

Varsala Sethi, "What to look out for at Art Basel 2022 edition in Switzerland," *STIRworld*, June 15, 2022.



What to look out for at Art Basel 2022 edition in Switzerland

Starting June 16, the four-day art fair will host a wide selection of sculptures, paintings, installations, and art performances. STIR highlights what you shouldn't miss.

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This week, the art world will descend on Basel in Switzerland, for Art Basel 2022, helping restore the fair to its pre-pandemic glory. STIR looks into some of the must-see pieces from the Basel art fair's numerous categories, which include enigmatic large-scale sculptures, installations, and thought-provoking art. Art Basel, which was founded in 1970 by Basel gallerists and is defined by its host city and region, is distinct, as evidenced by its participating galleries, artworks on display, and the substance of parallel programming established in partnership with local institutions for each edition.

Art Basel brings together the worldwide art world for a first edition of its Swiss exposition, with 289 renowned galleries from 40 countries and territories. For the first time, 19 galleries from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas are participating in the event. The 2022 edition is

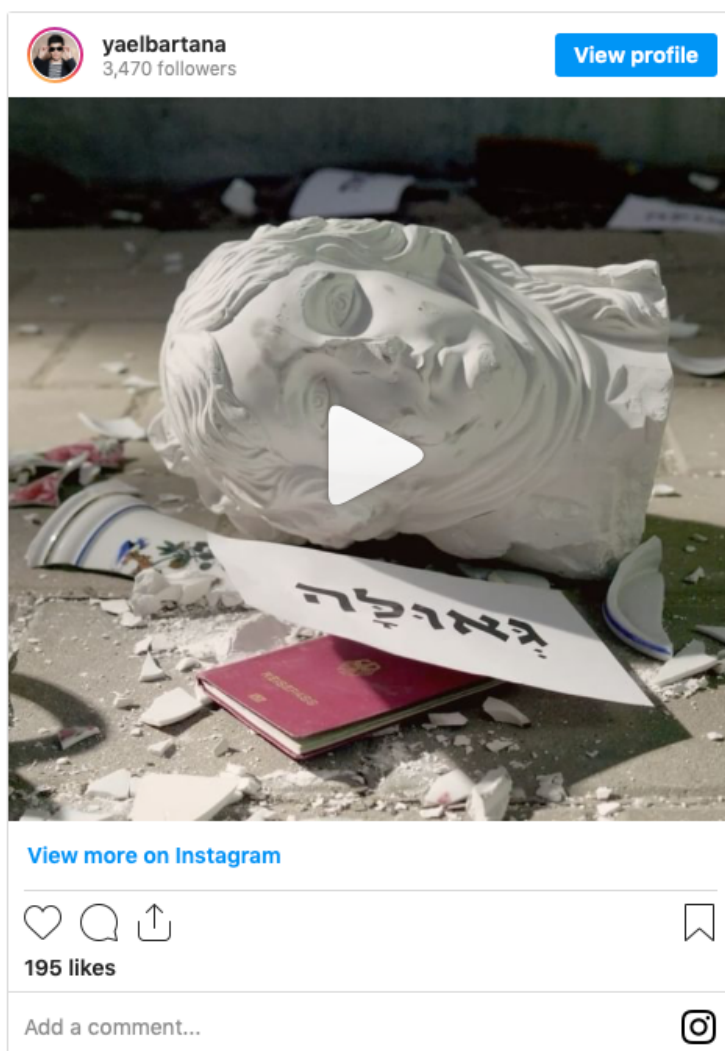
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incorporating a hybrid physical and digital format to reach the widest possible audience both on-site and online.

The 2022 edition of Art Basel is back with enthralling presentations in all of its specialties: 'Unlimited' – a section of monumental projects – features large-scale installations that are larger than regular art show stalls; 'Statements' is all about solo presentations from emerging artists, 'Feature' is dedicated to curated works by artists from 20th and 21st century, and 'Parcours' section, curated by Samuel Leuenberger, will be presenting site-specific works throughout Basel's Old Town. Other shows and presentations are happening under the sections 'Galleries', 'Edition', 'Film', 'Messeplatz Project', and 'Conversations'.

Here is our selection of must-see masterpieces from the ongoing edition at Basel, Switzerland.



Malka Germania, 2021, Video, Yael Bartana Image: Courtesy yaelbartana on Instagram

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5. A three-screen video by Yael Bartana, *Malka Germania* (2021), is set in Berlin's Wannsee beach resort. The infamous meeting where Reinhard Heydrich (Hitler's head of security) presided over the Nazi government's plans for the 'final solution': the killing of Jews in occupied Europe took place here. *Malka Germania* is art as a weapon of revenge, a timed rocket fired precisely at those who want Germany's misdeeds erased.

'Unlimited' is Art Basel's one-of-a-kind platform for large-scale projects that allows galleries to show off large-scale installations, monumental sculptures, massive wall paintings, extensive photographic series, and video projections that go beyond the traditional art fair stand. While Thomas J Price's exhibit *Moments Contained* is part of Unlimited section, the sculptural installation and performance by Puppies Puppies (Jade Guarano Kuriki-Olivo), presented outdoors in the city centre by Balice Hertling, Galerie Francesca Pia, and Galerie Barbara Weiss is featured under the 'Parcours' sector. Weiner's works on display at Messeplatz is a tribute to the late American artist.

"Unlimited 2022 is decidedly intense, no less a reflection on the contradictory era in which we live," said the curator, Gionvanni Carmine, in a press statement. "A powerful expression of this is the polymorphous chorus of artistic voices in this exhibition, singing in protest against isolation, loneliness, and indifference. The chants are becoming louder and ever-more discernible."

Art Basel is taking place from June 16-18, 2022, at Messe Basel in Switzerland.

(Text by Vatsala Sethi, Assistant Editorial Coordinator (Arts))

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