

Collecting

Stronger sales and supersize cigarettes

Auction numbers improve (a bit); Artsy raises \$50m; Paris hotel re-opens with new collection; Wesselmann hits London in October

“The Art Market



'Muse Offcut #1' (2017) by Nick Hornby, on show at Glyndebourne



33 MINUTES AGO by: [Melanie Gerlis](#)

This time last year, half-year auction sales figures from Sotheby’s and Christie’s made for sorry reading — down 24 per cent and 37 per cent respectively in dollar terms — so a small improvement this time around is welcome news. Sotheby’s auctions totalled \$2.5bn for the first half of 2017 (\$2.4bn last year) while Christie’s sold \$2.8bn of works (\$2.5bn in 2016). Private sales figures fell dramatically at Christie’s, from \$463.9m to \$155.4m, which chief executive Guillaume Cerutti says largely reflects the “counter-cyclical relationship” between auction and private sales — when one goes up, the other goes down — though in a market that was really motoring, you’d expect that both would benefit.

High-end art and fine-dining opera may seem like natural bedfellows, but the three-year *White Cube at Glyndebourne* collaboration comes to an end after this season. Porcelain sculptures by Rachel Kneebone are currently on view in the temporary space on Glyndebourne’s grounds. A spokeswoman for White Cube says the collaboration was meant to be only for three years — though this wasn’t specified publicly by either party — and that shows of Georg Baselitz, Raqib Shaw and now Kneebone “have proved to be popular additional offers for the opera-goer and unusual and exciting excursions for the artists”.

This year, Glyndebourne also hosts a solo exhibition of large-scale sculpture, with nine new works by British artist Nick Hornby gracing its gardens and house (£16,000-£85,000). Both shows run until the end of the Glyndebourne Festival on August 27 while Hornby also has work in New York’s Paul Kasmin gallery (until August 18).

The Art Market column takes a break until September 9

Copyright The Financial Times Limited 2017. All rights reserved. You may share using our article tools. Please don't copy articles from FT.com and redistribute by email or post to the web.

