

BASTIAN

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FEBRUARY 2019

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AFRICAN ARTISTS
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CAREER

INDIA'S
NEXT WAVE
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CREATIVITY ALL SET TO
BRING A PARADIGM SHIFT



CAI GUO-QIANG AND POMPEII:
DESTRUCTION AS A
SOURCE OF CREATION



A FOOTPRINT IN LONDON

WITH A NEW OUTPOST,
GALERIE BASTIAN IS
CONFIDENT THAT
DESPITE BREXIT THE
CITY WILL REMAIN A
POWERFUL INCUBATOR
OF ART AND ART
COLLECTORS

BY LOUISA ELDERTON



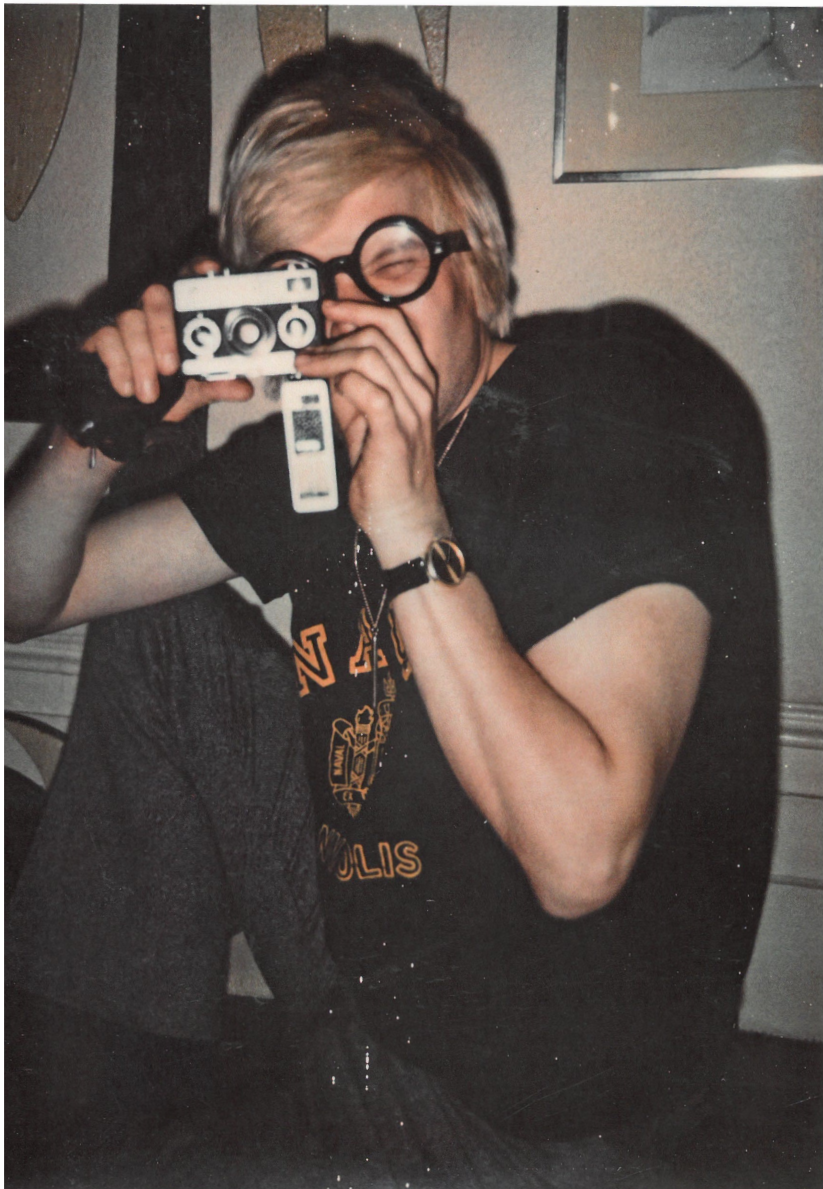
COURTESY BASTIAN

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Portrait of
Dr. Aeneas Bastian.

