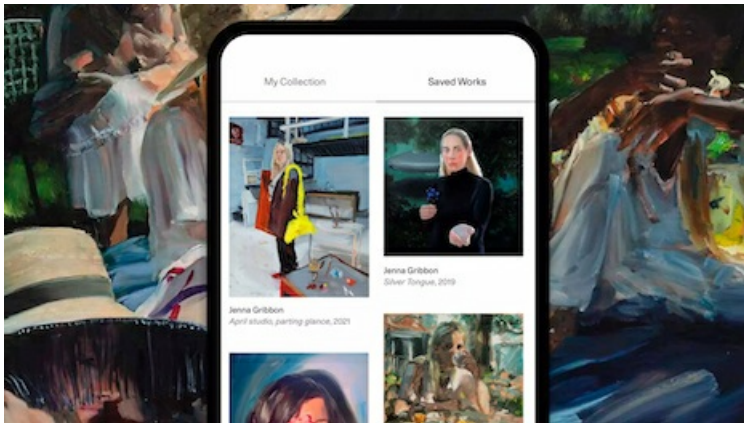


ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Women artists account for just 9.3pc of all artwork sold at auction in 2022: Artsy

March 8, 2023



From 2012-2022, women artists comprised a concerning 6 percent of total auction market share. Image credit: Artsy

By AMIRAH KEATON

Global art platform Artsy is calling attention to a series of troubling statistics on International Women's Day *Luxury Daily* presents the launch of a corresponding report exclusively.

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With today's observance top-of-mind, the timely release reveals that women made up just 9.3 percent of the total auction market share in 2022, landing even lower over the course of the last 10 years, at 6 percent of the total auction market share from 2012-2022. Segments of Artsy's findings show slight improvements for today's creatives, uncovering upticks for those artists born in recent decades, ones which would suggest a shift albeit, slow-moving in attitudes around gender equity.

"As women grow as forces in the art world as artists, dealers, curators, museum directors, and more it's clear that progress has been made," said Dustyn Kim, chief revenue officer at [Artsy](#), New York.

"That said, the market as a whole fails to reflect anything near parity and there's still more work to be done."

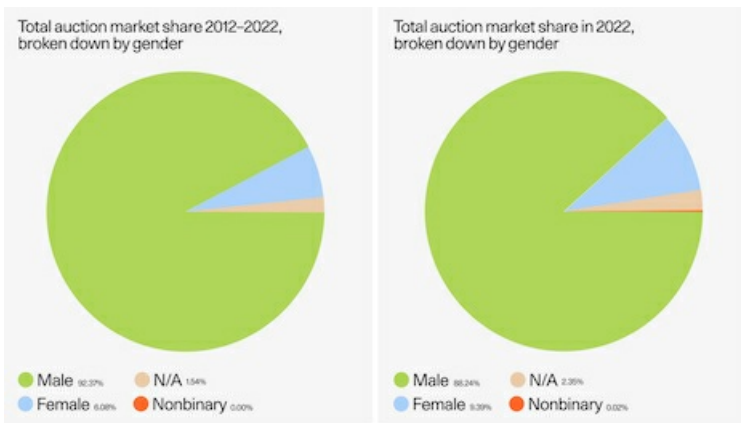
The analysis included as part of Artsy's Women Artists Market Report factors in primary research, auction results from the Artsy Price Database, and proprietary Artsy data, according to the company.

Gender "Frieze"

Of the \$108.7 billion brought in over the course of the aforementioned decade, sales from women's works account for just \$6.7 billion.

Last year's figures reinforce this deficit. Of the record-setting \$11.04 billion garnered at auction, \$9.7 billion is attributed to male artists. Meanwhile, women can only claim \$1.03 billion of the total.

Seeking to track these statistics, Artsy breaks down the current state of art market affairs as audiences worldwide participate in an annual celebration of women, the undertaking presents a troubling, top-down pattern.

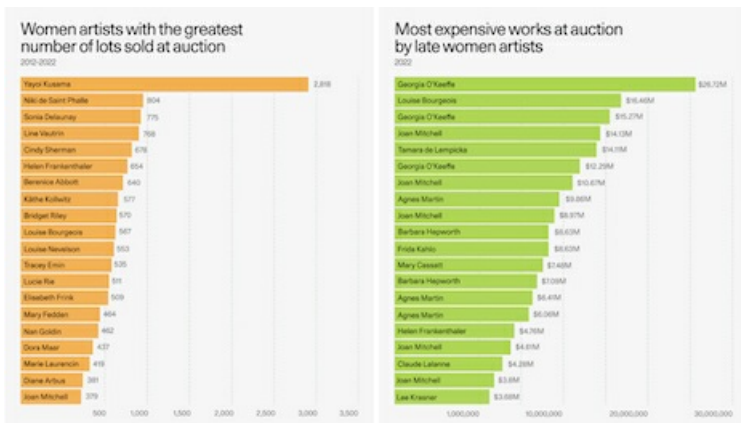


Of the \$108.7 billion brought in over the course of the aforementioned decade, sales from women's works account for just \$6.7 billion. Image courtesy of Artsy

Take Japanese powerhouse Yayoi Kusama, for instance.

