



MIAMI—Redwood Art Group's **Red Dot Miami**, a curated gallery-only contemporary art fair held during Miami Art Week will run from December 1 to 5, 2021. The fair features 75 of the top galleries from around the world, as well as a show agenda that includes site-specific installations, ongoing collaborations with the show's partners, and specially commissioned events that take place during the fair. Red Dot Miami features an array of specially curated programs showcasing exhibitors, art industry professionals, and select nonprofits and institutions. Featured programs will include Art Labs, Spotlight Galleries, Directors' Picks, and the Discoveries Collection. Art Labs is a group of specially curated projects by leading galleries, art institutions, and art collectives within the fair. Spotlight Galleries provides collectors a focused look at several cutting-edge galleries and their artists, who are recognized for their skill and achievement in the visual arts. The Discoveries Collection showcases affordable pieces of \$5,000 or less.

Spectrum Wynwood, a new contemporary art show from Redwood Art Group that was set to debut in Spring of 2022 in Miami, has been cancelled due to a fire at the planned venue. For further information, telephone Redwood Art Group in Hinckley, OH, at (216) 225-0962 or visit the company's website at: www.redwoodartgroup.com.

ARTEXPO NY'S 2021 SHOW A MIXED BAG

Artexpo New York, held October 28 to 31, 2021, returned to being a live in-person fair after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic to somewhat mixed reviews. As the world slowly reopens, the show (produced by Redwood Art Group) was held in a new location at Pier 36 and featured 60,000 square feet of floor space with more than 150 exhibitors of international and national galleries, art publishers, and artists showcasing the original work of hundreds of artists, including prints, paintings, drawings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, giclées, lithographs, and glass works.

"As you can imagine there were many emotions with this year's show but people were thrilled to get back to work and it showed. They sold," says Linda Mariano, managing director of marketing. "Those exhibitors that expected to return to pre-Covid levels were not as happy as they had high expectations. But according to our association, we're not going to see pre-Covid levels until the 4th quarter of 2022."

The resilience of the art industry was evident as some exhibitors and attendees were eager to return to some normalcy. "With continued pandemic challenges, exhibitors and attendees alike were excited to be back to a live in-person fair. According to major event research on attendance as the country begins to open up after the pandemic

shutdown, attendance was predicted to be 30-40% of what it had been in the past. Artexpo New York was right on track with 8,170 tickets registered and an actual attendance of just over 6,500 during the 4-



At the Sammoun Fine Art booth, artist Samir Sammoun, center, is shown with, from left, art consultant Caroline Ciot, and art advisor Jillian Leigh, during the show.

day fair," Mrs. Mariano says.

As some are slow to start, it is thought that as the country adjusts to the new Covid guidelines, shows and events



Litsa Spanos, left, president of Art Design Consultants (ADC), is pictured with artist Mary Johnston of Mary Johnston Studio at her booth.

will grow. "According to all of the research that the Society of Independent Show Organizers has conducted over the past 18 months the majority of shows are expecting 50% of attendees to return in the 4th quarter of 2021 and 75 to 80% by the first quarter of 2022."

Since New York City was one of the worst hit areas of the country during the pandemic, the city now has specific Covid-19 safety guidelines for events, which were strictly enforced for Artexpo. In an effort to create a safe environment there was ticketing pre-registration, timed entry tickets, contactless and queued check-in, people were required to show proof of vaccination and/or health checks prior to entry, and all staff, exhibitors, and attendees wore masks at all times.

"Our Operations team did an outstanding job setting up a vaccination checkpoint prior to allowing attendees and exhibitors into the facility," Mrs. Mariano says. "During our Covid-19 downtime we continued to educate ourselves with policies and procedures of the cities and states that we do business in and we were fully prepared."

