

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Inside Untitled Art Houston 2026 as the contemporary art fair expands into a 'cultural event'

Untitled Art fair introduces 11 interactive special projects, new lounges and more exhibitors for year two at George R. Brown.

Amber Elliott Oct 2, 2026

Two years into Untitled Art Houston, folks have already started calling the fair 'art week.' The moniker took hold in roughly one year.

In 2025, when the contemporary art fair blew into town from Miami's tented beaches, where it was founded in 2012, people had questions.

Why the George R. Brown Convention Center? What about parking? Can art fair be successful in Houston?

Untitled answered. And they were good answers.

The George R. Brown never looked better. Parking downtown isn't so bad, as it turns out. And several exhibitors sold out last year before the fair's doors opened to the public.

VIP opened Oct. 1 at 3PM. General admission runs Oct. 2-4. \$cat\$luca\$A2

"You start with a fair as an art event. It becomes a cultural event, then it becomes a destination event — which is what you want," said Michael Slenske, Untitled Art Houston director. "We're in that growth phase. We did the proven concept thing last year, and now we're very quickly approaching that cultural event moment."

Meliksetian MB Briggs

The fair has expanded, from 88 inaugural class exhibitors to 99 at current count. Some, such as the David Shelton Gallery in Montrose, waited and watched to see how year one would play out.

From a programming perspective, trendlines emerged.

There are 11 site specific special projects in various spaces throughout the fair. Each are interactive in some way.



Dave Muller's Record Pavilion 2.0, a fully functioning walk-in record store assembled from the artist's personal collection of records, paintings and ephemera, is displayed as one of 11 Special Projects at Untitled Art, Houston at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026.

Dave Muller's 'Record Pavilion' sculptural installation includes works from the artist's Top Ten record portraits series, plus an opportunity to commission your own; a David Hockney book-cover painting; records for sale at their sticker price; plus and in-person DJ.

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Muller spun an ephemeral set from his own turntables during Wednesday night's Untitled Art Exhibitor Party at La Colombe D'Or. Those records, he cautioned encroaching guests, were not for sale.

"The Iconic Portrait Strand by Nestor Topchy" grew a solid fan base at the Menil Collection in 2023. That show was part [religious experience](#), [part game](#), turning the faces of family members, friends and friends of friends into Byzantine miniatures and a Guess Who for onlookers.

The popular show has been reconfigured for Untitled.

"This is an extension of that in a way. It's a street-style version of that," Slenske said. "Anyone can become a Byzantine icon."

He and Untitled Executive Director Clara Andrade Pereira didn't set out have create more interactive experiences for 2026. It came together organically.

"Nestor offered to sketch me, and I just said, 'Why don't we do this at the fair?'" Slenske added. "There's been this openness from the artists and galleries to go there. A willingness. They're experimental, open, and dare I say fun?"

The podcast lounge, presented in partnership with SoHo House, will broadcast before a live audience from six tablescapes inspired by vanished, LGBTQ venues, such as [Mary's](#).

A few exhibitors are happy to be a little hidden. Mark Flood's "Daily Flood" is necessarily a secret, though it is meant to be discovered.