

Art Fairs

Got \$750,000? Here Are 10 Truly Extraordinary Artworks You Can Buy at Frieze Masters

Need a Baroque painting? Perhaps a sarcophagus? You've come to the right place.

Andrew Goldstein, October 5, 2017

With artistic treasures from both the recent and distant past, Frieze Masters is a welter of incredibly diverse extraordinariness, with epochs, contexts, and mediums shifting dizzyingly from booth to booth. It's enough to make a visitor feel very cultivated and a little crazy at the same time, akin to day of art-historical speed dating.

But there is a through-line that collectors can cling to while navigating this cornucopia, and it's a mercenary one: For about \$750,000 (give or take) you can walk away with pretty much any kind of world-class object you could want. Here are 10 works in that price range to covet like mad.



A lucky visitor admires the booth shared by Hauser & Wirth and Moretti at Frieze Masters 2017. Photo by Andrew Goldstein.

Upper Egyptian
Egyptian white-bodied sarcophagus, mid-7th century BC
antiquarium, ltd. – New York
\$750,000



So many collectors focus on the hottest artist, the quick flip, the status acquisition. But what about more lasting, eternal concerns? Say, the afterlife? For those looking to take the long view, you could do worse than this extraordinary sarcophagus from the Late Period of the XXVI Dynasty.

White-bodied in tribute to Osiris, who was garbed in white, this uncommon example features both animals—the gods Anubis and Ra-Horakhty—and a column of hieroglyphs that is difficult to decipher, since it's in idiosyncratic Upper Egyptian, but which speaks of a rich offering of beef and wine, suggesting a wealthy inhabitant. This sarcophagus is probably from El Hibeh and would have been placed inside a larger stone container and buried in a subterranean chamber alongside the offering; today it has very little restoration, and is in splendid condition.

Joseph Coplin of New York's Antiquarium, Ltd. had never participated in a fair before, but when his old Vassar friend Jeanne Greenberg-Rohatyn invited him to do a join-booth at Frieze Masters, he marked the occasion by acquiring this sarcophagus for a treasure worthy of the event.