

Art Fair Co-Commitments on Environmental Responsibility

Embargoed until launch 26 September 2024

ARCO, Art Basel, The Art Show, CHART, Easyfairs, ESTE ARTE, Frieze, Liste Art Fair Basel, Market Art Fair, Ramsay Fairs, STAGE Bregenz, TEFAF, Untitled Art.

In response to the escalating climate crisis, we – the art fairs listed above – are committed to alignment and collaboration on positive action across our industry.

The art world has an important role to play in addressing the climate crisis – firstly by reducing its own environmental impact – but also because arts organisations and artists have an opportunity to use their platforms and influence to set a positive example, inspiring others to take action.

Art fairs share a common mission to promote art in all its forms, to inspire audiences to engage with culture, and to support galleries and artists in thriving. As the climate crisis endangers this mission, we have a responsibility not only to urgently reduce our own impact on the planet but also to use our platforms to encourage others in our networks to do the same.

We have come together to collaborate with [Gallery Climate Coalition](#) (GCC) and collectively produced a [toolkit on environmental responsibility and climate action specific to the activities of art fairs](#), which will serve as our guide to reducing the impacts of our operations.

As members of GCC, we have all pledged to at least halve carbon emissions by 2030 and work towards near-zero waste operations. We have joined forces now through this alliance to support the development of the [Art Fair Toolkit for Environmental Responsibility](#) in the knowledge that we still have a great deal to do and much to learn. However, by making this statement public we intend to make our plans clear and ourselves accountable.

Outlined below are the actions we pledge to make. Some changes will take years to effectively implement across all international locations but by setting new standards and supporting others in our industry to do the same we are optimistic that we can create meaningful and long-lasting systemic changes and meet the shared 2030 goals.

In the meantime, we welcome feedback from our partners, participants, audience, vendors and shareholders on our targets and our plans for action, and we invite others in the art sector and beyond to join us.

As with other large international events, art fairs have environmental impacts such as air travel, transportation of artworks via air freight, and energy consumption in venues. In addition, these events can generate significant volumes of single-use materials waste.

We recognise that effectively tackling the climate crisis requires changes in our industry and the way we operate. We are committed to environmental responsibility and are aligned on the following steps:

- Working towards achieving and/or maintaining GCC 'Active Membership' status.
- Regularly calculating the greenhouse gas emissions of our operations, to track progress towards this target.
- Working with environmental experts and collaborating with others in global cultural industries to set new standards for environmentally responsible operations.
- Establishing specific targets and promoting behavioural changes to address the primary sources of emissions and waste associated with our fairs, including:
 - Staff travel, Visitor travel and Exhibitor travel
 - Exhibitor's air freight to and from fairs
 - Production freight to and from fairs
 - Local deliveries
 - Energy consumption at venues, offices and facilities
 - Art fair production and installation materials
 - Exhibitor production and installation materials
 - Vendor, contractor, supplier and visitor waste

The actions we are committed to taking, in line with the Art Fair Toolkit for Environmental Responsibility include:

- Working with shipping partners to standardise alternatives to air freight transport.
- Encouraging the use of lower emission shipping and transport methods across all suppliers, vendors, visitors and exhibitors.
- Increasing the use of digital technologies to make our events accessible to audiences without the need for international travel.
- Reviewing internal travel policies to ensure all staff travel is essential travel.
- Working with contractors and vendors to improve efficiencies and reduce waste and emissions, including on all aspects of the build and de-construction of the fairs.
- Conducting energy audits of our venues and offices to find opportunities for energy reduction
- Moving to renewable energy suppliers and producing renewable energy on site (e.g. installing solar panels) where possible.
- Conducting regular waste audits, reviewing waste management systems and contractors and adapting accordingly.
- Taking action in line with the principles of climate justice, recognising the connections between the climate crisis and other global injustices so that our actions support – rather than undermine or ignore – the needs of people on the frontlines of marginalisation and injustice.
- Working with GCC and its members on projects to help develop more sustainable packaging, transport and energy saving solutions for the whole sector.
- Speaking to our suppliers and service providers about their carbon footprint and encouraging them to take action.
- Working with environmental consultants and maintaining an internal Green Team with representatives from different parts of the organisation.

Alliance of Art Fairs Co-Signing the Statement on Environmental Responsibility:

Art Basel

Andrew Strachan
General Manager, Fairs and
Exhibition Platforms
Art Basel: Basel, Hong
Kong, Miami Beach, Paris

Frieze

Jon Ashman
Chief Financial and
Operations Officer
Frieze: London, Masters,
New York, Los Angeles,
Seoul. The Armory Show.
EXPO CHICAGO

Ramsay Fairs

Rupert Harding-Newman
Chief Operating Officer
VOLTA: New York, Basel
British Art Fair
Affordable Art Fair: 15
events in 9 countries

ARCO

Maribel López Zambrana
Director
ARCO: Madrid, Lisbon

Easyfairs

Nele Verhaeren
Managing Director
Art Brussels, Art Antwerp

TEFAF

Will Korner
Head of Fairs
TEFAF: Maastricht, New
York

The Art Show

Maureen Bray
Executive Director, ADAA

CHART

Julie Quottrup Silbermann
Director

ESTE ARTE Cultural Summit & Art Fair

Laura Bardier
Founding Director

Liste Art Fair Basel

Nikola Dietrich
Director

Market Art Fair

Sara Berner Bengtsson
Director & CEO

STAGE Bregenz

Renger van den Heuvel
Founding Director

Untitled Art

Clara Andrade Pereira
Executive Director

This statement was coordinated and composed by [Gallery Climate Coalition](#), and was co-signed & published in September 2024. For further information or for any other fairs interested in joining this alliance, please contact info@galleryclimatecoalition.org. For press inquires please contact, isabel@sam-talbot.com