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Untitled (1988) Martin Kippenberger

sold for 18,645,000 \$ at Christie's, A new record for the artist

COMPLETELY UNFINISHED:

RICHLY INCOMPLETE ART

In 2012, Britain's National Portrait Gallery hosted a major Lucian Freud retrospective, featuring seven decades of work from the "inquisitively brilliant" artist, who died in 2011. Freud had been heavily involved in preparations for the exhibition: when the show opened without him it took on a decidedly different tone – it was at once retrospective and memorial. Sarah Howgate, who had worked extensively on the show with the artist, commented, "It is his life in paint."

The show closed with one of the artist's last works, *Portrait of the Hound* (2011), an unfinished piece which gave the poignant sense of a career placed on hold. Amongst Freud's most famous works, *Portrait of the Hound* felt compellingly honest – even vulnerable: here, the artist's incomplete paint trails were left visible, whole sections of the canvas remaining naked, white.

Freud's *Portrait of the Hound* is one of many incomplete works to have left the artist's studio and entered the public eye. Art Media Agency looked at the appeal of the unfinished work – and its occasionally complex definition.





WHAT'S ON

GERMANY

The Blue Four in the spotlight at Munich's Galerie Thomas

Galerie Thomas is currently presenting the exhibition "Die Blaue Vier" (The Blue Four) until 19 July in their Munich space.

The show is to focus on the life of Emmy "Galka" Scheyer (1889-1945), a German-American painter, art dealer and collector. She founded the artist collective The Blue Four, which comprised of Wassily Kandinsky, Paul Klee, Lyonel Feininger and Alexej von Jawlensky. Having discovered Jawlensky's work in 1915, she was introduced to the other three in 1921 while they were teaching at the now-infamous Bauhaus school in Weimar. From 1924 onwards, she promoted their art in the United States, helping them to gain international prominence and widespread recognition that endures today.

IVORY COAST

Virginia Ryan's Available Space

Cécile Fakhoury presents an exhibition dedicated to Virginia Ryan. Entitled "Espace à louer" ("Available Space"), it is to continue until 21 June in the gallery space in Abidjan (Ivory Coast). On display at the exhibition are paintings, collages, photographs, and installations by the artist. The visitor is invited to wander amongst large works which seem to float in the gallery space. Virginia Ryan principally uses materials from Abidjan's urban landscape, such as advertising billboards and posters from 1960-1990 films, taken from a former cinema space in Grand-Bassam.

Virginia Ryan, born in Australia in 1956, works between Trevi (Italy) and Bassam (Ivory Coast). She is the co-founder of the Foundation for Contemporary Art in Ghana, of which she was also the director between 2003 and 2007.

UNITED KINGDOM

David LaChapelle at Robilant+Voena

From 16 May to 18 June, London gallery Robilant+Voena presents an exhibition entitled "David LaChapelle LAND SCAPE", dedicated to the American photographer.

The exhibition comprises eight of the artists's photographs, from a series which took him almost a year to produce. These colourful, saturated images reveal oil refinery landscapes through technicolour — characteristic of the artist's work — and were shot in his studio in Los Angeles or in the Californian desert. Each scene is in fact a handcrafted montage, created from daily objects, such as telephones, cans, straws, etc.

David LaChapelle infuses his seemingly real landscapes — each a witness to civilisation's dependency on oil — with an apocalyptic notion of falsity; these refineries, constructed out of objects which they themselves produce, reflect a world which has reached a certain limit, which is a "collective portrait of ourselves, and of the world we have built to serve our desires", writes critic Shana Nys Dambrot in the exhibition catalogue.

UNITED STATES

Klein Sun Gallery exhibits Jiang Pengyi in New York

Until 21 June, Klein Sun Gallery in New York is exhibiting the work of Chinese photographer Jiang Pengyi for the first time. Entitled "Glimpses", the exhibition presents two series: *Unregistered City* and *Everything Illuminates*. In the former, the artist focuses on sociopolitical perspectives, exploring the notions of destruction, urbanisation, and social development, whilst in *Everything Illuminates*, he approaches spiritual and philosophical themes, using long exposures and phosphorescent powder mixed with wax. Jiang Pengyi was born in the province of Yuanjiang in China in 1977 and studied at the Beijing Institute of Art & Design.

