

# Collecting Art With Charles Riva



Charles Riva, Collector, Art Dealer and Director of Charles Riva Collection based in Brussels.

**In any crisis, people buy only essential goods but art has never been as such. Why do you think the demand for auction items never deflate?**

The demand for auction items DOES actually deflate. This is how we make money (laughs). The art market is oversaturated, over the last 10 years, it became flooded with meaningless and doubtful art venues with the risk of turning into a bubble.

...When the market is strong people buy the hype and fashionable stuff, like Kaws, Virgil Abloh, etc. Confinement and crisis just revealed the truth and purified the demand. For example, the demand for prominent contemporary art is still high and the prices are strong.

Historical pieces are what will always remain. Simply because it is the highest of the human needs that art carries: morality, creativity, fulfillment, and self-acceptance.

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— CHARLES RIVA

**Is it true that timeless art is created specifically in the time of struggle? Is there a link between a crisis and an artistic breakthrough?**

Each artist has his own crisis moments. But, of course, global cataclysms stimulate reflection, escapism, and the need for beauty.

**Auction is not only excitement but also an atmosphere of a live event. You have an auctioneer and artistic presentation of lots. How does the Internet broadcasts retain the auction atmosphere?**

The future is paperless. I believe, in the future Art Auctions and Galleries will no longer produce paper catalog. Digital presence and on-line auctions make sense, but as long as there is an off-line showroom. Quality of an art piece is a subtle matter, that can only be evaluated in a real-time presence. It is important for collectors to carefully check quality reports before purchase. The excitement that you are asking about comes secondary benefit of Auction as a live event.



The Charles Riva Collection

**Art is a social-economic subject. Which artist in your opinion matches something that we can call “spirit of a pandemic”?**

Maybe Edward Hopper. His deserted cityscapes and isolated figures captured the loneliness and alienation of modern life.

Also, Paul McCarthy can be one of them. Because he uses mixed media and works in performance, sculpture, and film. His methodology is very contemporary and it encapsulates the disintegrated and contaminated society. Also, McCarthy constructs complicated critiques of politics, consumerism, and art market itself.



Charles Riva