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Andy Warhol, "David Hockney," 1972. Polaroid, 10.7 x 8.5 cm.

A stalwart of the Berlin art scene, Galerie Bastian was founded nearly 30 years ago by its namesake, Heiner and Céline Bastian. With its anniversary on the horizon, the gallery is now directed by their son, Aeneas Bastian, who is poised to open their new London gallery — the first outpost — in February. Having already established an office on St. James's Street, their 970-square-foot 20th-century townhouse is on Mayfair's Davies Street and is being renovated by David Chipperfield Architects, who also worked on the Berlin gallery refurbishment. Just over a year ago, Bastian donated this building, which is next to the city's famous Museum Island, to the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.

Despite the looming prospects of Brexit, Aeneas Bastian said he saw no signs the London gallery scene was slowing, describing the city as "an outstanding metropolis and a major marketplace." He continued: "The curatorial quality of many museum exhibitions in London is exceptional, adding to its particular status as a capital of the art world. It also hosts a thriving artistic community. In this vein, it provides the perfect context for our artist roster, which spans internationally acclaimed modern artists and estates alongside leading contemporary figures."

Given the gallery's longevity, how has the art market changed over its lifetime? Aeneas Bastian described how "during the 1980s Berlin had a small art scene of local importance, with some artists emerging and gaining international recognition." He cited the "radical change" after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and said the intimate scene that his mother and father navigated, compared to today's sprawling art world, has expanded exponentially. "When my parents founded the gallery in Berlin, they worked with artists, curators and collectors from a handful of European countries like the UK, France, Switzerland and Italy," he said. "The only other country that played a part in their curatorial and commercial projects was the US. Communication was quite limited at the time, and the art world has since

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Andy Warhol,
"Jane Fonda," 1982,
Polacolor 2,
10.8 x 8.5 cm.

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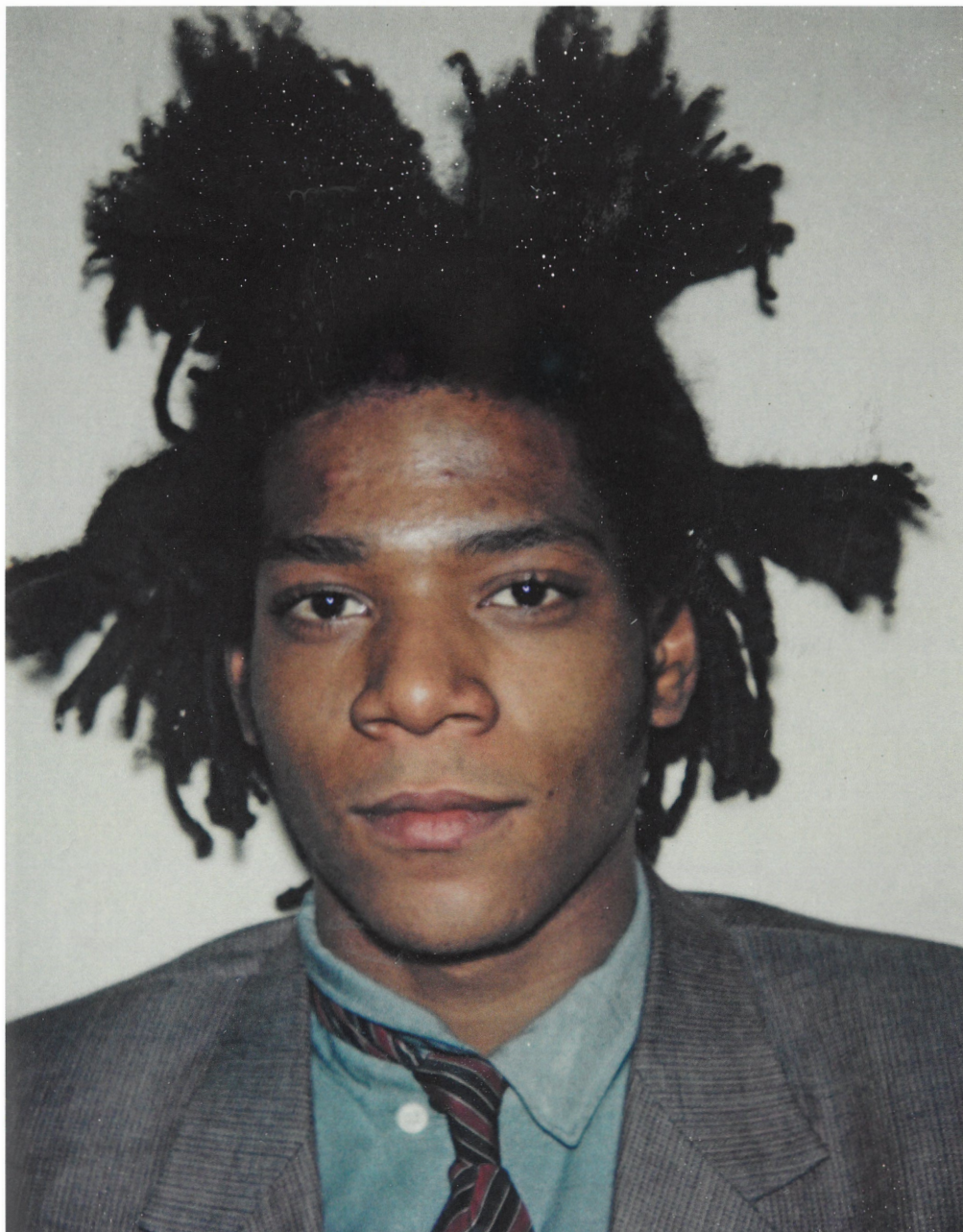
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Andy Warhol,
"Liza Minelli," 1977,
Polacolor Type 108,
10.8 x 8.5cm.

