

Leading artists come together for *United Artists for Europe*, an exhibition and charity auction that celebrates European culture

Exhibition and Talks Programme at Galerie Thaddeus Ropac: 21 - 23 May

Private View: 21st May, 6pm (TBC)

New Bernard-Henri Lévy play: Wednesday 22 May, 6-8pm

Charity Auction at Maison Assouline: 3 June

[@artistsforeurope artistsforeurope.org](https://www.artistsforeurope.org)



Left: Grayson Perry (tbc)

Right: Elmgreen & Dragset, *Anger Management*, 2018, Courtesy Victoria Miro

Over 30 artworks donated by leading contemporary artists will be exhibited at the prestigious Galerie Thaddeus Ropac, Ely House from 21-23 May and then auctioned for charity at Maison Assouline on June 3, in aid of projects that support an undivided Europe. The initiative is timed to coincide with the European elections, and invites the public to consider Europe as one democratic whole.

Based on an original idea by renowned French intellectual Bernard-Henri Lévy and produced by the Franco-British think tank Hexagon Society Foundation, *United Artists for Europe* will demonstrate artists' devotion to European ideals, values and culture, with all committed artists signing a manifesto written by Lévy.

The public exhibition and auction is an opportunity to buy covetable art by international artists who practice in Europe such as Grayson Perry and Marina Abramović, whilst benefiting European cultural initiatives including Europa Nostra and Artagon. A talks programme exploring culture in today's Europe will also be held amongst the art, providing a source of free debate.

On the evening of 22 May, Lévy will perform his new one-man play, *Looking for Europe*, adapted specifically to address the European Elections and London. Staged at Ely House, Lévy will be surrounded by the exhibition of works, providing a unique backdrop for the public to see.

Following the exhibition, a high-profile auction of all the works will be led by celebrated auctioneer Simon de Pury at Maison Assouline.

Co-curators of United Artists for Europe, Tancred Hertzog & Léopold Legros, said:

Bernard-Henri Lévy, said:

Artists in formation so far

Adel Abdessemed, Marina Abramović, Claire Adelfang, Jean-Marie Appriou, Ron Arad, Daniel Buren, Shezad Dawood, Richard Deacon, Marlene Dumas, Valie Export, Elmgreen & Dragset, Jan Fabre, Sylvie Fleury, Douglas & Gordon, Morgane Tschember, Julio Le Parc, Ross Lovegrove, Yan Pei-Ming, Giuseppe Penone, Grayson Perry, Marc Quinn, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Juergen Teller, Luc Tuymans, Xavier Veilhan, Bernar Venet, Francesco Vezzoli, Erwin Wurm

Talks programme

During the exhibition, artists, thinkers and actors will create a forum for debate and discussion on the state of Europe today, and the place of art and culture within this context. These open discussions will take place on Wednesday 22 May at Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac.

Performance of *Looking for Europe*, a play by Bernard-Henri Lévy

On the evening of May 22 Bernard-Henri Lévy will perform the final representation of his play following a successful tour of twenty European cities. The play is adapted for each show in order to address the political context of each European country, making it a one-of-a-kind performance.

The Auction

Following the exhibition, the artworks will be sold at a charity auction conducted by renowned auctioneer Simon de Pury on June 3, at Maison Assouline in Piccadilly. Profits from the auction will be allocated to European cultural projects including Europa Nostra, the main European NGO defending and enhancing Europe's cultural heritage, and Artagon, who support the careers of young emerging artists, exhibiting their work in venues throughout Europe.

-ENDS-

PRESS INFORMATION

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PRESS PACK

Please download more information and high res images from the United Artists Press Pack.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Exhibition:

Ely House, 37 Dover Street, London, W1S 4NJ

Opening times: 10am-6pm

Charity Auction:

Maison Assouline, 196A Piccadilly, St. James's, London W1J 9EY

Opening times: xxx

NOTES TO EDITORS

About United Artists for Europe

United Artists for Europe is an exhibition, cultural event and charity auction based on an original idea by Bernard-Henri Lévy, hosted by Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac in London and organised by The Hexagon Society with Tancrède Hertzog and Léopold Legros. The charity auction will be conducted by Simon de Pury.

Bernard-Henri Lévy

The French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy is among the leading European intellectuals. In January 2019, he initiated a Manifesto signed by thirty European writers, to warn of the dangers incurred by the rise of nationalism in Europe. Simultaneously, he began a European tour for his play Looking for Europe, a plea for a united Europe, and a remedy against populism and extremism. Curator of the exhibition The Adventures of Truth in 2013, and author of publications about Mondrian and Frank Stella, he is one of the initiators of the United Artists for Europe Manifesto.

