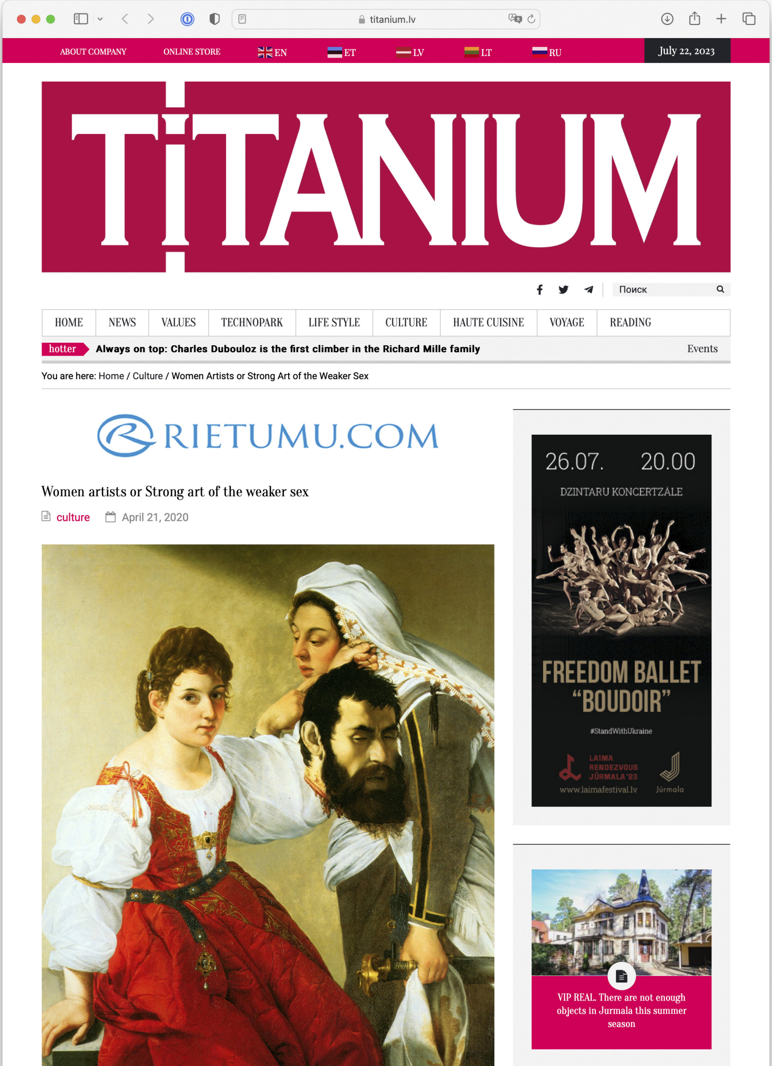

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Women artists or Strong art of the weaker sex

culture April 21, 2020

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VIP REAL. There are not enough objects in Jurmala this summer season

The relationship between women and art has always been obvious and ambiguous. This difficult relationship at times resembled a one-way highway with no right to turn around. On the one hand, the woman was given an honorary role of the second plan - the role of a muse, a reliable rear and a faithful assistant. It has always existed alongside art and has been an integral part of it. On the other hand, the weaker sex was practically not allowed to create masterpieces, and this sacrament was exclusively a male prerogative.

It should be noted that in museums and at auctions, works of art by women are much less common. Experts say that the percentage of female artists on the art market, at best, can be no more than five or seven, which is undoubtedly a very low figure. But you can't argue with history. It so happened that creative self-expression for many centuries was predominantly a male occupation. And for a woman, this meant becoming an object of condemnation. Therefore, an equal place with male creators was taken exclusively by the “iron lady”, who had to fight with many taboos - to have their own vision, or at least the opportunity to get an art education.

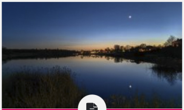
Men, on the other hand, actively put forward their theories about why a woman cannot be a genius. For example, the famous German philosopher **Arthur Schopenhauer** wrote that a woman does not have a penchant for art, and if she does it, then this is nothing more than monkeying for the purpose of coquetry. There was also an opinion that those few artists who managed to become famous had a masculine essence that determined the degree of their talent. But no matter what factors influenced the outcome - historical accident, deliberate discrimination, or centuries of male dominance, one question still remains unanswered: why has world art culture retained so few references to female artists?

Jenny Saville Exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, Oxford CREDIT Geraint Lewis

Artemisia Gentileschi - recognized nonsense of the 17th century

Artemisia Gentileschi (1593–1653) was dubbed by the Italian art critic and historian Roberto Longhi as the only woman in Italy who understood what painting was. And she not only understood and created contrary to all world principles, but also became the first woman elected to the members of the Art Academy of Europe, located in Florence.

