

Backgrounder

The Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA) is a non-profit membership organization that supports the economic and cultural contributions of the nation's leading fine art galleries. The ADAA includes 180 members from 25 cities in the U.S., representing hundreds of established and emerging artists internationally. ADAA members have extensive expertise across primary and secondary markets, and established reputations for upholding best practices in the field. The ADAA serves as a resource and advocate, raising awareness of dealers' critical roles in the international art market and the cultural community.

Founded in 1962, the ADAA is a leader on issues pertaining to connoisseurship, conservation, scholarship, ethical practice, and public policy. Its members contribute to art historical scholarship through research, publication, and exhibition; by nurturing new artistic talent; and by engaging diverse audiences with a spectrum of art, from the extraordinary work of Old Masters through the most important artists working today. At the forefront of ideas and innovations in the field, ADAA members spur the creative economy and contribute to the vitality of their communities. The ADAA provides a platform for members, and the broader professional arts community, to engage in active dialogue on timely issues such as the rapid evolution of the art market and the growth of the arts ecology.

Throughout the year, the ADAA hosts professional lectures, discussions, and forums, and its members host and participate in a wide range of private and public events. The ADAA's activity culminates annually in The Art Show, held at the historic Park Avenue Armory each March in support of the Henry Street Settlement. The fair, an integral part of New York City's Arts Week, offers collectors, arts professionals, and the public the opportunity to engage with an incredible range of artworks through thoughtfully curated single artist, thematic, and group installations.

Intimately scaled to encourage conversation with experts on the floor, The Art Show features 72 galleries drawn from the ADAA's membership and selected through a curatorial submission process. The selection criteria ensure that each year The Art Show will showcase a diverse mix of artists, genres, periods, and geographies, inviting visitors to experience premier works from established names as well as those new to the market. Committed to providing a leisurely viewing experience that will appeal to both the seasoned and young collector, The Art Show offers a singular moment of respite during the flurry of March fairs and auctions. Now in its 28th year, The Art Show has become synonymous with connoisseurship and expertise, underscoring the importance of the one-to-one connections between visitor, expert, and artwork.

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The ADAA is further distinguished by its Appraisal Service which has been valuing works of art for donation, estate, gift tax and insurance for over fifty years. The department's four appraisers have a depth of art historical and market knowledge, and they are known for their personalized service to their clients, guiding them through the valuation process. With the expertise of the ADAA membership available to the department, it has achieved an exceptional track record in appraising work from Old Master paintings to contemporary installations.

A well-established leader in the field, the ADAA is engaging in the issues most essential to the continued success of the industry. In 2012, the ADAA established the ADAA Relief Fund to support galleries and non-profit arts organizations affected by Hurricane Sandy, providing grants to help repair facilities and to encourage an expedient return to operations.

Additionally, the ADAA Foundation, a distinct but connected entity, was established in 1970 to foster appreciation of art and art history in both the public and private spheres. Supported by donations from ADAA members, the Foundation supports a broad range of activity in the arts and culture community by distributing grants to museums, archives, and arts organizations.

The ADAA is dedicated to promoting a holistic understanding of the art market's participants and resources, and to supporting the vital activity of dealers within this ecology. Its leadership engages in pending legislation, legal matters, and international trade policies, representing the voices of its members in setting ethical business standards and practices.