The Hexagon Society - The Organiser

The Hexagon Society is a pro-European Franco-British Foundation that promotes artists and intellectuals across artistic disciplines, to disseminate and promote the values of intelligent democracy and creative enlightenment through a range of meaningful cultural projects. Its president and founder Sophie Wiesenfeld, a French legal expert established in London, initiated the United Artists for Europe project.

The funds made available by the auction will be centralised by The Hexagon Society, which will allocate them between the beneficiaries.

www.hexagonsociety.com

Tancrède Hertzog & Léopold Legros - The Curators

Tancrède Hertzog and Léopold Legros are two young Paris-based gallerists, curators and art critics, contributing to various art reviews. They organise gallery shows as well as exhibitions in institutions such as the Donjon de Vez, with a particular focus on postwar art and emerging European artists.

Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac - The Host

Founded in 1983, Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac has galleries across Europe, in London, Paris and Salzburg, and an expanding team in Asia. Specialising in contemporary art and representing over 60 artists, the gallery supports and showcases the careers of some of the most influential artists today with a wide-ranging programme of over 40 exhibitions each year across its five extensive and historic gallery spaces. Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac also represents a number of renowned artist estates and continues to build on their legacy, as well as providing curatorial expertise, acting as consultant to major museums and public institutions and advising private and corporate collections. Active in both the primary and secondary markets, Ropac also represents its artists at all major international art fairs. The gallery runs its own publishing house that produces catalogues and books to accompany its exhibitions, contributing to new scholarship and a wider art-historical discourse by inviting prominent art historians, curators and writers to collaborate.

Simon de Pury - The Auctioneer

Simon de Pury is one of the most celebrated auctioneers worldwide. Sometimes called the 'Mick Jagger of Art Auctions' he applies his incisive and cheerful style to his auctions. An expert on the art market, he was the Director of Sotheby's Europe and of the auction house Philips. He is today the head of de Pury de Pury and wields the gavel for the most prestigious charity auctions around the world. Committed European and Europeanist, he is one of the initiators of United Artists for Europe, and will be the auctioneer of the sale.

Artagon

Artagon is a French association for the promotion of young creators and contemporary art. Each year Artagon organises an ambitious exhibition presided over by a prestigious jury, gathering recognised celebrities in the world of culture, such as Hans Ulrich Obrist or Jean-Jacques Aillagon. This allows graduates from European art schools to show their work to a large audience.

Under the ambit of United Artists for Europe, part of the results of the auction will be allocated to the new Artagon's project: the Artagon Museum and its opening exhibition, Constellation. The Artagon Museum is an immaterial institution whose collection of works by young artists will be shown in venues throughout Europe. Constellation will present the work of fifty emerging artists operating in Europe and selected by an international jury, including artists from United Artists for Europe. The exhibition will travel between London, Naples and Kiev, three major cities in western, southern and eastern Europe, in order to promote European ideals and values with a new generation of European artists.

Europa Nostra

Founded in 1963, Europa Nostra is the main European NGO defending and enhancing Europe's cultural and artistic heritage. Bringing together 250 national associations, Europa Nostra acts as a lobby group pressuring governments and European Institutions in order to protect Europe's heritage. It promotes different fundraising and initiatives such as the 'Seven most endangered sites of Europe' and the prestigious EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards, given annually in collaboration with the European Commission. Europa Nostra is recognised as an NGO partner of the European Union, the Council of Europe and UNESCO. In this regard, It has actively contributed to the success of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. Its current president is the Spanish opera singer Plácido Domingo.

Under the ambit of United Artists for Europe, part of the profits from the auction will be allocated to the rehabilitation of the famous Temple of Apollo on the island of Delos in the Cyclades. This temple, one of the main hellenic sanctuaries, dedicated to the god of Arts and Music, is a symbolic birthplace of European culture. At the very heart of an extraordinary UNESCO-world heritage site, it is one of the oldest Greek temples ever preserved. This unprecedented rehabilitation project will be carried out by the Ephorate of Antiquities Cyclades and funded by United Artists for Europe through Europa Nostra and its national delegation in Greece, Elliniki Etairia. It consists of an anastylosis – the re-erection of the antique columns of the temple that have lain on the ground for centuries, allowing the sanctuary of Apollo to be reborn from its ashes.