

"Thousands of people have seen shows in my gallery, and I like to think these shows have had their impact on the development of art."

Leo Castelli



The arts and culture industry contributed just over £10billion to the economy of the United Kingdom.

There are an estimated 1500 permanent exhibition spaces in London.

At the helm of each gallery space is a maverick dealer promoting an idiosyncratic choice of artists and their work.

CULTURERS profiles nine art dealers, exploring the role they play in finding, nurturing, and promoting artists.

Episodes will be structured around an event in the gallery's calendar.

For example we will follow the opening of a new show or bigger space, attending a trade fair, signing an artist, or consulting on a collection.

As this drama unfolds, personal interviews probing the background and opinions of the dealer, will seek a deeper understanding of their motivations.

Artnet listed the following nine art dealers as the most respected in Europe. It offers a flavour of the kinds of individuals who might be profiled.

Xavier Hufkens

Brussels based Hufkens shows a diverse programme of 40 artist from different generations. "The definition of the gallery was established from the start. The common thread, then and now, is quality... which I find more intellectually challenging than a forced definition."

xavierhufkens.com



Eivind Furnesvik

Furnesvik's gallery Standard (Oslo) raised Norway's artists to an international level. "His artists are so in demand that American collectors fly to Norway to see sold-out shows, just to curry favour for next time."

standardoslo.com



Elba Benitez

her gallery with no prior experience, training, or connection in the art world. Her gallery exhibits artist working in a range of media, "while also driving to explore channels of artistic expression formed by the interplay of art with other disciplines, such as architecture, film, tourism, and urbanism."

elbabenitez.com

Johann Konig

With galleries in Berlin and London, Konig sold his first artwork aged just 21. He is severely sight-impaired, claiming "blindness taught him how to recognise good art."

koeniggalerie.com



Eva Presenhuber

With galleries in Zurich and New York, Presenhuber represents an international and intergenerational lineup of artists. She earned a reputation for her museum-quality exhibitions.

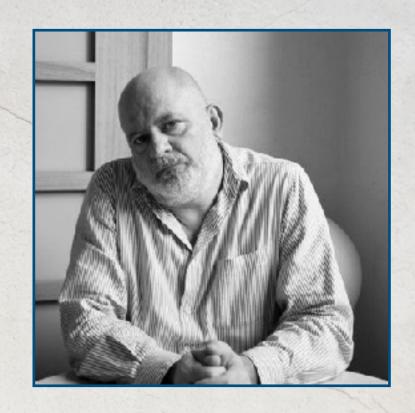
presenhuber.com



Massimo de Cario

Boasting spaces in Milan, London and Hong Kong, this pharmacist turned gallery owner represents a select group of established and up-and-coming artists.

massimodecarlo.com



Kamel Mennour

Representing 40 artist across 4 spaces in both Paris and London this Algerian born Frenchman first sold art door-to-door to pay for his degree.

kamelmennour.com



Sadie Coles

Coles was at the forefront of the YBA movement of the 1990s. With two galleries in London she simultaneously walks the line between commercial clout and critical relevance. "I had a very romantic, idealistic idea about the possibilities being a dealer: that you could go on an adventure with an artist. I still believe that."

sadiecoles.com

Thaddeaus Ropac

Ropac has galleries in London,
Paris and Salzburg representing
60 artists. He also acts as a
consultant to major museums,
and public institutions. As well
as advising private and corporate
collections.

ropac.net



