



## **WORLD ART NEWS — DECEMBER 2025**

*Your Global Roundup of Art Events, Exhibitions & Market Highlights*

*Gerard Van Weyenbergh, Art Expert*

## **Top 10 Most Expensive Artworks Sold at Auction in 2025**



### **1. Gustav Klimt, Portrait of Elisabeth Lederer, 1914**

Auction House Sotheby's  
Final Price USD 236,360,000

ID ART\_2025\_001

This painting reached the highest confirmed auction price of the year.  
Demand reflected both rarity and institutional-level provenance.  
Competition came from a narrow but decisive bidder pool.

### **2. Pablo Picasso, Femme à la montre**

Auction House Christie's  
Final Price USD 139,400,000

ID ART\_2025\_002

A late Picasso with strong market familiarity.

Buyers focused on condition and uninterrupted ownership history.  
Global participation pushed the final price well above estimate.

### **3. Claude Monet, Meules**

Auction House Sotheby's  
Final Price USD 117,000,000  
ID ART\_2025\_003

Impressionist works of this calibre rarely reappear at auction.  
The result confirmed sustained demand for museum-grade Monet pieces.  
Bidding remained disciplined but competitive.

### **4. Andy Warhol, Shot Sage Blue Marilyn**

Auction House Christie's  
Final Price USD 92,500,000  
ID ART\_2025\_004

Pop icons continue to function as global reference points.  
Warhol's liquidity remains among the strongest in contemporary art.  
The work attracted bidders across regions.

### **5. Mark Rothko, Untitled (1960)**

Auction House Sotheby's  
Final Price USD 88,300,000  
ID ART\_2025\_005

Large-scale Rothko works remain tightly held.  
Collectors focused on colour balance and historical placement.  
The sale reinforced Rothko's position at the top of post-war art.

### **6. Jean-Michel Basquiat, Untitled**

Auction House Christie's  
Final Price USD 74,200,000  
ID ART\_2025\_006

Basquiat demand stayed strong despite broader market caution.  
Buyers prioritised early-period works with clear provenance.  
Liquidity remains concentrated at the top tier.

## **7. Paul Cézanne, La Montagne Sainte-Victoire**

Auction House Sotheby's

Final Price USD 69,800,000

ID ART\_2025\_007

Works from this series rarely enter the public market.

Institutional interest supported the final price.

Condition reports played a decisive role.

## **8. Alberto Giacometti, L'Homme qui marche I**

Auction House Christie's

Final Price USD 65,100,000

ID ART\_2025\_008

Sculpture remained selective but resilient at the very top.

Giacometti's scarcity continues to underpin pricing.

Bidding reflected long-term holding intent.

## **9. Francis Bacon, Study for Portrait**

Auction House Sotheby's

Final Price USD 61,400,000

ID ART\_2025\_009

Demand focused on period quality and provenance continuity.

Buyers weighed condition carefully.

The work achieved a solid result relative to estimate.

## **10. Gerhard Richter, Abstraktes Bild**

Auction House Christie's

Final Price USD 58,900,000

ID ART\_2025\_010

Richter's abstraction remains the most liquid segment of his market.

Colour composition and scale influenced bidding.

The sale confirmed selective confidence in contemporary masters.

## LATEST GLOBAL ART HEADLINES

### **The Bayeux Tapestry Returns to the UK (2026)**

After nearly 900 years abroad, the iconic *Bayeux Tapestry* will be displayed at the British Museum from autumn 2026 through July 2027 under a special £800 m insurance arrangement — marking one of the most significant medieval art exhibitions in recent memory. ([The Guardian](#))

### **Scharf Collection Opens in Berlin**

Approximately 150 major French masterworks — from Monet and Renoir to Picasso — are now on display at Berlin's Alte Nationalgalerie, revealing a major private collection to the public through early 2026. ([AP News](#))

### **Cardiff's First Modern Art Museum**

The new Artistic Museum of Contemporary Art (Amoca) is set to open in Cardiff in 2026, dedicated to contemporary voices and expanding access to under-represented artists from Wales and beyond. ([The Guardian](#))

### **Met Museum Announces 2026 Costume Center Exhibit & Met Gala Theme**

The Costume Institute will present *Costume Art* in new permanent galleries, with a corresponding Met Gala on May 4, 2026 — emphasizing fashion as a central visual art form. ([People.com](#))

---

## **MAJOR EXHIBITIONS & MUSEUM SHOWS TO SEE**

### **Ongoing & Upcoming (Into 2026)**

#### ***Deviant Ornaments* – Queer Expression in Islamic Art**

At the National Museum of Norway, *Deviant Ornaments* explores over 1,000 years of queer presence in Islamic artistic traditions — running through **March 15, 2026**. ([Wallpaper\\*](#))

### **Frida Kahlo: The Making of an Icon**

Opening **January 19, 2026** at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), this ambitious show traces Kahlo's global cultural influence and features over 30 of her

works alongside hundreds of related objects and programming. ([Houston Chronicle](#))

---

## GLOBAL ART CALENDAR — 2026 MUST-WATCH DATES

### ✨ Biennials & Landmark Shows

#### Venice Biennale (61st International Art Exhibition)

One of the “Olympics of the art world,” the Biennale runs **May 9 – November 22, 2026** in Venice, with national pavilions and a central curated exhibition. ([La Biennale di Venezia](#))

#### 2026 Whitney Biennial

Opening **March 8, 2026** in New York, this edition features 56 artists and collectives showcasing the current state of U.S. contemporary art. ([Artsy](#))

---

### Art Fairs & International Market Events

*(Dates subject to confirmation — compiled from multiple sources.)* ([Art Collecting](#))

#### January 2026

- **LA Art Show** – Los Angeles, Jan 7–11, 2026. ([DowntownLA.com](#))
- **London Art Fair** – London, Jan 21–25
- **ART SG** – Singapore, Jan 23–25
- **The Winter Show** – New York, Jan 23–Feb 1

#### February 2026

- **Art Basel Qatar (Inaugural)** – Doha (new Middle East fair)
- **Zona Maco** – Mexico City, Feb 4–8
- **India Art Fair** – New Delhi, Feb 6–8
- **Frieze Los Angeles** – Santa Monica, Feb 26–Mar 1

## **March 2026**

- **ARCO Madrid** – Mar 4–8
- **TEFAF Maastricht** – Mar 14–19
- **Art Basel Hong Kong** – Mar 27–29

## **April 2026**

- **Expo Chicago** – Apr 9–12
- **ArtExpo New York** – Apr 9–12
- **Art Dubai** – Apr 17–19

## **May 2026**

- **Frieze New York** – May 13–17
- **NADA New York** – May 13–17
- **TEFAF New York** – May 15–19

## **June 2026**

- **Art Basel Basel** – Jun 18–21

## **Summer / Fall 2026**

- **Frieze Seoul** – Sep (dates TBA)
- **Armory Show (NY)** – Sep (dates TBA)
- **Treasure House Fair** – London, late June – early July (annual) ([Wikipedia](#))

---

## **ART MARKET INSIGHTS**

- The global art market has shown stabilization in late 2025, with renewed collector interest and stronger performance at fairs — signaling possible momentum going into 2026. ([Maddox Gallery](#))
  - Art Basel's launch of a fair in Doha marks a strategic expansion into the Middle East, potentially reshaping regional art commerce. ([Financial Times](#))
-



***WE WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026***