

Artsy

February 16, 2023

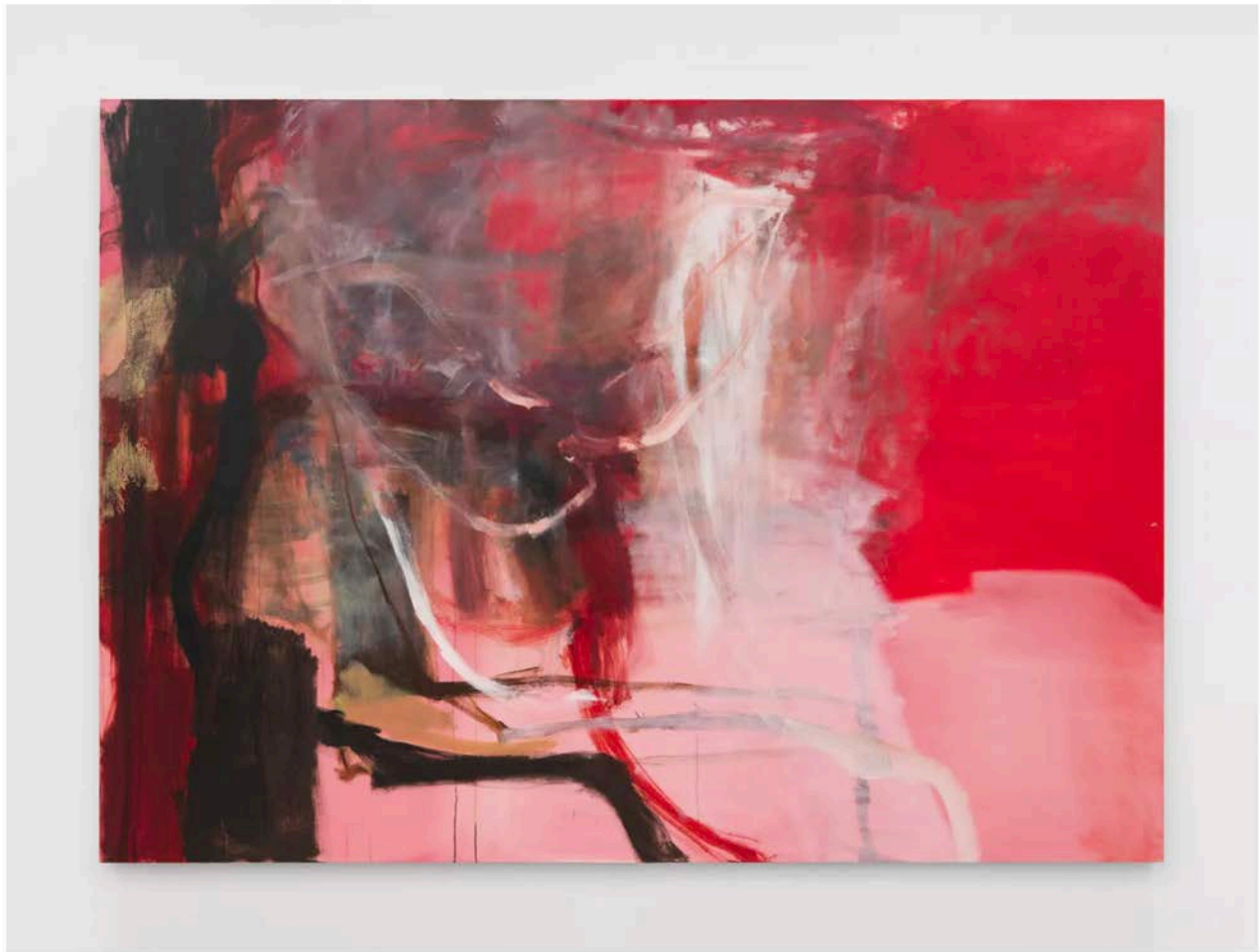


Art Market

# Inside Felix Art Fair's Bustling Fifth Edition

Casey Lesser

Feb 16, 2023 5:30PM



Liza Lacroix, *sits up in bed and opens mouth.*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and Magenta Plains.

Canadian artist Liza Lacroix's sold-out solo booth with first-time exhibitor Magenta Plains includes three large abstract paintings (priced between \$30,000 and \$40,000 each) and two sound pieces. Lacroix's works, showing in L.A. for the first time, were created specifically for Felix and reference the artist's own experiences at the Roosevelt Hotel, as well as its history as the site of the Academy Awards.

One sound piece by Lacroix features excerpts from the acceptance speeches of Best Actress winners at Oscars ceremonies from 1927 to the present, focusing on the moments when the women thank their husbands. "It speaks to the power dynamics that [Lacroix] usually is concerned with, between men and women; ideas of love, ideas of violence," said Magenta Plains director Olivia Smith.

Love and violence are more than visible in Lacroix's hulking figurative paintings, which writhe with bold swathes of red and quite literally consume the small hotel room where they are hung. The gallery and artist are donating 10% of their profits to SWOP USA, a charity chosen by Lacroix that works to support and destigmatize sex workers. A whirlwind of interest has surrounded Lacroix's work over the past year and a half, and Smith noted that she now has a very long waiting list. Clearly, Magenta Plains's first Felix outing was a success, to say the least.

