

Forbes

The 2017 Salon Art + Design Opens With Record Attendance

By Bettina Zilkha on November 10, 2017

The sixth annual Salon Art + Design opened Thursday night at Park Avenue Armory. More than 3,500 visitors, a record for the fair, browsed rows of modern and contemporary furniture, art, objects and jewelry. The evening began at 4 PM with an hour-long collector's preview benefitting Dia Art Foundation, co-hosted by Nathalie and Laura de Gunzburg.

Collectors and designers were overheard talking about how the quality of the offerings was better than ever this year. For the dealers, the fair is a must.

"All my important collectors are from New York," said Aline Chastel, of Galerie Chastel Marechal on rue Bonaparte in Paris. Chastel's prize pieces include a Lalanne grasshopper, star mirrors by Line Vautrin, a pair of Jean-Michel Frank silver floor lamps, and a startling Serge Roche cascade.

"Roche made this for his home on rue Las Cases in 1935," said Chastel. "It is a one-of-a-kind piece."

Collectors, including Valentino Garavani, Giancarlo Giametti, Hamish Bowles, Colby Mugarib and Dasha Zhukova walked through the halls hung with Van Dongen paintings and objects by Cesar. **A Nancy Lorenz white box oozing gold at Maison Gerard** caught designer Alex Papachristidis' eye, before he walked across the aisle, where Liz O'Brien had some showstoppers of her own, including a Jansen trompe-l'oeuil commode that belonged to Jayne Wrightsman, and a group of works by Samuel Marx.

"There is a great mix, a successful mix, of design and art at this fair," said O'Brien. "I've always liked this week in New York. It coincides with the contemporary art fairs, a lot of people are in town. There is great energy, and the best exhibitors are here."

"We come to New York twice a year from England, and it's the greatest city in the world to do an art show, because people are so open-minded to new objects," said Adrian Sassoon. "We have new objects; they were made in the last few weeks and months. We are continuing the history of English and international ceramics, glass, and metal works. A lot of our artists are collected by museums, and coming to the Salon Art + Design is essential."

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As jewelry is also art and design, Suzanne Syz and Giampiero Bodino also chose to exhibit their collections. This was the first time Milan-based jeweler Giampiero Bodino, part of the Richemont group, is exhibiting in the United States.

"This is the perfect venue for us," said Gilberto Sacchi, Giampiero Bodino's PR and VIP Manager. "Giampiero is particularly keen on design and art. The idea was to link our jewels to this exhibition. Our jewelry has a modern twist, particularly our use of colored stones together. For instance, this necklace has emeralds, blue sapphires and mandarin garnets. The creation and colors are based on Sicilian majolica - ceramics made in Sicily. The design is very unusual - and very modern."