continue to grow in popularity through a careful mix*

of market and culture. I will not just expand its geographical boundaries (how wonderful it would be to create a kind of twinship with distant Japan, the kingdom of washi!) but also its timeframe, in the sense of rekindling the fair's September flame throughout the entire year through partnerships, patronages, visits to studios complete with videos documenting the creation of an artwork, competitions... In a nutshell, a flourish of initiatives focused around and organised by Lugano.

Christian Lapeyre from **Pandora Gallery** (New York and Milan) also said: *“I think the new 2019 edition of WopArt was a sort of rebirth, the new format was a great success. We met lots of new and carefully selected collectors and clients. The exhibition was lively and interesting, and the organisers' efforts were certainly rewarded.”*

The city's local authorities were also heavily involved in WopArt, which they acknowledged to be **an unmissable event on Lugano's art-culture scene**. They also expressed their intent to keep on working with the fair, so that it could **develop even closer ties with the Ticino region**.

WopArt hopes you will be coming to Lugano from 18-20th September 2020 for the fifth edition of the event.

WopArt is organised by Wopart Executive Sagel under the patronage of the City of Lugano.

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