With the highest volume of works at auction of any women artist over the last 10 years, Louis Vuitton's latest collaborator (see story) still falls short of the market's top male artist in the sales department.

Ms. Kusama's 2,818 lots placed from 2012-2022 come in at almost eight times less than the total number of lots from Pablo Picasso, who placed 21,745 works under the hammer during the same stretch.



Graphs outline both living and late women artists with the greatest number of lots sold at auction. Image courtesy of Artsy

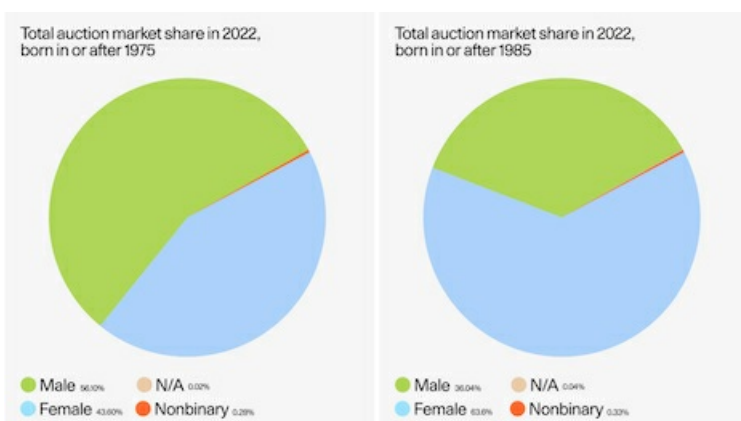
Mr. Picasso's reached the highest total sales of any male artist at \$5.19 billion, an amount seven times that of Ms. Kusama's sales during the same time period, at \$726.5 million.

Overarching sector sales follow suit.

Artsy's report states that the sum total of the 50 most expensive works by female artists sold in auctions in 2022 equaled \$332.35 million less than the price achieved for just two of the most expensive works from counterparts Andy Warhol and Georges Seurat.

The artists' respective "Shot Sage Blue Marilyn (1964)" and "Les Poseuses, Ensemble (Petite version) (1888)" works amassed a combined total of \$344.28 million last year.

Despite this dismal reality, women making modern art did see a few strides in 2022.



Contemporary women artists may be well on their way to collectively disrupting a male-dominated track record, having enjoyed above-average total auction market share in 2022. Image courtesy of Artsy

Artsy notes that last year was a record one for women artists' work in the ultracontemporary category, which has grown by 4,071 percent, from \$5.28 million to \$220.24 million, between 2012-2022. At the start of the 10-year timeframe, this slice proved much smaller the artists in question would have been aged 37 and younger at the time.

Artsy's update also points to contemporary artists, who may be well on their way to collectively disrupting a disturbing track record.

"I'm most struck by the vastly greater gender parity we're seeing in the ultracontemporary sector of the market, which is focused on artists born from 1975 to today," said Casey Lesser, director of content at Artsy, New York.

"Whereas overall, women artists' works represented less than 10 percent of the works sold at auction in 2022, when you narrow the scope to the ultracontemporary, that number jumps to 43 percent," she said. "When we narrow further, to artists born after 1985, that climbs to 63 percent women artists' works overtake men's."

Forward motion

Though notably absent of updates specific to groups facing further marginalization such as women of color, all-in-all, measures evidence a changing tide.

As enthusiasts raise issues of equity, capturing the attention of industry alums and novices alike ([see story](#)), heightened awareness could be the welcome culprit. Diversified collector demographics ([see story](#)) may be an additional driver.

Black women gallery owners discuss growth that makes sense, cultivating a global presence, and remaining connected to their gut instincts. <https://t.co/FDR5kAD1Yj>

Artsy (@artsy) [March 1, 2023](#)

The report publisher speaks to the ways in which the digital sales leader is addressing gender disparities weighing down entire classes of creatives.

"As a company at the forefront of its industry, Artsy is constantly working toward a more inclusive art world and views its responsibility to further advocate for artists who deserve attention and are leading the way in art," Ms. Kim said.

"As part of Artsy's mission to empower women and nonbinary creators, we'll continue to promote women artists through editorial features, inclusion in collections like the Curators' Picks and weekly Trove and Artists on the Rise, as well as by putting together auctions that spotlight women artists and allow for opportunities to make the space more equitable for all."

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