



"Woody De Othello: All the Art You Need to See During Art Basel 2026"

By Casey Lesser

June 12, 2026

Every June, Art Basel reminds us where the modern art fair tradition began. The gold standard of art fairs since its founding in 1970, the Swiss fair is both sprawling and exacting, with top galleries from around the world offering a sweeping view of the commercial art market now—from buzzy emerging names to breathtaking blue-chip masters.

The fair itself is very much the center of gravity, but the city has more to offer. Basel may be one of the most enjoyable fair weeks precisely because its list of essential stops is finite: a sprinkling of fairs, museum exhibitions, and gallery shows with a strong track record of excellence. It's a refreshing counter to the typical jam-packed art week that sends you crisscrossing a major metropolis at warp speed.

From the fairs of the Messeplatz to standout museum shows and the genre-defying Basel Social Club, here are 10 stops to make during Art Basel 2026, whether you'll be there in person or are simply curious about what you'll be missing.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

1. Basel June 18–21 (Invitation-only days on June 16 and 17)  
Messe Basel, Hall 2



Courtesy of Art Basel.

For its 2026 edition, Art Basel’s flagship fair brings together 290 galleries from 43 countries and territories, with works ranging from exceptional 20th-century pieces to fresh contemporary art from some of the most sought-after artists working today.

Excitingly, this year marks the launch of Basel Exclusive, a new initiative that will see galleries unveiling select marquee works for the first time at the fair’s VIP opening—meaning they have not been circulated online or shared with collectors in advance. While we don’t know what exactly is coming, Artnet News reported a long list of participating artists spanning major names Marcel Duchamp and Leonora Carrington through to rising voices like Alvaro Barrington, Poppy Jones, and Klára Hosnedlová.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

2. Art Basel Unlimited June 18–21 (Invitation-only days on June 15 evening and June 17),  
Messe Basel, Hall 1



Installation view of works by Woody De Othello. Courtesy of Jessica Silverman Gallery and Karma.

A sector within an art fair rarely warrants its own spot in a guide like this, but Unlimited is the exception. It is an annual, sprawling showstopper, bringing together artworks so large, ambitious, or performative that you would hardly expect to encounter them at an art fair. It presents the kind of work you might expect to find in a museum—at a much larger volume.

This year, Unlimited features 59 projects spanning installation, sculpture, performance, film, and immersive environments, and is curated for the first time by Ruba Katrib, chief curator and director of curatorial affairs at MoMA PS1. Among the artists likely to make an impression are Matthew Barney, Tracey Emin, Ryan Gander, Theaster Gates, Eva Jospin, Zsófia Keresztes, Woody De Othello, Dana Schutz, and Wael Shawky.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

3. Liste Art Fair Basel June 16–21 (Invitation-only day on June 15)  
Messe Basel, Hall 1.1



Right to left: Bronson Smillie, *Debris Flow Lucky Clover*, 2025. Photo by atlas documentation. Courtesy of the Artist and Pangée. Alfredo Aceto, *Trap*, 2025. Photo by Andrea Rossetti. Courtesy of the Artist and Hua International.

Founded in 1996 as Basel's "young art fair," Liste has built a reputation for platforming emerging galleries and artists. This year brings together more than 100 galleries from around the world.

Among the booths to seek out are Pangée, presenting Bronson Smillie's sculptural drawings; Sorondo Projects, with a geologically driven conversation through works by Nikolay Morgunov and María Elena Pombo; Afriart Gallery, showing Fiker Solomon's fiber works and emotive ecological forms; and max goelitz, presenting Ju Young Kim's sculptures, which reimagine the infrastructure and psychology of airplanes.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

4. Basel Social Club June 14-20  
Erdbeergraben 1



Courtesy of Basel Social Club.

Though it's become a fixture on the Basel calendar, Basel Social Club reinvents itself every year. Less art fair than socially driven meeting place, the annual event has previously taken shape in a former factory, a farm, and an old bank; for its fifth edition, it settles into a vacant office building a few minutes' walk from the Basel SBB train station.

The context is fitting for a sprawling exhibition centered on the workplace as a site of critical reflection, with some artists creating work in response to the building itself. Throughout the week, Basel Social Club will bring together art, performances, music, food, and space for conversation—while considering labor and productivity in this moment, when remote work is normalized and AI is radically disrupting entire industries. There's even an "Out of Office" zone where you can take a break.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

5. MAZE/Design Basel June 14-18  
Offene Kirche Elisabethen  
Elisabethenstrasse 27



Installation view of MAZE/Design Basel, 2025. Courtesy of MAZE/Design Basel.

