
Unveiling unforgettable highlights of Art Basel 2023

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"Ciurlionis Gym," installation by artist Augustas Serapinas, Basel, Switzerland, June 15, 2023. (Photo by Funda Karayel)

The 2023 edition of Art Basel has mesmerized art enthusiasts with its breathtaking displays and groundbreaking artworks. With its unrivaled reputation as one of the world's premier art fairs, Art Basel has once again exceeded expectations, showcasing many extraordinary highlights.

Art Basel's marquee June fair in Switzerland has successfully brought together 284 galleries from 36 countries, creating a diverse and vibrant artistic showcase. With its preview on June 13, this edition marks the debut of new CEO Noah Horowitz, who assumed the role at the start of the year, succeeding Marc Spiegler. The event promises a fresh perspective under Horowitz's leadership while maintaining the prestigious reputation that Art Basel has cultivated over the years.

Ciurlionis Gym

Among the numerous exhibits, the Ciurlionis Gym installation by artist Augustas Serapinas stood out as a captivating and physically demanding performance piece. I enjoyed discussing this unique work with my art collector friend, Berrin Saran, who shared her firsthand experience of the Unlimited opening event held in Basel.

The Ciurlionis Gym installation profoundly explores the artistic process, physical endurance, and the intersection of art and fitness. Serapinas, a graduate of the Lithuanian university Ciurlionis, cleverly named the work after his alma mater, emphasizing the connection between the repetitive training artists undergo in art school and the dedication required for physical training. Art collector Berrin highlighted how the innovative use of plaster artworks as weights in Ciurlionis Gym challenges conventional notions of strength and beauty, effectively blurring the boundaries between art and fitness.