

# DONUM ARTNEWS



TOP 200 COLLECTORS / 2020

ARTnews / FALL 2020



## 84 START SPREADING THE NEWS

Activist collectors don't just want to accumulate art. They want to change the world  
**JEWELS DODSON**

## 92 SCREEN TIME

When the pandemic forced auction houses and galleries to pivot online, some people took the opportunity to start collecting ... or return to the pursuit  
**MAXIMILIANO DURÓN**

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Collectors' reversals of fortune can mean a payday for the auction houses—or spell disaster  
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A new entry into the competition for significant estates could wake up the auction houses in a big way  
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. 2020



## **WANG WEI AND LIU YIQIAN**

**Shanghai**

Investments

 *Chinese art, scrolls, and porcelain; contemporary international art, including Chinese, Asian, European, and American*

## **MEI AND ALLAN WARBURG**

**Hong Kong; Sonoma,  
California**

Apparel (Bestseller  
Fashion Group China)

 *Modern and contemporary Western and Chinese art; monumental sculpture and commissioned artworks (The Donum Estate)*

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## WEE CHO YAW

**Singapore**  
Banking (United Overseas Bank)  
= Impressionism; modern art

## JUTTA AND SIEGFRIED WEISHAUPT

**Laugshelm, Germany**  
Industry (fuel technology)  
= Postwar and contemporary art, especially Abstract Expressionism, Zero, and Pop

## ALAIN WERTHEIMER

**New York**  
Fashion (Chanel)  
= Modern and contemporary art; Asian art

## REINHOLD WÜRTH

**Wilder shah, Germany; Salzburg, Austria**  
Sale of fasteners and assembly materials  
= Medieval art; postwar and contemporary art



In June, **Reinhold Würth** opened an annex to his Museum Würth in the German city of Künzelsau. Designed by David Chipperfield Architects, the new extension adds 69,000 square feet, and cost around €30 million (\$46 million). The space's inaugural exhibition, "The Long View: Reinhold Würth and His Art Collection," featured some 150 works from his extensive modern and contemporary art holdings. And Würth keeps adding to the collection, which now numbers more than 18,300 objects; he recently scooped up Max Beckmann's 1942 *Water Tower in Holland* and Roy Lichtenstein's 1994 *Metallic Braustrafale Head*.



**Nameake** The new German Würth Forum.

## IN MEMORIAM

Some collectors open private museums, others enrich the institutions they love. **Virginia Wright**, who died this past February at 91, was firmly in the latter camp: she sought to radically shape the Seattle Art Museum, where she served as a board member and to which she donated more than 200 works in her lifetime. Having studied art history at Barnard College, Wright witnessed the growth of the Abstract Expressionists in New York during the postwar years, and worked at the pivotal Sidney Janis Gallery. After a three-year stint at the gallery, she moved across the country with her husband, C. Bayley Wright, bringing her love for the art of that movement, by artists such as Barnett Newman, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, and Mark Rothko, to Seattle, her hometown, and where she lived until her death. She once said of the decision to donate, "I never wanted to break off and start a museum. I wanted to push the museum we already had into being more responsive to contemporary art."

**Years Listed on the ARTnews Top 200: 1990–99, 2004–06**

## COLLECTING AT THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND CULTURE

In recent years, a new class of collectors has emerged—millennials at the intersections of fashion, entertainment, and pop culture who are paying mainstream clout into art-world influence—and the auction houses have taken notice. At Sotheby's, the "Contemporary Curators" sales invite a cult of tastemakers, from K-pop star **TOP.** to music magnate and Top 200 Collector **Kaseem "Swizz Beatz" Dean**, to curate mid-season sales of contemporary art. The houses are also vying to sell to these young collectors in new categories, as collectibles produce sales comparable to blue-chip art. These ambitious collectors are making it their mission to disrupt the art world's old ways.

### Forward Thinking

**Maurice "Moe" Harkless**, a 27-year-old New York Knicker forward, started collecting art with an eye toward making the art world more accessible. In his Los Angeles home, collectible skateboard decks plastered with Basquiat crowns and Warhol Campbell's soup cans hang beside dazzling paintings by Nina Chanel Abney and Super Future Kid. And Beanieboles—the collectible toys produced by the Japanese company MediCom Toy, often in collaboration with artists and designers—line a wall from floor to ceiling. The intended effect of it all, according to the Queens, New York, native: the atmosphere of an art gallery. Harkless owns a few dozen objects, and he's adding all the time. Derrick Adams and Bailey are currently on his wish list. In March, he visited the Armory Show in New York for the first time.

Harkless is also on a social mission: He has recently been using his website to advocate for Black Lives Matter, and he wants to use his

Photo: Steve Margolis

## ARTNews

October 2020

### Top 200 collectors

ARTnews was founded in 1902. Its readership in 123 countries includes collectors, dealers, historians, artists, museum directors, curators, connoisseurs, and enthusiasts. The magazine reports on the art, personalities, issues, trends and events shaping the international art world.

Top 200 Collectors list started over 30 years ago and is the most important and credible art collector list in the world.

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