



Unsubbed

We'll Always Have... Art Fairs

17 rue du Faubourg Poissonnière, Paris



JETHRO TURNER

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Paris Internationale



Amber Andrews

October 16th to 20th, 2024

If you've been reading the art and culture press over the last few weeks, you might have noticed some of the hullabaloo about 'London vs Paris' in the battle for art world supremacy, which is being treated like it's the Napoleonic wars or something. Essentially, the big news is that Art Basel Paris has landed at the newly renovated Grand Palais, hot on the heels of Frieze in London as a 'rival' mega-fair. And alongside the glitz and glam of the main event, Paris is putting on a real show of headline exhibitions and buzzy art fairs.

Paris internationale is one of the latter. It's being held in Le central téléphonique Bergère, a former telephone exchange and office building on rue du Faubourg Poissonnière, which has been totally gutted. It's a fabulously raw space, a little redolent of the chipped concrete and flux of the Palais de Tokyo, and there are five floors of art here, linked by a load of freshly painted ersatz staircases. They're aware of the accessibility challenges this might cause some visitors, so if this is an issue you can contact them to see how best they can accommodate you.

The 'city of light' is a cliché, but one of the joys of the naturally-lit rooms hosting many of the shows here this week is the more human feel you get from shifting patterns of light on and around works of art. It was no different at Paris Internationale, with sunshine falling in from the big open windows rather than being diffused through tent canvas like Frieze, and the fact you can escape out onto the top floor balcony offers a literal breath of fresh air (or blueberry vape smoke).

There's a lot to see with over 75 galleries from 19 countries, but Bonnie Lucas at ILY2 is unmissable. The Portland based gallery has brought a series of works by the New York City artist to Paris. With intricate, sensual, dark explorations of femininity in assemblages of fabrics and objects, Lucas takes the pinks and whites of girlhood and twists them softly through the wringer.



Bonnie Lucas

Bonus content - shout out to Allie at ILY2 for this fine piece of neckwear (it's Schiaparelli 🍷, but she says she's now worked out how to make them by herself out of old extensions).

