The Berkshire Eagle

ARRIVAL ART FAIR

Arrival Art Fair connects collectors, galleries and artists with intimate art experience in North Adams

Williams College Museum of Art acquires 3 contemporary art works

By Jennifer Huberdeau, The Berkshire Eagle | Jun 16, 2025

Networking was a major focus of Arrival, a three-day invitational biennial art fair held at Tourists in North Adams. JENNIFER HUBERDEAU — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

NORTH ADAMS — "Are you familiar with the artist?"

"We are," answered the buyers, who purchased two works by Wisconsin-based artist and curator Michelle Grabner from Drive-By Projects, a Watertown gallery, on Thursday, just moments after the VIP invitation-only preview of Arrival Art Fair began at Tourists.

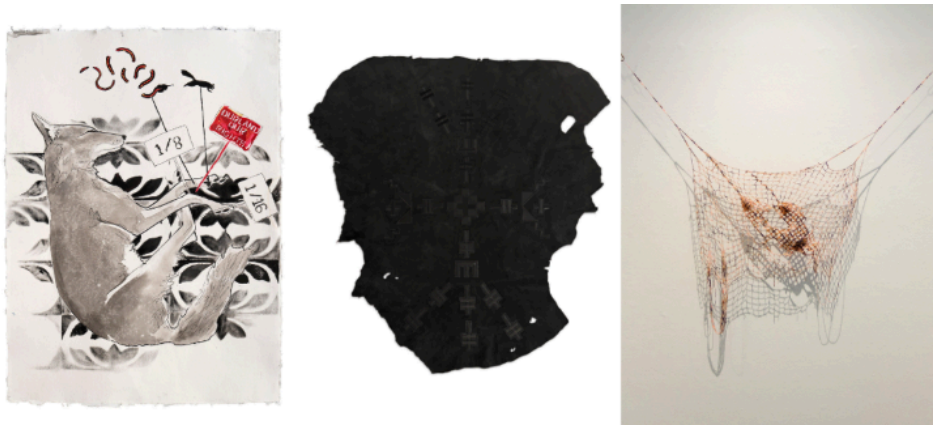
A biennial invitational art fair, Arrival launched its inaugural offering last weekend at the hotel and at several satellite locations and exhibitions across the city, bringing in thousands of art enthusiasts for panels, gallery openings and some large-ticket art acquisitions.

"The work that's hanging up spans the last 10 years. I have a sculptural background, but I've been leaning more into printmaking and into photography, sort of spreading my wings," artist Kim Faler told a group of Arrival attendees during a visit to her North Adams studio on Sunday. JENNIFER HUBERDEAU — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Similar conversations could be overheard across the boutique hotel during the preview party and continued throughout the next three days, as collectors and arts enthusiasts wandered in and out gallery "booths."

Thirty-six participating galleries filled every available space in the hotel's rooms, draping fiber art pieces over the hotel's beds, mounting works on the ceiling-high wooden headboards, and curating small sculpture gardens on windowsills, side tables and countertops. Some even made use of bathroom walls and counters, filling them with paintings and other art objects.

Williams College Museum of Art announced Friday it acquired three works on display: Julie Buffalohead's "Our Land Our Rights" 2025 from Jessica Silverman Gallery out of San Francisco; "awíčhuŋpȟepi (we invite them)," 2025, a deer hide, bead and embroidery piece by artist Kite from Bockley Gallery out of Minneapolis, Mich.; and Juvana Soliven's "Control," 2023, from Ontopo, a New York and Honolulu-based gallery. The works were purchased with the newly established Arrival Acquisition Fund for Williams College Museum of Art and selected by a jury made up of Williams College alumni and WCMA curatorial team members.



WCMA announced Friday it had acquired, from left to right, Julie Buffalohead's "Our Land Our Rights" 2025 from Jessica Silverman Gallery; awíčhuŋpȟepi (we invite them), 2025, by the artist Kite from Bockley Gallery and Juvana Soliven's Control, 2023, from Ontopo, a New York and Honolulu-based gallery. The works were purchased with the newly established Arrival Acquisition Fund for Williams College Museum of Art. PHOTOS COURTESY JESSICA SILVERMAN GALLERY, BOCKLEY GALLERY AND ONTOPO

"As the only museum in the Northern Berkshires that collects contemporary art, this partnership enables WCMA to grow its important collection, registering in real time and for future study, the ways artists are responding to the complexity of our current moment ... These three artworks mark a vital addition to our collection, and we look forward to teaching with them, and sharing them with our communities." said WCMA Director Pamela Franks in a news release.

The Art Newspaper reported several additional big-ticket sales were made by Jessica Silverman Gallery during Thursday's VIP sneak peak, including two paintings by Hayal Pozanti, "Chimes of Neptune" (2025) for $55,000 and "Coaxed Drops from the Clouds" (2025) for $45,000; Chelsea Ryoko Wong's painting "If I Could Stop Time" (2025) for $27,000; and Pae White's textural panel "cold summer" (2024) for $25,000.

In addition to sales, many participating galleries enjoyed Arrival's more intimate setting. Jonathan Carver Moore, founder and director of the eponymous-named San Francisco-based gallery, said Sunday he enjoyed being able to have meaningful conversations about the artwork on display; that fair attendees were interested in learning about his artists before making a purchase.

Facilitating connections — between museums and galleries, collectors and artists, and artists and funding opportunities — was a key goal of Arrival. Panels ranging in topic from personal approaches to art collecting to the future of art publishing took place over the three days and attendees had the opportunity to visit the studios of artists Willie Binnie in Williamstown, Mary Lum and Kim Faler in North Adams.

Left to right, Brandon Sheats, executive director Burnaway, Brandon Zech, publisher of Glasstire, Amelia Rina, founder and editor of Variable West and Jameson Johnson, founder and executive editor of Boston Art Review, discuss the future of regional art publishing during a panel at Arrival Art Fair on Friday, June 13. JENNIFER HUBERDEAU — THE BERKSHIRE EAGLE

Founders Brookline gallerist Yng-Ru Chen, North Adams and Boston-based artist Crystalle Lacouture and Bay Area art consultant Sarah Galender Meyer anticipated "several thousand" individuals would circulate through the fair over the weekend, as 2,000 individuals had registered for the free event.

The trio began dreaming of establishing an art fair in the Berkshires several years ago during a dinner at which they were discussing the state of the art industry and reflecting on recent experiences at larger art fairs. Their vision? An art fair they'd want to attend — a "very dreamy, luxurious weekend situation."

Did they succeed?

"It really is everything we envisioned," Galender Meyer said Friday afternoon. "The result is everything we thought it would be."

Jennifer Huberdeau is the features editor at The Berkshire Eagle. She can be reached at jhuberdeau@berkshireeagle.com or 413-496-6229.

https://www.berkshireeagle.com/arts_and_culture/arts-theater/arrival-art-fair-north-adams-tourists-hotel/article_1ebe5d23-ac61-457e-8d79-0bd80c0b2ece.html