

Art News Now: Stolen Degas Recovered on Bus, Outsider Art Fair in Basel, Miami Collection Moves to Madrid and More News

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by Pat Rogers

Have a minute? Get caught up with art news people are talking about. In this edition, discover the stolen Degas painting recovered from bus near Paris, a sequestered Roy Lichtenstein painting to be exhibited for the first time in 25 years, the Hammer Museum's latest major gifts and more art news to know this week.

French authorities confirmed the stolen Degas painting, *The Chorus Singers*, 1877, was recovered on February 16, 2018 by a customs officer during a random search of a bus luggage compartment at a highway stop outside of Paris, [reported The New York Times](#). The painting was stolen in 2009 from an exhibition at the [Musée Cantini](#) in Marseille, where it was on loan from the [Musée d'Orsay](#) in Paris, according to *The New York Times*. French officials explained that cargo on long-distance bus lines are typically checked in random searches as they have been found as a method of transport for drugs. The random search was not the result of a tip and none of the passengers claimed the painting or the suitcase that contained it for their own, according to *The New York Times*. The painting is believed to be worth nearly \$1 million and depicts opera singers performing the final act of Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni," according to [Time magazine](#). An investigation will continue.



“The Chorus Singers” by Degas, 1877 was recovered by French customs in a suitcase on a bus during a random search. Editorial Credit: Marc Bonodot, AP, Shutterstock 9436161a, and provided by French Customs.

The Outsider Art Fair will launch its first Basel edition this summer, [reported *The Art Newspaper*](#). The art fair, held June 13 to 17, 2018, will feature 25 international exhibitors and may emphasize the tradition of Swiss art brut through the Collection de l’Art Brut of Lausanne and the Museum im Lagerhaus of St. Gallen; and important Swiss curators like Hans-Ulrich Obrist and Beatrix Ruf, who have incorporated the genre; as well as Swiss Outsider artists such as Aloïse Corbaz and Adolf Wölfli, according to *The Art Newspaper*. Like its New York counterpart, the Swiss edition will present talks on art brut and curated exhibitions.

Roy Lichtenstein’s painting *Frightened Girl*, 1964, is expected to go on exhibit for the first time in 25 years at Lévy Gorvy in London, [reported *The Art Newspaper*](#). The painting has been held by a private collector in Europe since it was last exhibited at Lichtenstein’s retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, according to the newspaper. The painting is part of a group show presenting three artists who made use of the Ben-Day dot: Roy Lichtenstein from the United States (Southampton, NY); Sigmar Polk from Germany and Gerald Laing in the UK. All three adopted the printing technique in the early 1960s. [“Source and Stimulus: Polke, Lichtenstein, Laing”](#) will be on view from March 6 to April 21, 2018 at Lévy Gorvy in London. An Opening Reception takes place on March 5, 2018.

The Hammer Museum in LA has received a pair of multi-million dollar gifts for its capital campaign, including one which set a new record for the largest gift ever received by the Hammer, reported *ArtNews*. A gift of \$30 million from Lynda and Stewart Resnick, the largest gift received in the Hammer’s history. The museum will honor the Resnicks by naming its main building the Lynda and Stewart Resnick Cultural Center, according to *ArtNews*. The Resnicks own [The](#)

[Wonderful Company](#). In addition, the Hammer received \$20 million from television producer Marcy Carsey, who is the chair of the museum board for the past four years, reported *ArtNews*. Both gifts were donated as part of a \$180 million capital campaign that will fund the Hammer's expansion and transformation. The museum expects to add 40,000 square feet with its exhibition spaces growing by around 60 percent, according to *ArtNews*. The renovation, which began last year, is being overseen by [Michael Maltzan Architecture](#).

Plans for a portion of the Miami art collection of Ella Fontanals-Cisneros to move to Madrid have been set in motion, [reported *ArtNews*](#). Ella Fontanals-Cisneros and the Spanish minister for education, culture, and sports, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, signed a preliminary agreement for works from the Fontanals-Cisneros's collection of Latin American art to be donated to Spain and for the creation of a new exhibition space, the Contemporary Art Collection of the Americas, to display the donated art, according to *ArtNews*. Specific artworks to be included will be announced in the upcoming months along with other details. Fontanals-Cisneros has been collecting art since the 1970s. Her collection, made up of over 3,000 works, features art from Latin America, particularly Cuban art, along with geometric abstraction, photography, video and conceptual art. She announced last month [that she is closing her Miami exhibition space in Wynwood](#), also reported by *ArtNews*.

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