

...ART WORLD STORIES

ART WORLD ROUNDUP
BY LORINDA ASH EZERSKY

ART MARKET: FEELING THE HEAT

This year, the good news for collectors, dealers and artists alike is that rumors of the art market's impending demise have not been borne out. Still, last winter was a long, cold, slow one for the art market. As one dealer remarked last spring, "You could shoot a cannon off on 24th Street and there would be no signs of life." Auction house sales declined, galleries closed and some less profitable artists were let go from gallery rosters.

This fall was a different story. The economy began to recover and the pace of life, business and art picked up. No, there aren't double-digit waiting lists for the hot artists—collectors have a chance to look, think, negotiate terms and price and make their acquisitions in rational time. But on the plus side, slowed demand has enabled artists to retreat to their studios and take their time making good art.

Throughout the downturn, auction houses continued to sell more than 60-70 percent, and the fall sales seemed a harbinger that the good times are coming back. The big news at last month's contemporary art auctions at both **Christie's** and **Sotheby's** was the return of American buyers to the market. Christie's more modest sale brought in \$74 million, in the mid-range of its pre-sale estimate. Sotheby's fared much better, led by a seminal early Warhol painting, *200 One Dollar Bills*, which fetched \$43.7 million in a heated six-way bidding war. The sale totaled \$134.4 million, way above the pre-sale estimate.



GOGO'S PICASSO: The show of Picasso's late paintings at Gagosian Gallery in Chelsea.

GOGO KEEPS GOING GLOBAL

Everyone talks about **Larry Gagosian's** empire with disbelief, envy, predictions of failure—but there is no getting around the fact that he is at the helm of the largest art gallery business in history. With three galleries and a new retail store in New York as well as galleries in Los Angeles, London, Rome, Moscow and Athens, the scale and scope of the business is remarkable. He's mounted shows of Calder, Kusama, Murakami, Picasso, Kiefer, Koons, Serra, Sherman and Twombly in the last year alone. And the gallery works with the estates of Lichtenstein, Warhol, Bacon, De Kooning, Gorky and Smith, amongst others. I worked for Gagosian for nearly 10 years, so I am a bit biased, but also unsurprised by his continued success. He is smarter, more ambitious and works harder than anyone else. He also has a talent for hiring good people in particular specialty areas, cities or backgrounds, and uses their connections to expand his reach. When the market in New York slows, as it did last year, Larry just puts more energy and resources into other parts of the world.

BEST MUSEUM SHOWS

YOUNGER THAN JESUS

The New Museum of Contemporary Art on the Bowery put up a remarkable survey show of young artists under the age of 33. Nearly 145 works of 50 artists from 25 countries, many of them showing in a museum for the first time and all younger than Jesus when he died, occupied the entire SoHo building. The show made minor celebrities of a few artists, and attracted the largest audience in the museum's 30-year history. It was the first of a triennial review of new art to



WAVE THEORY: Clifford Ross' show at Sonnabend Gallery was one of the year's best.

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be presented by the museum. "The exhibition presents glimpses of a generation that is incredibly diverse, with artists moving seamlessly across media," says **Lauren Cornell**, one of the curators of the show. "Instead of radically breaking from the past, these artists draw from a myriad of influences across historical movements and geographies to highlight the intergenerational dynamics that drive contemporary art."

- ◆ **Iran Inside Out** at The Chelsea Art Museum
- ◆ **Martin Kippenberger** at The Museum of Modern Art, Paris
- ◆ **The Pictures Generation** at The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- ◆ **Warhol Portraits** at Le Grand Palais, Paris
- ◆ **Wassily Kandinsky** at the Guggenheim Museum



MODERNIST GIANT: Kandinsky at the Guggenheim.



WOW FACTOR: *The Blue Line*, 2006, by Hernan Bas, from the Rubell Family Collection. Courtesy of the artist and Lehmann Maupin Gallery in New York.

BEST GALLERY SHOWS

- ◆ **Berlin 2000** at PaceWildenstein
- ◆ **Eric Fischl** at Mary Boone Gallery
- ◆ **In Stitches** at Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller (LTMH) Gallery
- ◆ **John Currin** at Andrea Rosen Gallery
- ◆ **Picasso: Mosqueteros** at Gagosian Gallery

HOT YOUNG ARTISTS TO WATCH

- ◆ Hernan Bas
- ◆ Keren Cytter
- ◆ FAILLE
- ◆ Urs Fischer
- ◆ Luke Fowler
- ◆ Mary Reid Kelley
- ◆ Nick Mauss
- ◆ Ugo Rondinone
- ◆ Sterling Ruby
- ◆ Mickalene Thomas
- ◆ Rebecca Warren

ESTABLISHED ARTISTS WHOSE WORK IS HOT

- ◆ Richard Artschwager
- ◆ Dan Graham
- ◆ Mark Grotjahn
- ◆ David Hammons
- ◆ Charles Ray
- ◆ Clifford Ross
- ◆ David Salle
- ◆ Cindy Sherman
- ◆ Franz West
- ◆ Richard Woods