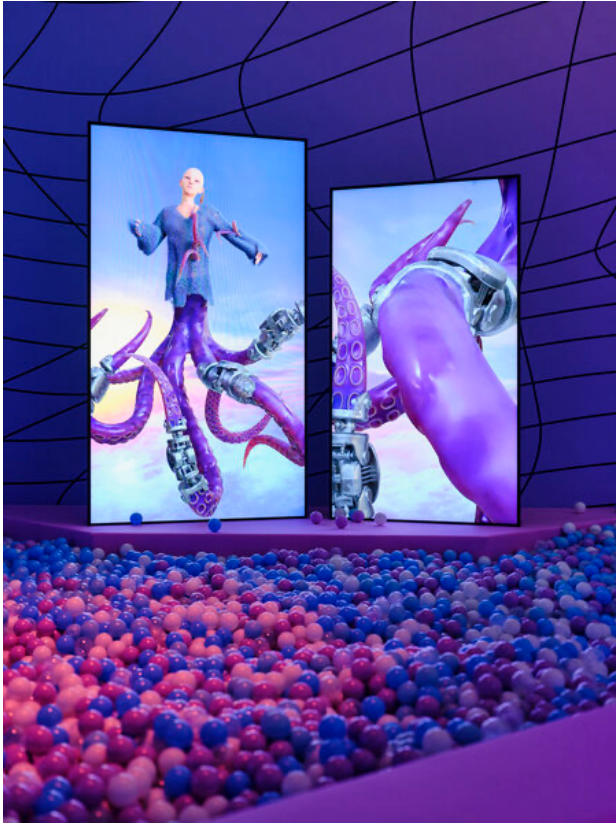
Now in its second edition, MAZE/Design Basel returns to the majestic Offene Kirche Elisabethen, a Neo-Gothic church in the middle of Basel's Old Town.

This year, there's also an adjacent pavilion added to accommodate more galleries. Founded in 2025 in response to the absence of Design Miami/Basel, MAZE has quickly positioned itself as a go-to destination for collectible design. It will convene an international group of galleries including Laffanour | Galerie Downtown, Mitterrand, Ketabi Bourdet, Galerie kreo, Salon 94, and more.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

6. Kunstmuseum Basel St. Alban-Graben 16



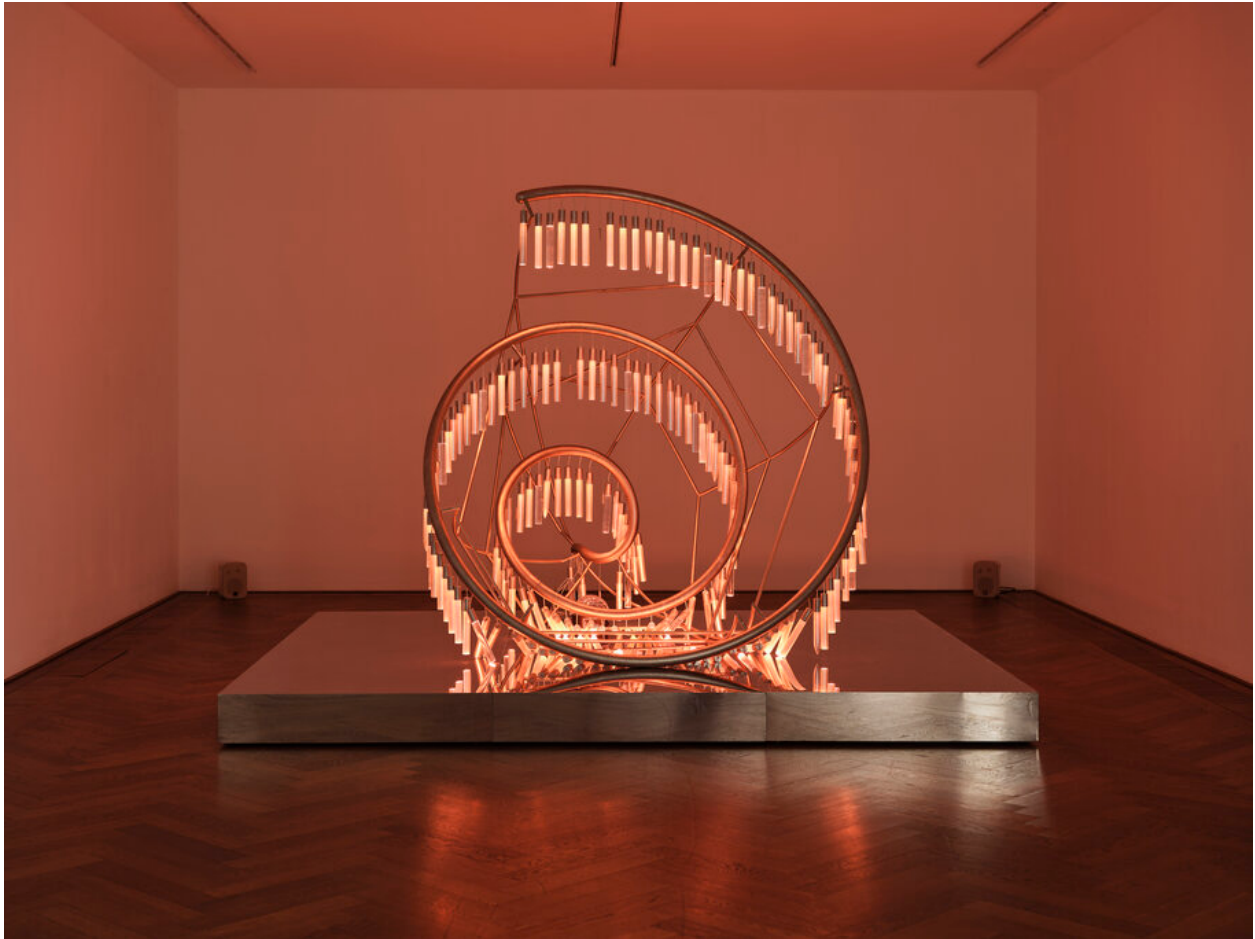
Left to right: Installation view Kunstmuseum Basel | Gegenwart; Cao Fei: Testimonies to the Near Future, 2026, Courtesy of the artist, Creative Vitamin Space, and Sprüth Magers. Installation view Kunstmuseum Basel | Helen Frankenthaler, 2026. Courtesy of Kunstmuseum Basel.