*Cultured*

February 16, 2023

# CULTURED

ART

## A Mad Dash Around This Year's Felix LA Reveals Domestic Ecstasy

If the annual art fair that runs parallel to Frieze LA is to be trusted as a bellwether, interiors are trending at the 2023 edition, according to *CULTURED* editor-at-large Kat Herriman.

At 10:50 a.m. yesterday, the foyer of the Roosevelt Hotel is stuffed near full in anticipation of Felix's VIP opening. Like the exhibitors concealed behind its doors, attendees in queue are a mélange of first-timers and regulars, that latter of whom are wise enough to know to start the fair from its top floors and work their way down. It's a formula that allows me to woosh around all the various crevices of the beloved, hotel-bound fair before it becomes impossible to do so. As I make my way through the maze of halls and installations, I wonder if we were indeed moving into a more abstract era as everyone keeps promising. Are we ready to give Identity Politics Figuration a rest? And how about sculpture? Do people miss having things on their floor yet?

The answer for sculpture, as I find, is a resounding no, although there are little gems scattered throughout. Ceramics are especially prevalent in this category. My favorites are the big-eyed angels and figurines by Los Angeles-based Aura Herrera at Tierra del Sol, a non-profit and gallery. No cynicism present here, just an accomplished relationship to the way clay holds even the slightest press of a finger.

As far as trending hunting for painting and drawing, I have my work cut out for me. Felix LA is expectedly loaded with frames and stretchers that occupy every available inch in every available dimension. I was recommended by nearly everybody to check out the fair's bathrooms, but I won't tell that to you, although I do appreciate when galleries put their naughty stuff in there. So, on second thought, look in bathrooms if the rest of the booths makes you wonder. Lock yourself in with the art. Sit with it.

Back in the fair, it takes a while to uncover this year's overt themes, until, finally, my naivety catches up to my eye. Felix LA 2023 is the fair for the interior, not only because booths are embracing their physical truths as hotel rooms, but also because the art itself has turned inward. What I find is not quite Abstract Expression nor is it didactically clear. Instead, it floats somewhere in between with a heavy emphasis on spaces and still lifes as a genre that implies but also obscures the body.

Some of the spaces are breath stoppingly real, like the delicate and diaper detailed paintings and drawings of Quentin James McCaffrey at Nicelle Beauchene, while others like Annabelle Häfner's work at Downs and Ross are much more dream-like, retaining the legible basics: a ceiling, a wall, a bed. I bemoan the scale of Häfner; her paintings are so minimalist and paradoxically juicy like Allen Jones that I want one big enough to step inside.

Matthew Brown, who has quickly become an LA staple, reinforces my on the fly hypothesis with a large Nick Goss painting entitled *Golden House*, and small devotional windows by Sula Bermúdez-Silverman. More windows are to be had at 56 Henry, where a set of shades by Kevin Reinhardt do little to block out the noontime sun that shines through.

Across from the Reinhardts, a Cynthia Talmadge pointillism piece teases me. It says *Remember this is Los Angeles, kid!* There has been precedence mounting for this domestic shift for years, especially in a city of angels where Laura Owens's shadow runs long and Jonas Wood cut his fortune out of a kitchen sink.



Liza Lacroix, *sits up in bed and opens mouth.*, 2022. Image courtesy of the artist and Magenta Plains.

Neither of those influences fed the paintings that stayed with me as I exit the fray. Rent free will stay the suite of works by [Liza Lacroix](#) for Magenta Plains. Lacroix's imposing abstractions, under the slightest suggestion, begin to morph into torrid flashes of the familiar. Living somewhere between [Charline von Heyl](#)'s sallies and [Cecily Brown](#)'s illegible bedrooms, Lacroix's work builds out an imaginative space large enough to get lost in.

February 13, 2023

# artnet news

## Art Fairs

### Here's Your Go-To Guide to All the Fairs Taking Place Over Frieze Week in Los Angeles

From Frieze Los Angeles to Felix, here's what to know before you go.

Artnet News, February 13, 2023

## Felix Art Fair February 15–19, 2023

**What:** The insider's art fair, Felix was co-founded by Dean Valentine, Al Morán, and Mills Morán, and is curated to invite active viewing and conversations. Staged at the iconic Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, complete with a David Hockney-designed swimming pool, the SoCal setting lends a more intimate and relaxed vibe to the fair.

This year, 60 exhibitors will descend on the landmark building, including 46 returning galleries and 14 newcomers. We've got our eyes on New York-based artist Jeremy Lawson's Abstract Expressionist works at Harper's; a group show put on by Adams and Ollman to celebrate the gallery's 10th anniversary; and Liza Lacroix's site-specific audio sculptures and new paintings on view at Magenta Plains.

**Where:** Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel

**When:** VIP Preview | Wednesday, February 15, 11 a.m.–8 p.m.; Public Show Days | Thursday, February 16–Saturday, February 18, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Sunday, February 19, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.