



INTERNATIONAL EDITION

THE ART NEWSPAPER

UMBERTO ALLEMANDI & CO. PUBLISHING

LONDON NEW YORK TURIN VENICE MILAN ROME

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH DAILY EDITION 4-5 DECEMBER 2010

Confessions of an art dealer

Alexander Gray

co-founder,
Alexander Gray
Associates, New
York (N5)

My secret passion...
cooking shows on television. I love watching how people describe two senses that media can't capture—taste and smell—while demonstrating skill and creativity.

The museum I'd like to lead...
the Chinati Foundation in Marfa. Seeing Judd's vision for art in the spectacular desert landscape changes everything.

The artist I should have signed...
Felix Gonzalez-Torres. His artistic life, cut way too

short, embodied how the personal and the political can be expressed with elegance, poetry, and visual impact.

I last cooked for...
the art-fair team: a breakfast of scrambled tofu, multi-grain toast and fresh fruit.

Dealers are misunderstood because...
we are educators more than we are salespeople. We provide unique experiences with contemporary art through free exhibitions, performing the roles of curator and teacher.

Fairs are important...
because they convene people with a shared passion for art and artists, not just for commerce or trade, the way an auction

room does. The best ones reinforce that art is constantly in flux.

I enjoy the company of...
walking our Welsh terrier, Felix, early in the morning in Central Park. He provides unconditional love.

The most under-rated art movement is....
activist-oriented art from the late 1980s and early 1990s. While not a movement per se, the diverse range of works that emerged amidst the Aids crisis, third-wave feminism, and the unrest of the Reagan-era foreshadowed the pluralistic globalism of today's contemporary art scene. I am grateful my values were shaped during this dynamic period.

The next big thing...
re-emergence of artistic careers tied to scholarship, rather than emergence and discovery motivated by speculation.

My favourite person in the art world is...

Laura Donnelley, the gracious benefactor behind [New York-based] Art Matters. Laura's philanthropy is focused on process rather than product.

My Art Basel Miami Beach dream is to...
keep coming back.

Interview by Gareth Harris

