

PaperCITY

In the Lens: FotoFest Auction Preview



Linda Davis, Steven Evans
Elaine Thweatt

What: FotoFest International
Fine Print Auction Preview.

Where: Gremillion & Co.
Fine Art.

Who: FotoFest executive
director **Steven Evans**; co-
founders **Fred Baldwin** and
Wendy Watriss; gallerist
Deborah Colton; artist
Suzanne Bloom of MANUAL,
donating to the cause; collector
types **Kath Blanco**, **Lisa** and
Thomas Damsgaard, **Susie**
and **Sanford Criner**, **Ceci**
Norman, **Veronique Prentice**,
Shelley Weathers, and
Chelsea Shannon.

PC Moment: Guests perused
top auction lots including the
chance to commission a portrait
by notorious artist **Andres**
Serrano; the photograph **Kate**
(as in **Kate Moss**) from a series
by the Russian **Olga Tobreluts**;
and a nature-based print by
Texas State Artist **Dornith**
Doherty, in keeping with the
Biennial's focus on the Earth.
Matthew Ramirez



Pat Dames, Suzanne Bloom
Kath Blanco



Nashelly Akel



Deborah Colton



Susie & Sanford Criner



Michele Griffiths, Shelley Weathers

TWO VIEWS IN THE *International Lens of FotoFest*

Saks Fifth Avenue's Big Biennial Kickoff

INSTEAD OF AN F-STOP, IT WAS A SAKS-STOP WHEN SAKS FIFTH AVENUE CONTINUED ITS TRADITION OF HOSTING THE OFFICIAL KICKOFF FÊTE FOR THE FOTOFEST BIENNIAL.

In 2012, the Russians flocked, but this year the vibe was even more transcontinental. Illustrious exhibiting artists and the gallerists who represent them took over Saks' first level, arriving from London, Paris, Cairo, Dubai, Saudi Arabia and more, all representatives of the Arab world, in keeping with the Biennial's emphasis on the Middle East and its photographic talents. At the helm of Saks, store director **Bobby Dees** and wife **Wezy**, joined by PR directress **Sylvia Forsythe**, curated an inspired evening welcoming FotoFest founders/ the legendary Houston-based photojournalists **Wendy Watriss** and **Fred Baldwin**, newly minted director **Steven Evans**, and German-headquartered curator **Karin Adrian von Roques**. Well-connected art and social maven of focus **Neda Ladjevardian** reigned as chair, while Idaho-distilled RWB Vodka, thanks to the brand's **Robert Federowicz**, provided the détente for the St. Germain-infused vodka Fototinis. In the cultural aperture: CAMH board chair **Bill Goldberg**; collectors **John Guess Jr.**, **Johanna Donson**, and **Judy Nyquist**; Beachtown's **Tofigh Shirazi**; long-time FotoFest board member **Kath Blanco**; Mercury Baroque's **Matthew Dirst**; **Ellie** and **Saeed Taghdisi**; and exhibiting artists **Steve Sabella**, **Sueraya Shaheen**, and **Faisal Samra**, all traveling in from the Middle East and/or Europe.



Steve Sabella at Auction with his *Metamorphosis, 2012*

Fine Print Auction Bid-A-Rama

WEEKS later, the Biennial was in full swing, reaching its apex with the much-anticipated International Fine Print Auction, held at the Doubletree Downtown, which functioned as de facto FotoFest HQ for a full six weeks. At the podium, Sotheby's VP and photo expert **Denise Bethel** wielded the gavel with authority, while the global gathering honored ardent supporters **Sherry** and **Jim Kempner**. Three hundred and eighty attendees and 60-plus live and silent lots helped raise a record-rousing \$430,000 for offerings from some of the world's most celebrated artists employing the photographic media. Brisk bidding attended the top lot: Moroccan artist Lalla Essaydi's harem-influenced *mise en scène*. The buyer? A Houston collector who



wishes to remain hush, hush. In a moment: Meeting auctioneer, gallerist and artist **Hamza Serafi**, in from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, *Forbes*-listed (#52 of the wealthiest in the Arab world) and the lucky winner of images by Abdulnasser Gharem (Saudi Arabia), Vee Speers (Australia) and Ewa Zebrowski (Russia).



Sylvia Forsythe

Chair Neda Ladjevardian at Saks



Matthew Dirst

Sixto Wagan at Saks



D'Andrea Simmons

Jeremy Lock at Auction



Wendy Watriss at Saks

Arthur Baird



Deborah Colton at Saks

Fred Baldwin

Johanna Donson



John Guess Jr. at Saks



Kath Blanco at Saks



Judy Nyquist at Saks



Bahareh Jalalabadi at Saks



Bill King at Saks



Barbara Davis at Saks



RWB Vodka fueled the Fotofest.



Steven Evans at Saks



Afsaneh Jalalabadi at Saks



Shannon Rogers at Saks



Faisal Samra at Saks

Karim Adrian von Roques

Zoe Goldman



Robert Federowicz at Saks



Chuy Benitez at Saks

Vinod Hopson



Hamza Serafi at Auction



Lalla Essaydi's Harem Revisited #35, 2012

BRISK BIDDING ATTENDED THE TOP LOT: MOROCCAN ARTIST LALLA ESSAYDI'S HAREM-INFLUENCED MISE EN SCÈNE. THE BUYER? A HOUSTON COLLECTOR WHO WISHES TO REMAIN HUSH, HUSH.