This year's special show programs ranged from immersive artist-led experiences to compelling seminars on the most pressing industry challenges and trends. The Education Program included an extensive series of Topics & Trends seminars, moderated panel discussions and Art Talks. Some of the most popular subjects were Secrets of the Art World for Artists, 10 Tips for Sales Success, Art Talk: Two Dynamic Women Artists, Art Licensing: Opportunities, Chal-

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WEST COAST ART AND FRAME EXPO DATES NOT CONFIRMED FOR 2022

LAS VEGAS—The **West Coast Art and Frame Expo**, the annual trade show for the art and framing industry sponsored by *PFM* magazine, has not confirmed new dates for 2022 due to the pandemic-related uncertainty. Historically held every January in Las Vegas, WCAF Expo attracts thousands of retailers both domestically and internationally. The conference component features over 100 educational sessions including keynote speakers, hands-on workshops, product demonstrations, and networking opportunities. The show hosts the PFA annual convention with its many member offerings including certification programs and the PFA International Framing Competition. The size and complexity of this event creates new concerns during this pandemic. Many international travel restrictions that have been in place are scheduled to release this month. Vaccine requirements and mandatory proof for attendance at large events are being discussed and vary from event to event. Mask mandates, lowered capacity limits, and social distancing requirements are important issues affecting everyone in the meeting and convention industry. The exhibitors are also facing extended shipping delays that would make planning for an annual industry event much more difficult. With the size of the WCAF Expo and high percentage of international attendance, show organizers decided to postpone until a time when travel is comfortably possible. At this time, the earliest date range would be during the third quarter of 2022. For more details, visit: www.wcafexpo.com.

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allenges and Legal Issues, and 10 Tips on Building a Beautiful Art Collection.

Exhibitor Samir Sammoun of Sammoun Fine Art has been participating in the show for 25 years and says that he comes back each year because he has success in selling his work, as well as meeting new galleries including one this year that will begin selling his work. "Since 1996 Artexpo has been an important place for us to meet galleries and collectors," Sammoun says. "The show has been a tremendous platform for emerging and established artists to help maintain the market and to open new opportunities."

Sammoun sold 17 original oils out of the 48 that he brought to the show. Prices ranged from \$10,950 to \$47,000. He was also given the Award of Excellence by the show promoters. "This year I saw that people were happy to walk the show again but, at the same time, a number of galleries and collectors did not show up for health security reasons and due to the new location." But the artist values the one-on-one time with collectors and gallery owners that attending the show affords him. Late one day of the show, he was able to sell seven pieces of art to one collector that stopped by his booth. One painting was the 60- by 48-inch painting titled "Le Saule du sixième, Country Club de Montréal." This painting depicts the famous hole #6 at Country Club of Montreal where Sammoun is member.

Litsa Spanos, owner, president and consultant of the

Cincinnati-based Art Design Consultants (ADC) also had a good show having made some 50 sales over the four days. "We returned to Artexpo



Painter Alexei Butirskiy of Alexei Butirskiy Fine Art debuted many new works during the show.

for the first time in several years and took home robust sales for artist Ken Rausch and others in our busy booth," she says.



Artist Shima Shanti is shown, left, at her booth with Redwood Media Group's president Eric Smith.

Meeting new customers also proved to be successful for her. "We took a few commissions and met with existing customers at the show. But this year we did notice fewer people from outside of the local area, where in the past the show would attract those

from all over the world."

Artist Shima Shanti returned to exhibit her encaustic paintings at the show. "The new venue, Pier 36, was really nice, open, and had good lighting," she says. "It is located in an up and coming area. There was good attendance and it seemed like lots of visitors who were out for something to do, but light on trade people. There was excitement that art fairs are back and it was a good solid start. In time, fairs will be back to pre-Covid exhibitor and attendance numbers. There is still limited international travel and while I heard many languages being spoken they appeared to live in New York."

Artist Alexei Butirskiy of Alexei Butirskiy Fine Art LLC brought 33 new original pieces, four new medium pieces, and over 20 limited edition giclées to this year's show. His hope was that bringing a wide range of work would appeal to each buyer's price-points but what he found was that many attending were not there to buy. "The show was very disappointing considering we had new and masterful pieces on display ranging from \$2,100 to \$71,000," Butirskiy says. "The buyers that we met were mostly looking, and those ready to buy were looking for significant discounts. People did tell us that they loved our artwork and the subject matter, and our new medium piece, 'LUCHAE' was well received."

Redwood Art Group plans to hold the 2022 Artexpo New York at Pier 36 again, this time during the spring on April 7 to 10, so it does not coincide with any religious holidays. For details call (216) 225-0962 or: www.artexponewyork.com.