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Andy Warhol,
"Jean-Michel
Basquiat," 1982.
Polacolor ER,
10.8 x 8.5 cm.

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Andy Warhol,
"Paloma
Picasso," 1983,
Polaroid type SX-70,
10.8 x 8.8 cm.



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Andy Warhol,
"Yves Saint-
Laurent," 1972.
Polacolor
Type 108,
10.7 x 8.5 cm.



Andy Warhol,
"The American
Indian (Russell
Means)," 1976.
Polacolor
Type 108.

globalized." Indeed, Bastian noted: "Many more international key players have emerged; Asia has become a significant force and continues to grow rapidly."

The London gallery will open with an exhibition of Polaroid photography by Andy Warhol, which will run from February 2 to April 13; the show will bring together over 60 portraits and self-portraits by the Pop Art icon. Warhol's entourage at the Factory — his New York-based studio and hang-out — all feature in the show, from Jean-Michel Basquiat to Yves Saint Laurent and Grace Jones. An image of the latter sees the performer baring the traces of white body paint inspired by Keith Haring, a black scarf draped around her neck as she gazes at the camera through elaborate cat-eye makeup.

Complementing the gallery's existing program of Modern and Contemporary art, which features a roster of artists including leading German figures such as Joseph Beuys and Anselm Kiefer, Bastian also has a close relationship with the photographer and film director Wim Wenders, whose own Polaroids have recently been shown in institutional exhibitions at London's The Photographers' Gallery and C/O Berlin. With American post-war artists like Dan Flavin and 20th-century greats such as Pablo Picasso and Jean Debuffet also shown by the gallery, Aeneas Bastian is building on their legacy, moving it into a new chapter outside of its founding city.

Bastian will continue its participation in international art fairs from TEFAF Maastricht and New York to Germany's Art Düsseldorf and Art Berlin (which now collaborates with Art Cologne), as well as take part in fairs closer to its new home, namely Frieze Masters in London's Regent's Park. So in trying to balance the gallery's commercial needs and its commitment to artists, how might Aeneas advise young artists trying to find a place in today's market? "Reserve a sufficient amount of studio time to your practice." While this is becoming increasingly difficult for artists based in the UK's capital city, Aeneas believes that "ideally, artists should have enough time to work without distraction." MP