

Art Fairs

From a Surrealist Banquet to Miniature Modernists, See Highlights of the Inaugural Spring TEFAF New York

Crowds flock to TEFAF's first spring edition, which saw an early \$1 million sale.

Eileen Kinsella & Henri Neuendorf
May 3, 2017



Galerie Gmurzynska. Photo: courtesy of Galerie Gmurzynska.

Galerie Gmurzynska

Galerie Gmurzynska conscripted the French fashion show producer Alexandre de Betak—who has been called the “Fellini of Fashion”—to design its elaborate neon-lined booth. De Betak told artnet News it was his first time designing a stand for an art fair. The design featured a linear, back-lit grid throughout the entire space—an unusual backdrop for works by Christo, [Yves Klein](#), [Wifredo Lam](#), Joan Miro, and [Tom Wesselmann](#), among others. “I wanted to play with the lines in the grids because it just naturally helps the eye focus,” de Betak said.

Within hours of the VIP opening, the gallery sold [Roberto Matta](#)'s seminal 1954 painting, *Ouvrir les bras comme on ouvre les yeux*. The painting was the cornerstone of the artist's exhibition at the Pompidou Centre in 1985 and had been in a private collection ever since. The asking price was around \$1 million. News of the sale coincided with Gmurzynska's announcement that it is now representing the Matta estate.