

Artnet

7 Extraordinary Artworks to Seek Out at the Newly Returned ADAA Art Show in New York

By Annie Armstrong, November 4, 2021.

Here are the works that caught our eye at the newly-returned and much-loved New York fair.

The return of the beloved Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) Art Show to the Park Avenue Armory on Manhattan's Upper East Side last night (November 3) after nearly two years—the February 2020 version was one of the last art fairs to happen before the pandemic-induced lockdown—drew a spirited but not frenzied crowd that was packed with high-profile collectors, a sprinkling of celebrities and art-world veterans.

Iris Abrons, Agnes Gund, J. Tomilson Hill, Leonard Lauder, and Jerry Speyer were in attendance, and actor David Cross, writer Fran Lebowitz, and Catfish producer Nev Schulman also prowled the floor. We also spotted former auction executive Amy Cappellazzo, former Art Basel Americas director Noah Horowitz, and Maxwell Anderson, president of the Souls Grown Deep Foundation.

As of the VIP preview, and with four public fair days left to go, ticket sales and contributions to the fair's longtime charity partner—the Lower East Side social services nonprofit Henry Street Settlement—were up 20 percent compared to 2020, and the event had already raised over \$1 million, an ADAA representative told Artnet News. All ticket sales throughout the week go to Henry Street Settlement.

Business was brisk and the mood was upbeat as everyone agreed it was good to be back, albeit in a revised time slot, after more than a year of rolling delays and cancellations and a very long stretch of no art events at all. The Artnet News team scoured the aisles to bring you some of the best works on offer.

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The Visionaries (2014)
 OUATTARA WATTS



Ouattara Watts, *The Visionaries* (2014). Courtesy of Karma.

Booth: Karma, New York and Los Angeles

Why It's Special: Ouattara Watts was born in the Ivorian capital, Abidjan, in 1957, and in the 1980s, went to Paris to study painting, where he met none other than Jean-Michel Basquiat. Legend has it that Basquiat was an immediate fan of Watts' work and single-handedly convinced him to move to New York City, where he still lives and works today. Since then, Watts has gained fame for large-scale canvases painted in a singular, mystical visual language. *The Visionaries* is a representative work, drawing the eye in with arrows pointing in conflicting directions, foreboding faces, and geometric shapes reminiscent of Hilma af Klint dancing in the background.