

Capitain Petzel

„In Berlin, the Art World Spreads Out to Stay Safe“, Scott Reyburn, The New York Times, 14.09.2020

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In Berlin, the Art World Spreads Out to Stay Safe

The first major international art event since the lockdown started took place at smaller venues around the city, rather than under a single roof.

By Scott Reyburn

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BERLIN — It has been a long time coming, but after six months of coronavirus-enforced inactivity, the international art world was re-energized by a hectic week here of live exhibitions and events. With all the summer’s most important live art fairs, exhibitions and auctions canceled, Berlin Art Week, which ended Sunday, became the art world’s first significant international event since March.

Anchored by Gallery Weekend Berlin, a collaborative promotion of dealer-organized exhibitions that was postponed from its usual slot in April, the event also included the Positions Berlin fair, a platform for less-prominent dealerships, primarily from Germany, and numerous satellite shows at which the art was also on sale. These coincided with the openings of longer-term, noncommercial exhibitions like “Studio Berlin,” a collaboration between the local married collectors Christian Boros and Karen Lohmann and the techno club Berghain, and the Berlin Biennale.



Works by Ross Bleckner on display at Capitain Petzel gallery. Gordon Welters for The New York Times

“For this moment, it’s the perfect event,” said Maike Cruse, the director of Gallery Weekend. “The exhibitions are decentralized and localized, and it’s nice for visitors to be outside.”

The spread-out format of Gallery Weekend, with shows by 48 galleries around the city, is better suited to these virus-conscious times than the enclosed convention centers of fairs such as Art Basel. But many international collectors continue to be wary of — or prohibited from — boarding airplanes. As a result, this year’s Gallery Weekend Berlin attracted a smaller, more local crowd, leaving dealers to rely on online transactions to top up their sales.

To ensure safe visits for those who could be here, opening hours were created for V.I.P.s from Wednesday through Friday, before the galleries welcomed the general public over the weekend. A lively Saturday night dinner for more than 1,000 guests that usually takes place on Gallery Weekend was canceled, replaced by an open-air brunch.

To read the full article, visit: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/14/arts/design/berlin-art-weekend.html>

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