

Art World News Today

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | DECEMBER 20, 2018



The Port Talbot artwork by Banksy.
(Image Courtesy The Guardian. Photograph: @RHoneyJones/PA)

Among the top visual arts headlines today: Gregory Burke, CEO of Saskatoon's Rемаi Modern Art Museum resigns for a new post; the Lebanese-born architect Amale Andraos is to design the Beirut Museum of Art; Moscow residents petition the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art to end its sponsorship deal with a Russian property developer; [Banksy](#) (/artists/-banksy-14779) confirms he was behind the Port Talbot mural; and an art lover was so overwhelmed by [Botticelli](#) (/artists/-botticelli-26312)'s "Birth of Venus" that he had a heart attack.

[Banksy](#) (/artists/-banksy-14779) Confirmed To Be Artist Behind Port Talbot Mural



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The street artist [Banksy](#) (/artists/-banksy-14779) has confirmed that he created an artwork that appeared on a garage in the south Wales steel town of Port Talbot, [The Guardian](#) (<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2018/dec/19/banksy-port-talbot-mural-south-wales>)

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reports. The artist confirmed that the work was his by uploading an image of it on his website on Wednesday. A steelworker, Ian Lewis, 55, was surprised to find the artist's work on his garage walls. The artwork from one angle appears to be a child catching snowflakes on his tongue. But from another angle, it appears that the snow is actually ash from a dumpster bin fire or a chimney. "The Aberavon councilor, Nigel Thomas Hunt, said: 'We're buzzing down here. The placing of the work is very clever. You can look at the painting and see the furnaces in the background. We're delighted. I've written to the council already and we need to secure this really quickly,'" the Guardian reported.

Moscow Residents Petition Garage Museum to End Sponsorship Deal

Angry with the reconstruction of their neighborhood, Moscow residents have started a petition on Change.org calling on the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art to cancel its sponsorship deal with PIK, a Russian property developer. [The Art Newspaper](https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/moscow-residents-petition-garage-museum-to-reject-sponsorship-from-property-developer) (https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/moscow-residents-petition-garage-museum-to-reject-sponsorship-from-property-developer) reported that "in August, Garage announced a partnership with the PIK Group that provides museum membership cards to new home buyers and highlights their shared commitment to 'change lives and spaces for the better' as well as to accessibility for the disabled." Moscow is now part of a massive urban improvement program called "renovatsiya," which is run by the city government. Activists argue that the construction company has a goal of displacing residents living in low-cost Soviet-era buildings to pave the way for high-rises for potential buyers. The petition is addressed to Anton Belov, director of Garage and Kate Fowle, its chief curator.

CEO of Saskatoon's Remail Modern Art Takes New Post

Gregory Burke, the chief executive of Saskatoon's Remail Modern Art Museum announced on Wednesday that he has accepted an offer as director of Auckland Art Gallery in New Zealand, [cbcnnews](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/remail-modern-saskatoon-museum-gregory-burke-resigns-1.4953239) (https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatoon/remail-modern-saskatoon-museum-gregory-burke-resigns-1.4953239), reports. Burke was instrumental in transforming Saskatoon's Mendel Art Gallery into the Remail Modern Art Museum. "Burke began as executive director and CEO of Mendel Art Gallery in 2013, before overseeing the construction of the \$84.6-million Remail Modern Art Museum on Saskatoon's riverfront," the website adds. The museum opened in 2017 and recorded more than 450,000 visitors in its first year, doubling initial estimates. Burke's last day as CEO at Remail Modern will be March 15, 2019.

Lebanese-born Architect to Design Beirut Museum of Art

Amale Andraos of WORKac will design the upcoming [BeMA: Beirut Museum of Art](http://www.bema.museum/Bema/Home) (http://www.bema.museum/Bema/Home), [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/18/arts/design/amale-andraos-architect-beirut-museum-of-art.html) (https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/18/arts/design/amale-andraos-architect-beirut-museum-of-art.html) reports. Andraos is the dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. She founded the Manhattan-based WORKac with her husband, Dan Wood, in 2003. The museum will be located on a site owned by the Universite Saint-Joseph, "that once marked

the Green Line that separated predominantly Muslim areas from predominantly Christian ones in the Lebanese civil war,” the Times reports. “The new 12,000-square-meters museum will feature 2,700-square-metres of dedicated exhibition space and a six-story promenade that wraps around the facade of the building,” the museum website adds. It will house a permanent collection of modern and contemporary artworks belonging to the Lebanese diaspora and Lebanon. The BeMA is set to open in 2023.

Botticelli (/artists/-botticelli-26312) Triggers Heart Attack

A man suffered a heart attack while gazing at a [Botticelli \(/artists/-botticelli-26312\)](#) masterpiece in Florence, Italy, according to multiple news reports. He is the latest victim of what is now being termed as Stendhal Syndrome. The incident occurred at the Uffizi Galleries in Florence on Saturday while the tourist was gazing at [Botticelli \(/artists/-botticelli-26312\)](#)’s “Venus” (ca. 1485), the [Daily Mail \(https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-6507059/Man-rushed-hospital-beauty-Birth-Venus-caused-palpitations.html\)](#), among other newspapers, reported. The man was treated by doctors who were also visiting the gallery at the time. The unnamed man was rushed to the hospital and is currently in recovery. Symptoms of the disorder include dizziness, rapid heart rate, confusion, fainting, and hallucinations. This mysterious ailment named after the 19th-century French writer Stendhal causes individuals to feel an overwhelming sense of ecstasy while looking at a piece of art. “Other incidents include another tourist who suffered an epileptic fit in 2016, also in front of [Botticelli \(/artists/-botticelli-26312\)](#)’s magnificent allegorical depiction of Venus ascending from the ocean,” [artnet news \(https://news.artnet.com/art-world/heart-attack-botticelli-uffizi-1425448\)](#) reported.

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