Perhaps if she had been born in an ordinary family, her talent would never have been revealed. But she was lucky to grow and develop under the supervision of her father, the artist **Orazio Gentileschi.**, one of the best painters of the Caravaggio school, who is also known as the author of the frescoes of the Vatican Library. His daughter can be safely called a phenomenon, since at the beginning of the 17th century it was unthinkable for a girl to become a recognized artist. The maximum that she could achieve was to secretly create



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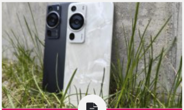

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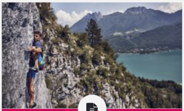
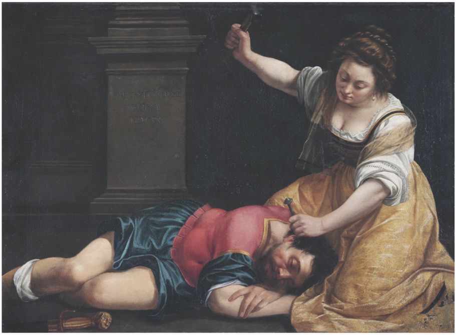


Always on top: Charles Dubouloz is the first climber in the Richard Mille family
July 21, 2023

high-quality still lifes in the evenings. Nevertheless, the incredible popularity of Artemisia Gentileschi during her lifetime did not prevent her from plunging into oblivion. She appeared on everyone's lips only 300 years later, which was facilitated by curiosity about her story on the part of writers and directors who began to write short stories, stage plays and make films.



Giaele e Sisara

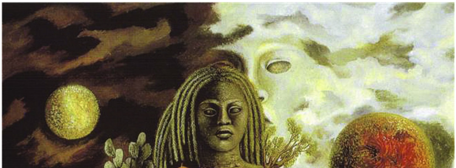
Not many of her works have survived to this day, but still occasionally valuable paintings appear at auctions. So, at the end of 2017, her previously unknown “Self-Portrait as Saint Catherine” went under the hammer at the Paris auction house Drouot, exceeding the initial estimate by four times and setting the author a record price of 2.4 million **euros** . The previous price record **for Artemisia** belongs to Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy, which was sold in 2014 at **Sotheby's** for $1.2 million.

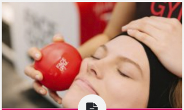
But, despite all these successful sales, a feeling of underestimation trails behind her work. Many experts note that the artistic and historical value of these works is very high, however, you will not find paintings **by Artemisia Gentileschi in the leading museums of the world, which definitely should be there as a world cultural heritage.**

Frida Kahlo is her own muse

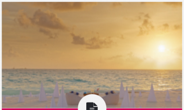
Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) is a famous Mexican artist and one of the most prominent representatives of naive art. Most of her paintings are self-portraits, because, having got into a terrible car accident, she was bedridden for a long time. Therefore, she spent many months of pain and struggle for life alone with an easel bolted to the bed and her mirror image, in which she studied herself - who survived not only seventeen fractures and thirty-two operations, but also despair, suffering, fear and uncertainty about tomorrow. The bright and deep portraits **of Frida** display an extraordinary thirst for life, which was appreciated by many collectors.

The silently screaming works **of Frida Kahlo** graced about 40 personal publications, and the difficult fate of a shocking and inspiring personality formed the basis of a dozen feature and biographical films. Even the creators of the Disney cartoon "The Secret of Coco" found a small episodic role for her.

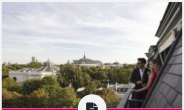




Facial gymnastics using the FaceGym system at The Maybourne Riviera
July 20, 2023



Weekend Reveal Limited Time Deal from Grand Park Resort Kodhipparu Maldives
July 20, 2023



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POPULAR

Always on top: Charles Dubouloz is the first climber in the Richard Mille family

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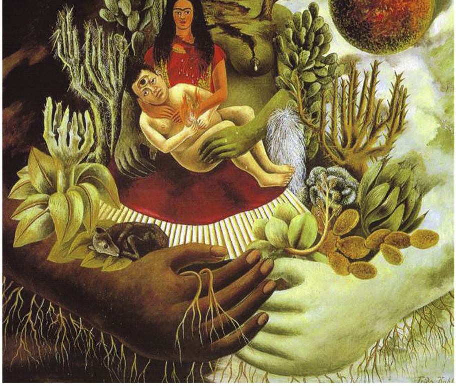
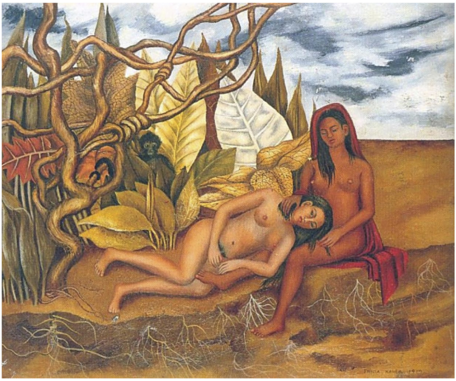
Summer wellness in Paris

The biggest hip-hop dance competition in Latvia will be held in Ventspils



In 1955, almost immediately after her death, the Frida Kahlo **Museum opened its doors ,** which is located in the house where she was born, received Leon Trotsky with her husband and died in 1954. In addition to several works, there are her personal belongings, a personal collection of pre-Columbian statues, as well as ashes and a death mask.

