

Sotheby's to Hold Modern and Contemporary African Art Sales

BY Nicholas Forrest | June 20, 2016



Hannah O'Leary
(Courtesy Sotheby's)

Sotheby's is launching dedicated sales of Modern and Contemporary African Art next year in London, with the first sale planned for early 2017. The sales will be led by Hannah O'Leary, the newly-appointed Head of Modern and Contemporary African Art at Sotheby's.

Modern and Contemporary African Art is one of the hottest sectors of the market, with artists such as El Anatsui, Yinka Shonibare, Romuald Hazoumé, Ben Enwonwu, Yusuf Grillo, Gerard Sekoto, Malangatana, Skunder Boghossian, and Bruce Onobrakpeya leading the boom.

O'Leary joins Sotheby's from Bonhams London, where she was Head of South African Art. Her first auction as the head of the department in March 2011 achieved a total of more than £8.7 million, and remains the highest grossing sale of South African art ever held.

Maarten ten Holder, Managing Director of Sotheby's Europe, said that Hannah O'Leary brings a wealth of experience from a career characterized by what he describes as "bold endeavour and outstanding achievement."

"The African art scene is thriving, and as our sales develop in 2017, we anticipate that we will establish a significant profile in this field, while also looking to enhance our presence on the African continent," said Ten Holder.

Commenting on her new role, O'Leary said in a statement that she is looking forward to embracing the enhanced possibilities and opportunities.

"Sotheby's auctions, starting next year, will provide an unprecedented platform for Modern and Contemporary African Art. There's enormous untapped potential in this market, and together we are perfectly poised to explore it to the full," said O'Leary.

http://www.mutualart.com/OpenExternalArticle/Sotheby--s-to-Hold-Modern-and-Contemporara/085D411B35E7C00A?utm_source=alert_b&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=al_by_artist&refID=B4C2C2B2A22D511EFE8FA39745245127