

State of the Art: Q & A with Anthony Barzilay Freund and Mallory Evans (Spring 2014)



Sarah Awad, *Untitled (Standing Woman I)*, 2013

Luxe sits down with Anthony Barzilay Freund, director of fine art at the pioneering online marketplace 1stdibs, to discuss the ins and outs of the art world.

Tells us how you began your career in art.

I studied architecture in graduate school, which is when I first began to think seriously about aesthetics and the way our environments—the proportions of a room, its palette, textures, and the way light animates the space—can make us change how we think and feel. Of course, the histories of architecture and art follow similar trajectories, so it wasn't long before I made the great leap.

How has the Internet changed the way the luxury market buys and consumes art?

Purchasing art can be intimidating, but the Internet helps demystify the process. It's also less overwhelming to review an exhibition or an artist's latest body of work online than to browse an unfamiliar gallery.

What are your favorite art fairs?

The art world travels en masse: Miami in December, New York in March, and Basel, Switzerland, in June. My favorite stop in London in October when the Frieze Art Fair, Frieze Masters and PAD all come to town, and the local galleries and museums put on their premier exhibitions.

Who is currently on your radar?

I really resonate with artists who use paint—and lots of it—with abandon, as if they're on the cusp of losing control. Lucian Freud is a prime example of this kind of painter. Sarah Awad -- her *Untitled (Standing Woman 1)* is shown here -- is an emerging artist whose expressive painting of people represent far more than just a straightforward portrait.