



ART MARKET CONFERENCE MODULE III

«Do Galleries Really Have to Grow or Go?»

Sunday, June 9, 2019, 2 - 3.20 pm
Schwarzes Café, Luma Westbau, Löwenbräu Zürich

In its series of art market conferences, the Kunstforum Zürich is dedicating this module to galleries - institutions that courageously link their economic success to their love of art and offer artists a safe ground for experimentation. The imbalance in the ecosystem is unmistakable: the large galleries are getting bigger and bigger, the medium ones and the small ones have a hard time. The room for manoeuvre in the sandwich between auction houses and online dealers is getting smaller every year. In addition, the global economy often functions according to the motto «The winner takes it all». This development is dangerous because a functioning art market requires colourful diversity. But how do we counteract this unwelcome trend?

To discuss this, Kunstforum Zürich invited two key players for a conference on Zurich Art Weekend: the founder of the gallery exchange program Condo Vanessa Carlos from London and the Belgian collector and financier Alain Servais.

Brazilian-born Vanessa Carlos is one of the most influential «Under 40» in the art world. Her London gallery Carlos/Ishikawa (since 2011) is successfully committed to young artists such as Korakrit Arunanondchai and Oscar Murillo. The gallery exchange program CONDO, initiated by her in 2016, has since taken place annually in London, New York, Mexico City, and Shanghai.

Belgian collector Alain Servais began collecting art in 1990s; his Servais Family Collection has been permanently housed in an old factory in Brussels since 2000. In 2014, he unleashed the first discussion on the subject with an article titled «Art in the Shadow of Art Market Industrialization». With Hashtag #GrowOrGo, he also shaped the discussion about a gallery system in which only the largest and richest galleries survive.

The Art Talk, moderated by Ewa Hess, will be held in English.

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