

It's never too late... to build a market

For all the attention given to young market darlings such as Lucien Smith and Oscar Murillo, galleries at last month's art fairs seemed to be just as interested in promoting overlooked or forgotten talents. "Older artists come with credentials, whether or not they've had a market," says one dealer. "I've seen lots of gallerists looking around, asking, 'Who can I rediscover?'"

Frank Bowling (born 1936)

The Guyanese painter was once highly visible to US art audiences. In the 1960s, he lived in New York and was close to the art critic Clement Greenberg. In 1971, he had a solo show at the Whitney



Museum of American Art—one of the first at the institution for a black artist, says the Hales Gallery co-ordinator Sasha Gomeniuk. But his profile began to fade when he left for London. "He is a diaspora artist who was working during the civil rights movement, which all affects how his work has been perceived [in the past]," she says. The gallery sold works at the Armory Show for between \$25,000 and \$140,000 (above, *Simonspoint*, 2011).

Magdalena Suarez Frimkess (born 1930)

Originally from Venezuela, Frimkess lives in the Los Angeles area, where she and her husband Michael have been active in the ceramics field. The artist currently has her first solo show in New York, at White Columns (until 19 April), and is due to feature in the Hammer Museum's biennial "Made in L.A." this summer.



"She has been making work for a long time, but it has always been shown at craft retail stores and places like that," says Matthew Higgs, the director of White Columns, which brought her work to Independent. The gallery sold nine works by Frimkess, ranging from \$600 to \$2,500, within the opening hours of the fair (above, *Untitled*, 2000).

Paula Modersohn-Becker (1876-1907)

At the ADAA fair, Galerie St. Etienne exhibited seven paintings by the German modernist Paula Modersohn-Becker. The pictures have belonged to a single family since the 1930s and represent the largest collection of her work in the US. Modersohn-Becker died at the age of 31, leaving only a small amount of work, but her stature has slowly grown since. The art historian Diane Radycki has called her "the missing piece in the history of 20th-century Modernism." The gallery sold five works within the first three days of the fair, including *Portrait of Blond-Haired Girl in White Dress*, 1905, and *Peasant Woman with Child and Dog*, around 1902 (right), each for \$400,000 to \$500,000. J.H. and P.P.