The most expensive work of the artist is the painting “Two Nudes in the Forest”, which was sold in 2016 at Sotheby's for $8 million. It should be noted that this work has already appeared at auction in 1989, when it was sold for 506,000 dollars, thereby having risen in price by 16 times over 27 years. **Frida's** "creative selfies" are very popular at auctions . So, in early 2006, the work “Roots”, painted in oil on a sheet of metal, was bought at Sotheby **’s** for **$ 5.6 million** . And six years earlier, another self-portrait **of Frida** “Time flies” went under the hammer to an American collector for 5 million.

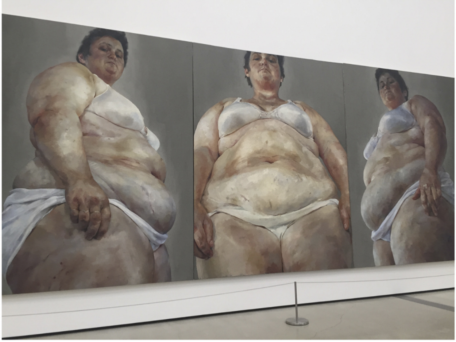


Jenny Saville - plastic surgeon of monumental art

Even at the beginning of her career, **Jenny Saville** hit a real jackpot, because after graduating from the Glasgow School of Art, she was immediately noticed by the leading collector Charles Saatchi, who bought all her works and placed an order for the next two years.

She is known for her monumental images of naked women of magnificent forms. **Saville** claims that this interest arose after an internship in Cincinnati, where she saw “a lot of big women” every day, which she embodies to this day on giant canvases. And, in order to be as believable as possible, she spent many hours in operating rooms, watching the process of rebirth under the scalpel of plastic surgeons. Her works are often compared with the work of the notorious Lucian Freud, whose painting “The Rest of a Social Worker” was sold for 56 million and is one of the most expensive in the world.

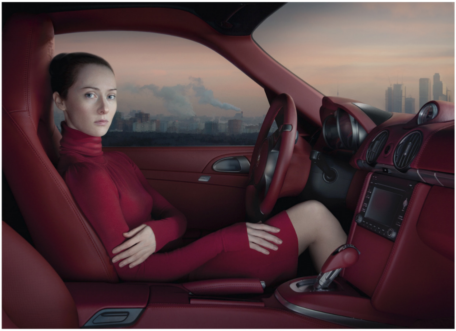
And in the top ten living female artists, **Jenny Saville** entered with her work "The Plan", which in 2014 at **Christie's** auction was sold for $ 3.5 million. And in the first place in the rating, she was raised by the painting “Shift”, which in 2016 went under the hammer at Sotheby's for **$ 9.2 million.**



Katerina Belkina — photographer in painting and painter in photography

Katerina Belkina is a bright representative of digital painting, who managed to find in her work the very line between painting and photography, classics and contemporary art. According to the artist, she really likes to mislead viewers who have been studying the works for a long time, trying to figure it out and attribute them to one genre or another. **Katerina** creates her own unique images, in which she very often takes part not only as an author, but also as a model, which allows her to get as close as possible to the exact transfer of the idea.

In 2017, she made a successful debut at **Sotheby's** , where her piece **For Kahlo white / For Kahlo red** was purchased by a collector for **7,000 euros** . Now Katerina is working on an art project based on the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, where, in addition to her picturesque photographs, she will also present installations to the viewer.



Njidika Akuniili Crosby

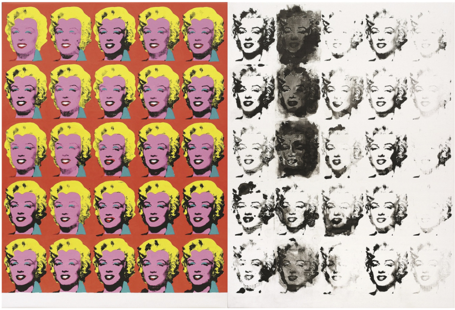
Black artist **Akuniili Crosby** has created her own personal style, which combines Western painting and African cultural traditions, which reflect her own history of marriage with the “pale-faced”, Nigerian heritage and personal experience of becoming an artist. Her hallmark is the layering and collaging of small photographic images in the form of reshoots of Nigerian fashion magazines, advertisements, and an archive of family photographs.

