

5 Outstanding Artworks at Liste Art Fair Basel 2025

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It might be celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, but the premise of Liste Art Fair Basel remains as fresh as ever.

The fair was founded in 1996 in response to what its organizers called a “paradigm shift” in the art world, namely, the arrival of a “new and self-assured generation of gallerists and artists.” Since then, it has become known as a flagbearer for such emerging talent. Early on, it gave a platform to some of today’s art world A-listers, such as David Zwirner gallery, as well as artists like Carole Bove and Elizabeth Peyton. Today, it’s still seeking out the major names of tomorrow.

“Liste has always been closely connected to both the production and evolution of emerging as well as established or trailblazing artists,” said Nikola Dietrich, the fair’s new director. “The fair explores young art scenes and evolving forms of expression—not merely by tracing trends, but also by responding to shifts and disruptions.”

Bringing together 99 galleries (up from 93 last year) from 31 countries, the fair offers a comprehensive cross-section of the commercial art world at its cutting edge. Some 48 galleries are making their debut at this year’s fair, too, evidence that its pipeline remains as strong as ever. Newcomers include London’s Tiwani Contemporary, Vienna’s Commune, and Seoul’s G Gallery.

Exhibitors here are mostly showcasing solo artist booths, many of which are presented in carefully curated displays similar to small gallery shows. Within that, there’s a huge range of practices and styles. Highlights include a sculptural installation by Sara Ravelli—consisting of papier-mâché mechanical eyes inspired by carnival floats—at Italian gallery Bar’s booth. New York gallery Silke Lindner is presenting sculptural works by Gozié Ojini that reference hip-hop sampling in broken-up musical instruments. And London gallery Rose Easton is showing inventive paintings, jewelry, and sculptures by Arlette, who draws on the artisanal history of Swiss precision as well as her Mexican heritage.

Indeed, many of the artists on view were new discoveries to even the most knowledgeable VIP guests who filtered through the Messeplatz on a humid Monday, June 16th. Occupying its traditional slot down the road from Art Basel, which gets underway on Tuesday, the fair boasted a lively atmosphere. If the crowd felt more compacted than at last year’s VIP day, it was most likely due to the fair’s new layout, which traded a central circular booth structure for a more elliptical series of curved clusters. If that description sounds confusing, it’s because it is, as more than a few befuddled VIPs could attest to in the fair’s opening hours.

With the vast majority of works on view at Liste priced under \$40,000, the fair stands well positioned to weather the current art market climate. While the higher end of the market has slowed, emerging art and lower artwork price segments are seeing increased transaction volumes and levels of interest among collectors. While the fair doesn’t conclude until June 22nd, initial reports from the VIP day from galleries in attendance were of strong early conversations with collectors, a wave of concrete initial sales, and even a few sold-out booths—enough to foster a noticeable cheeriness across the concourse.

Here, Artsy picks out five outstanding works from Liste Art Fair Basel 2025.

ART SY

Wang Ye
Midsummer Twilight, 2025
YveYANG GALLERY
Booth 75



Wang Ye, *Midsummer Twilight*, 2025. Courtesy of the artist and YveYANG GALLERY.

Chinese artist Wang Ye has spent the past six years developing a new, painfully precise embroidering technique. While the traditional techniques from his home of Hunan, China, use silk threads twisted into groups of eight, his methods deploy a thinner single or double strand. As this series of new works on view at New York's YveYANG Gallery's booth shows, this results in stunning detail that nods to the handweaving techniques of the past.

"Everything right now is machine-made, including the silk embroidery, but everything here is handmade," explained gallery founder Yve Yang.

Ye uses silk handwoven in the 1990s, which is soaked in tea tree oil to preserve its lush sheen and rich color. In the verdant work *Midsummer Twilight* (2025), these strands carry an almost painterly impression. At first glance, it looks like a glimpse into a different galaxy with clusters of stars and comets, but closer inspection reveals that the flow is guided by the strands of silk that are swept in varying directions and hand-dyed in delicate flecks of golden tones. It's a work of staggering complexity and emotive beauty.

Indeed, several visitors at the booth were pausing to take in its subtlety, getting up close to the works to grasp the techniques at hand. The price of the work is "around" \$22,500, according to the gallery.