The oldest public art museum in the world, Kunstmuseum Basel reliably delivers an impressive slate of shows each June. This year brings an exciting contrast: the largest Helen Frankenthaler exhibition in Europe to date and "Cao Fei: Testimonies to the Near Future," a survey of the acclaimed Chinese artist exploring digitalization, street culture, and speculative futures. And the museum's permanent collection is always a treat, with Old Masters, 19th-century paintings, modern icons, and contemporary works spread across three buildings.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

7. Kunsthalle Basel  
Steinenberg 7



Shuang Li, *With a Trunk of Ammunition Too*, 2024, installation view, in: "Shuang Li, Alliance," Kunsthalle Basel, 2026. Photo: Philipp Hänger / Kunsthalle Basel.

Kunsthalle Basel, one of Europe's sharpest contemporary art spaces, presents two solo exhibitions by artists making their European institutional solo debuts. Shuang Li examines how digital technologies shape relationships, bodies, and desire, premiering a film installation that takes up extreme weather to consider climate crisis and capitalist extraction. And Janiva Ellis shows 11 new paintings that delve into three loaded traditions in painting: the religious, the landscape, and the erotic.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

8. Fondation Beyeler  
Baselstrasse 101, Riehen



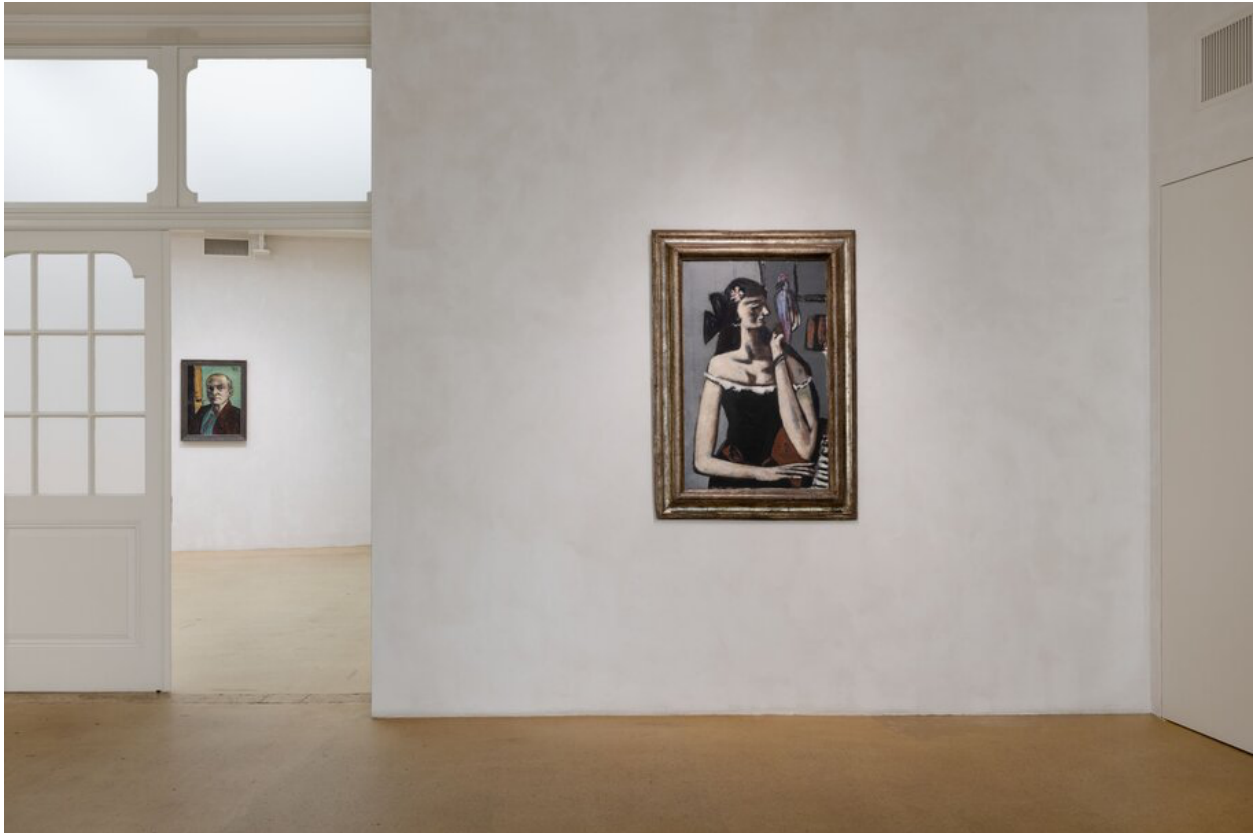
Installation view "Pierre Huyghe," Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel, 2026. © Pierre Huyghe, represented by ProLitteris (CH) / ADAGP (FR). Photo: Ola Rindal.

Basel's gallery scene is small, but there are several strong shows worth catching. Start with Hauser & Wirth, which presents a dedicated exhibition of Max Beckmann curated in close collaboration with the artist's granddaughter Mayen Beckmann, promising an intimate view into his practice (through July 11th). A short walk away, Gagosian is presenting an extension of its Art Basel booth at its Basel outpost. And nearby, MASSIMODECARLO stages "DEE-TOUR," a pop-up presentation of works by France-Lise McGurn at Domushaus, where the Glasgow-born artist's paintings extend beyond the canvas and across the exhibition space (June 15th to 21th). And keep heading northwest to see the newly renovated von Bartha, which reopens during Art Basel week with "Fable and Form," pairing works by Barry Flanagan and Ursula Reuter Christiansen (June 15th to August 7th).

