

ANGELA BERNEY

FINE ARTS

Cross Collecting NOW !

an intuitive and expanding way of collecting art with passion and consideration.

Anthony Meyer Oceanic and Eskimo Art, Paris and Simon Studer Art, Geneva exhibit at Berney Fine Arts at Münsterplatz 17 in Basel

“an inspiring experience in an outstanding setting in the heart of the city of Basel !”

For its seventh iteration, Modern & Tribal Masters – an ephemeral pop-up exhibition re-named **Cross Collecting NOW !**, will be held in the magnificent rooms of Berney Fine Arts at Münsterplatz in Basel. This yearly event, concurrent with ART BASEL, brings together major works of art from the classical modern and contemporary art scene of the West with Masterworks of Tribal Art from Oceania, Africa, and the Arctic Circle.

Western art has an esthetic and moral connection to the Non-Western arts, and it has incorporated the art of these far-off lands and cultures directly into the foundations of 20th and 21st century art – they are now inseparable!

In this temporary, week long exhibition the galleries will be showing superb works of art from notable artists such as Alexander Calder, Anish Kapoor, Joan Miro, Kenneth Noland, Antonio Saura, Louis Soutter, Frank Stella side by side, and in dialogue, with Tribal Master Works such as a magnificent green jade Hei Tiki from the early Maori culture of New Zealand, a superbly carved, wood Mwei mask representing a male ancestor from the Sepik River of Papua New Guinea, a remarkable pair of Eskimo sun goggles from Alaska, or an extremely rare, basalt, zoomorphic effigy from the archaic Akwanshi/Atal cult of the Ekom, in Nigeria.

The founding of radical and new artistic movements in Western art dates to the birth of the XXth century and was often caused by the obvious interconnection between Tribal Art and the artists, collectors, and dealers in Europe and the Americas. Tribal Art became an instant and constant source of inspiration and is now understood to be one of the most essential and seminal encounters and influences leading up to the art of today.

Since the early days when Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, André Derain and Maurice de Vlaminck introduced Tribal Art to the western world – we have never looked back...

The practice has been around since Antiquity :

Cross Collecting seems new in our approach to assembling and exhibiting art. But only few collectors live with art, objects and furniture relating to only one period. Tribal art and glassworks from the thirties might be exhibited on a contemporary design table with Modern paintings nearby.

In fact, and when looking back into the history of collecting, mixing styles is not as unusual as it seems at first sight: wealthy Romans showed objects and statuary from previous periods and styles side by side with contemporary artworks. Renaissance Princesses and Princes were not limiting their sophisticated tastes to art from their century and their collections included many artefacts from Hellenistic and Roman times.

In the centuries that followed, the same interest persisted in cultural and wealthy circles. The evolution of taste and science created the “Cabinet de Curiosités” or *Wunderkammer* (Cabinet of Wonders), mixing rare stones, art objects, taxidermized animals and birds, tribal art, exquisite books, Medieval manuscripts, and paintings in a single study room. Only in the 19th century did we separate science from art, categorizing periods and styles for educational reasons. This was the time of creation for our Natural History Museums with distinct departments in Geology, Zoology and Anthropology. Antique and Modern Art Galleries were opened, Art History and Connoisseurship flourished. The 20th Century collectors followed the trend and bought artworks in all categories. Auction catalogues reflected these choices in their sales: Old Master Paintings, Modern and Contemporary Art, etc..

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Today **Cross Collecting** is back in fashion: museums like the “Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature” in Paris invite contemporary artists to exhibit their art in dialogue with the specialized artefacts of their permanent collections, the Louvre in Paris invited famed Israeli artist Michal Rovner in 2015 to project her videos on antique artefacts, art fairs such as “Frieze Masters” in London are a good example of this trend where stands mix Antique and Tribal objects as well as Old Masters with more recent art, etc...

Axel Vervoordt, the famous art dealer and decorator since the 1980's was a pioneer in showing extraordinary examples of Asian objects in relationship with Minimal Western Art housed in the Venetian Palazzo of Mariano Fortuny offering an art experience which was unheard of at the time.

The expansion of the art market into circles less traditionally involved in art collecting such as finance “investors”, may have also pushed the trend of cross-over buying: *“Contemporary cross-collecting also reflects the increasing crossovers between the financial world and the art market, with the creation of a mixed art collection mirroring the hedge fund portfolio: when one sector is underperforming, others tend to excel”* (Dr. David Bellingham is Program Director for the Master's Degree in Art Business at Sotheby's Institute of Art. He holds a doctorate from the University of Manchester for his thesis on the cultural and socio-economic aspects of sympotic scenes in ancient Roman wall-painting)

Our conclusion on the interest of Cross Collecting :

Reuniting artworks from different periods, finding esthetic, historical, and intuitive correspondences and oppositions in selected period artworks may enhance thoughts on various subjects such as diversity, beauty, the passing of time and curiosity. *Cross collecting NOW !* indeed reflects the philosophy and genius of our past and present generations triumphing over time.

Cross Collecting NOW !

Where :

Angela Berney Fine Arts
Andlauerhof
17 Muensterplatz, Basel 4051
Switzerland

When : 12 - 18 June, 2023

Opening hours : Monday : 1pm - 7pm / Tuesday - Sunday : 9h30 am - 7pm

Vernissage : Monday June 12th (1 - 7pm)

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Cross
Collecting
NOW!

Tribal,
Modern &
Contemporary

12th - 18th June, 2023
9.30am to 7pm

GALERIE MEYER
OCEANIC & ARCTIC ART



SIMON
STUDER ART

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Alexander Calder, 1945, *Yellow Bottle* (Stabile Mobile), @Simon Studer Art, Geneva

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Frank Stella, 1959, *Scramble: Descending Orange Values* @Simon Studer Art, Geneva

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Louis Soutter, 1937/1942, *Jeune* @Simon Studer Art, Geneva

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Hei Tiki, Maori, New Zealand, Nephrite, 1500 – 1800 AD, 10,5 cm. @Galerie Meyer -Oceanic & Eskimo Art, Paris

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Mwei Mask, Sepik River, Papua New Guinea, wood and shell, 50 x 15,5 x 8 cm, 19th/20th century (pre-1920's). @Galerie Meyer - Oceanic & Eskimo Art, Paris

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Snow Goggles, West Coast Alaska or Northern Canada, Thulé culture circa 19/20th century. Wood, 18,7 cm.
@Galerie Meyer Oceanic & Eskimo Art, Paris

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Zoomorphic effigy, Ekom, Nigeria, Basalt, 15th/19th century, 28 x 11.5 x 8.5 cm @Galerie Meyer Oceanic & Eskimo Art, Paris