

Art Fairs

Here Are 8 Art-Historical Rediscoveries of Works by Women Artists to Seek Out at This Year's Frieze Masters Fair

Distinctive archival works from women artists who lived through the turmoil of the 20th century are on view.

Vivienne Chow, October 7, 2022



Pat Passlof, *Two Winters* (1961). © Milton Resnick Pat Passlof Foundation. Courtesy of Eric Firestone Gallery.

The buzz of contemporary art at Frieze London might take centerstage in October, when the U.K. city's art galleries bring out their finest works, but the fair's classic arm Frieze Masters is where the hidden gems are.

Featuring more than 120 galleries, Frieze Masters is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year as well as its recent debut in Seoul. The fair's main section has around 97 galleries from around the world presenting works spanning six millennia of history (in organizers's words), from ancient artifacts to Modern art, as well as previously unrecognized talent.

eric firestone gallery

The main exhibitors are joined by 28 galleries in the Spotlight section dedicated to women artists curated by Camille Morineau, co-founder and research director of Archives of Women Artists, Research, and Exhibitions (AWARE), and her team. And Luke Syson, the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, is the curator of the Stand Out section, highlighting 10 galleries under the theme of global exchange.

Our highlights of the art historical (re)discoveries in this year's Frieze Masters center around female artists from a diverse cultural and geographical background. Many of them have lived through turmoil and upheavals of the 20th century, or having struggled to find a foothold in a male-dominated art world. Eventually they succeeded in creating these rich bodies of work that helped to push the boundary.

Pat Passlof (1928–2011)

Who: Born in Georgia, Passlof grew up in New York City, where she studied with Willem de Kooning and became a central and active figure in the post-war Abstract Expressionist art community. Her paintings are poetic responses to memories, experience, and places.

Showing at: Eric Firestone Gallery's presentation in the Spotlight section of Frieze Masters.

Prices: \$50,000–\$350,000

Why You Should Pay Attention: Passlof's art should be reconsidered today, amid a renewed interest in Abstract Expressionist female artists, such as Elaine de Kooning and Joan Mitchell, according to Eric Firestone Gallery. New York's Museum of Modern Art has recently acquired an oil painting by the artist and she was featured in a group show of women abstract artists at the museum in 2017. The presentation at Frieze Masters focuses on work created during the late 1950s through to the early 1960s, when the artist was living and working on East 10th Street, a creative epicenter for the 20th-century New York art scene.

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