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

9. Basel gallery shows  
Various locations



Installation view, "Max Beckmann" at Hauser & Wirth in Basel, until 4 July 2026. Photo: Gina Folly. Courtesy of Hauser & Wirth.

Basel's gallery scene is small, but there are several strong shows worth catching. Start with Hauser & Wirth, which presents a dedicated exhibition of Max Beckmann curated in close collaboration with the artist's granddaughter Mayen Beckmann, promising an intimate view into his practice (through July 11th). A short walk away, Gagosian is presenting an extension of its Art Basel booth at its Basel outpost. And nearby, MASSIMODECARLO stages "DEE-TOUR," a pop-up presentation of works by France-Lise McGurn at Domushaus, where the Glasgow-born artist's paintings extend beyond the canvas and across the exhibition space (June 15th to 21th). And keep heading northwest to see the newly renovated von Bartha, which reopens during Art Basel week with "Fable and Form," pairing works by Barry Flanagan and Ursula Reuter Christiansen (June 15th to August 7th).

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508

10. Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger (KBH.G)  
Spitalstrasse 18



Installation view, "Extrasensory - Chloe Wise" at Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger, 2026. Photo: Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger | KBH.G.

Artist Chloe Wise, best known for her lush figurative paintings, presents her first major institutional exhibition in Switzerland with "EXTRASENSORY," her most ambitious film project to date. For the show, the foundation's roughly 5,400-square-foot Kunsthalle space will become a cinematic environment, with screens surrounding viewers as performers play figures that draw from religion, mythology, sci-fi, and mass media. The film channels the heightened lighting of Wise's paintings and the drama of late 20th-century cinema, using its seductive visuals to poke at fantasy, consumer culture, and the stories we choose to believe. The show runs through September 6th.

**JESSICA  
SILVERMAN**

621 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94108  
jessicasilvermangallery.com +1 415 255 9508