Akuniili Crosby's auction debut took place in 2016, when at Sotheby's the painting "Drowning" brought the author a million dollars, exceeding the original estimate by several times. And 2017 turned out to be even more enchanting for the artist. Her work I Refuse to Be Invisible was sold at Christie's for **$2.7 million** . And the picture "Beautiful" set Crosby's personal record of **3.1 million dollars** . To date, she is one of the fastest growing young debutantes in value.

Elaine Sturtevant is a brilliant plagiarist

The artist **Elaine Sturtevant (1924-2014)** became famous for her exact copies of successful masterpieces of such famous masters of the twentieth century as Andy Warhol, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Marcel Duchamp, Robert Gobert and others. By creating replicas of the creations of her male contemporaries, she thereby tried to raise topical issues of gender superiority, originality and authorship. This “creative act” fit so harmoniously into the concept of pop art itself that the copied geniuses were not against it. Andy Warhol even helped Elaine copy Madonna. And when asked to talk about the process of creating this work, he answered very briefly: “Ask Elaine.” This work with the original title "Warhol's Diptych" went under the hammer at Christie's for **$ 5 million**. A year earlier, an imitation of Roy Lichtenstein's "Scared Girl" sold for $3.4 million.

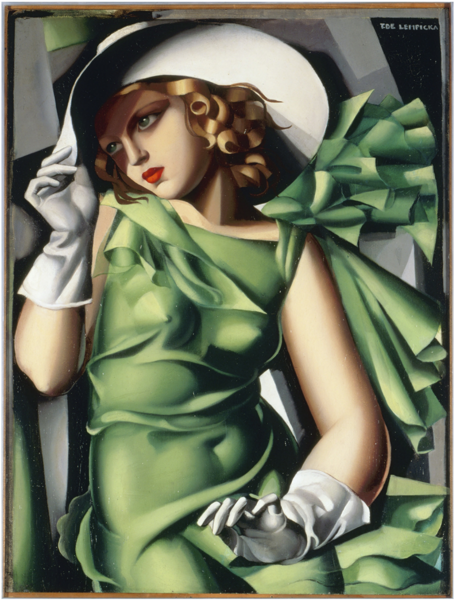
Of course, there has been a lot of debate in the art market about whether anyone's imitations deserve such attention. But it becomes clear that this pop gesture **by Elaine Sturtevant** has long been part of the art market. Her works are exhibited in reputable museums around the world and go to auctions for quite decent money.



Tamara Lempicka is the epitome of art deco style

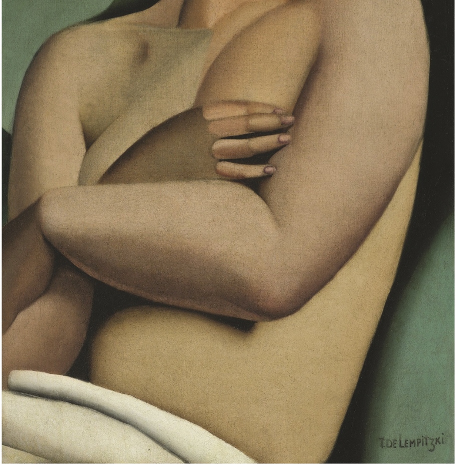
Tamara Lempicka **(1898–1980)**was predicted to become a pianist, but young Tamara developed a passion for painting at the age of nine. **Lempicka**studied the craft with Maurice Denis and André Lhote, who later became her "permanent mentor". Throughout the creative path there were moments of oblivion and dizzying success. One of the most passionate admirers of her talent is Madonna, who not only acquired**Lempicka's**in her collection, but also repeatedly used her paintings in music videos. Her works, written mainly in Art Deco and Cubist styles, are also in the collections of actors Barbara Streisand and Jack Nicholson.

In 2012, the painting "Nude Leaning on an Elbow" was sold at Sotheby **'s** for **$5.5 million** , which is not a record for the artist, since a year earlier her work "Dream" went for $8.5 million, with a preliminary estimate of $6 million.



Of course, the female artistic heritage, although it sometimes seems secret, is getting stronger every day and overgrown with new names and works of such great authors as Yayoi Kusama, Cindy Sherman, Natalia Goncharova, Marlene Dumas, Margaret Keane, Julie Meretu, Via Celminsh, Cady Noland, Eva Hesse, Berthe Morisot, Louise Bourgeois, Marina Abramovich and others.

It would be great if the artists could stir up the male art elite and dilute it a little on the podium. But at the same time, I would very much like art to remain art - without gender prerogatives in one direction or another, political games and market speculation.



Text: Alexandra Arkhipova

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