

# Art News Now: New Hamptons Art Weekend, Salvator Mundi to Exhibit at Louvre while Ownership Chain Remains Clouded, Scharf Mural Blooms & More

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by Pat Rogers

Have a minute? Get caught up on art news that's hitting the airwaves.

**The record-breaking painting *Salvator Mundi* by Leonardo da Vinci will go on display at the newly-opened Louvre Abu Dhabi after being acquired from Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism, [according to The Art Newspaper](#).** The painting will join da Vinci's *La Belle Ferronnière* (around 1490) currently on view and on loan from the Louvre in Paris, according to the news account.

**The Emirate museum claimed ownership of the painting from its seller Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism in a statement issued today (December 8, 2017),** according to *The Art Newspaper*. The new owner of the painting has been the source of much speculation since it was [purchased at Christie's](#) on November 15, 2017. Earlier this week, ownership was attributed to two different individuals as reported by two different media outlets. Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud was identified as the buyer of the record-breaking painting according to the [Wall Street Journal](#). Earlier, the purchaser was identified as Saudi Arabian prince Bader bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Farhan al-Saud, [according to the New York Times](#). It's unclear if Abu Dhabi's Department of Culture and Tourism purchased the painting at auction or the work was acquired under different circumstances, according to *The Art Newspaper*.



“Salvator Mundi” by Leonardo da Vinci. Painted circa 1500. Oil on panel, 25 7/8 x 18 inches. Courtesy Christie’s.

**Saudi Arabi’s Crown Prince Mohammed, who was earlier identified as the purchaser of *Salvator Mundi* by the *Wall Street Journal*, is launching a cultural and artist component to his philanthropic Misk Foundation, [reported The Art Newspaper](#). The foundation’s director is Saudi artist Ahmed Mater whose work is currently on view at the Brooklyn Museum in “Mecca Journeys,” according to *The Art Newspaper*. Plans call for the construction of a Saudi pavilion for the Venice Biennale, a festival of the arts in Riyadh and exhibitions during Dubai Art Week, according to the news account.**

**The University of Notre Dame announced plans to build a new 70,000 square foot art museum for an estimated cost of \$66 million, [announced the university](#). It will be named the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art at Notre Dame after lead donors, the philanthropists Ernestine Raclin and her daughter and son-in-law Carmen and Chris Murphy, according to an announcement by the University of Notre Dame. The amount of the gift was not disclosed. Construction is expected to**

begin in 2020 with completion by early 2022. The new museum will become part of a 132,000 square-foot museum complex located in the campus's new arts district on the south end of the Catholic university in Indiana. It will be open and accessible to students and off-campus visitors, according to the University of Notre Dame.

**The Jewish Museum has suspended all projects with curator Jens Hoffmann following sexual harassment allegations by a number of museum staff while it investigates the allegations, [reported ArtNews](#).** Hoffmann was the museum's Deputy Director for Exhibitions and Programs from 2012 to 2016 and has since served as Director of Special Exhibitions and Public Programs. Recently, Hoffmann departed his position as co-artistic director of Front International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art without cause. On Monday, December 4, 2017, the Jewish Museum announced its suspension of Hoffmann. Since then, Hoffmann has been suspended from numerous positions, pending the Jewish Museum's findings, [subsequently reported ArtNews](#). They include the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, Kadist, Mousse Magazine and others, [according to ArtNews](#).

**Eighteen Hamptons art or culture non-profit organizations have banded together to create the Hamptons Arts Network. For the group's debut, they plan to launch the THAW Festival for the weekend of March 23 to 25, 2018.** The Hamptons Arts Weekend (THAW) will feature three days of exhibitions, theater performances, film, music, garden tours, workshops and more, according to the announcement. Stay tuned for details. The new group includes performance art venues, museums, film festivals, cultural centers and more and includes organizations including the Parrish Art Museum, Guild Hall, Southampton Historical Society, Southampton Cultural Center, LongHouse Reserve and others.

**The Nassau County Museum of Art's newly renovated educational center received an exterior makeover by Kenny Scharf.** Scharf was commissioned by the Long Island art museum to create a mural to adorn the exterior walls of The Manes Family Art & Education Center. The Manes Center was recently renovated and funded by a \$1 million gift by museum trustee Dr. Harvey Manes. Scharf was selected to jazz up the exterior as Manes is a fan of the street artist's work, according to the museum.



Mural painted by Kenny Scharf at The Manes Family Art & Education Center of the Nassau County Museum of Art. Photo courtesy Nassau County Museum of Art.





Kenny Scharft paints a mural at the Nassau County Museum of Art's The Manes Family Art & Education Center. Courtesy Nassau County Museum of Art.



Back row: Bryant Lu, Victor Lu, Kenny Scharf, Emily Tang, Oliver Qian, Theresa Lian. Front row: Ella Tang, Kylin Piriyaatamwong, Phoebe Qian.