



Art News Now: Washburn Gallery Moves, Paddle8 Layoffs, Public Art in Huntington and more

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by Pat Rogers

Have a minute? Get caught up on art news people are talking about in New York, Miami, Long Island and further afield.

Washburn Gallery has announced it will be moving to Chelsea from its long-standing 57th Street location, reported *Artnews*. The gallery's lease wasn't renewed in a likely anticipation of the building being demolished, according to *Artnews*. Also facing possible relocations are Peter Blum Gallery and Laurence Miller Gallery, all located at 20 West 57th Street. Washburn Gallery has been located in the same place for 25 years.

[Castle Fitzjohns Gallery](#) of New York City opens the doors for its new luxury market showroom, called [Curated](#), in Miami on February 17, 2017, coinciding with [Art Wynwood](#) and the [Miami International Boat Show](#). Curated will feature fine art, Blue Chip classic cars, a private members club and more according to the gallery. Find it at 2100 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33137.

artnet changes its editorial leadership with editor-in-chef Rozalia Jovanic leaving the position and Andrew Goldstein taking over, according to [ARTnews](#). Jovanic announced last week she was leaving the position due to differences of opinion in editorial direction, she told ARTnews. Jovanic was part of the original editorial team that launched artnet news with Benjamin Genocchio at the helm and filled his position last year when [Genocchio left to head The Armory Show](#) as its new executive director. Goldstein is a former editor-in-chief of Artspace and was laid off as part of the company's recent massive editorial layoffs as part of fine tuning the art selling site's focus.

Online auction company Paddle8 announced widespread layoffs in all three of its offices, located in New York, London, and Los Angeles, reported *ARTnews*. The dramatic cutbacks impact tech, design and cataloguing with some departments reduced to a single employee, according to *ARTnews*.

[Art in General](#) has appointed Laurel Ptak as its new executive director, announced the New York City non-profit. Ptak begins her new position next week. Ptak is currently the director and curator of the New York City artist-run space [Triangle](#).

The Times Square Alliance has appointed Debra Simon as its new director of public art,

announced the New York City non-profit. Simon will be responsible for programming Times Square with installations and performance art from artists around the world.

Huntington's Main Street on Long Island will receive an infusion of public art when five traffic signal boxes become wrapped with contemporary art, [reported Newsday](#). The project was greenlighted by the Huntington Town Board on Long Island at its meeting in February and now moves to the New York State Department of Transportation for approval. Huntington Town will pay for the design and installations, estimated at \$8,500, according to *Newsday*. This is the second adornment of traffic signals with art. A similar project was mounted in 2015 featuring landscapes and pop art.

The Museum of the Moving Image in New York City has canceled artist and actor Shia LaBeouf's public installation *He Will Not Divide Us* after the artwork began sparking violent quarrelling, arrests and became a "...serious and ongoing public safety hazard," reported the [New York Times](#). Anti-Trump in sentiment, *He Will Not Divide Us* featured streaming footage of participators saying "He will not divide us" into a video camera mounted outside of the [Queens museum](#). He project was slated to run for the four years of Trump's presidency, according to the *New York Times*. The installation opened on January 20, 2017.

Austrian painter [Svenja Deininger](#) was selected as the 2017 Recognition of Art by Women (RAW) artist by the Norton Museum of Art, announced the Palm Beach, FL art museum. Her work is currently the subject of the solo show "Svenja Deininger Second Chances First Impressions" on view from February 4 to April 16, 2017. This is the sixth exhibition in the RAW series which aims to present the work of living contemporary female artists. The exhibition presents work from 2012 to 2016.



"Untitled" by Svenja Deininger, 2014. Oil on canvas, 19 ¾ x 15 ¾ inches. Collection Maya and Robert Tichio, Greenwich. Courtesy Marianne Boesky Gallery. © Svenja Deininger.