

# ART PROBE

ISSUE #25

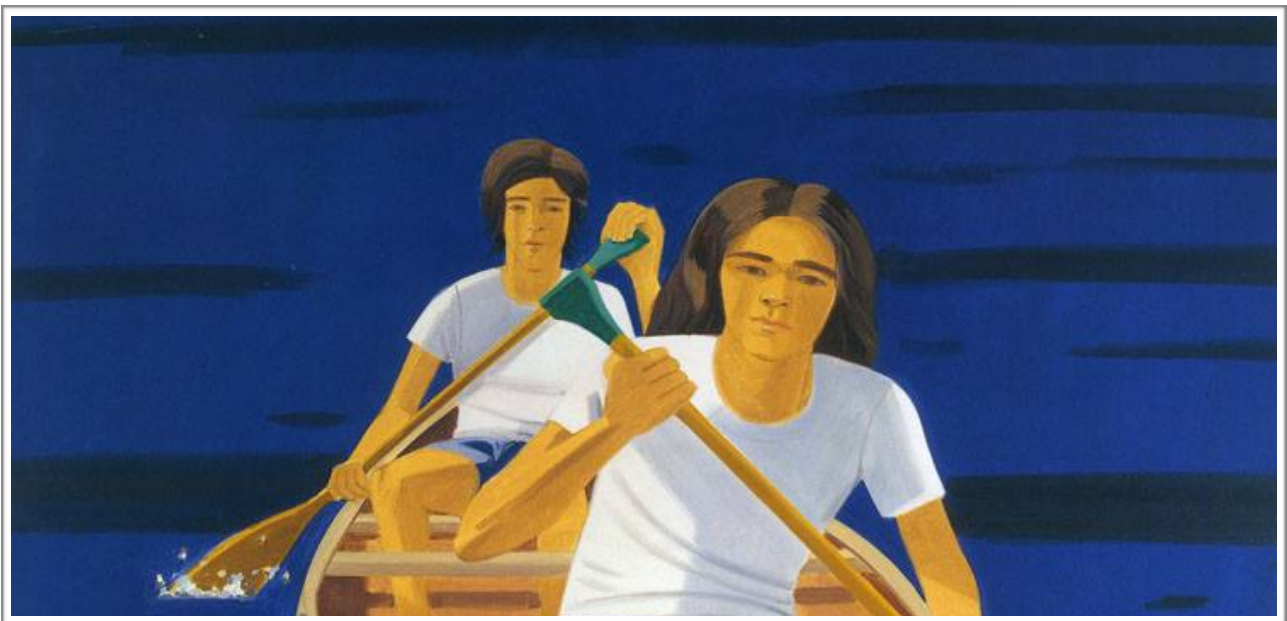
- Shristi Sainani

**Exhibition :** *The Art of One's Own Era*

**Artists :** John Baldessari, Jennifer Bartlett, Georg Baselitz, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Alighiero Boetti, Harry Callahan, Vija Celmins, John Currin, William Eggleston, Eric Fischl, Lucian Freud, Gilbert & George, Robert Gober, Andreas Gursky, Damien Hirst, Alex Katz, Martin Kippenberger, Dorothea Lange, Louise Lawler, Roy Lichtenstein, Brice Marden, Eadweard Muybridge, Susan Rothenberg, Ed Ruscha, Cindy Sherman, Kiki Smith, Wayne Thiebaud, Edward Weston, Christopher Wool

**Venue :** UBS Art Gallery Virtual Exhibition

**Dates :** April 21 – September 6, 2021



Alex Katz *Good Morning I*, 1974 (detail)

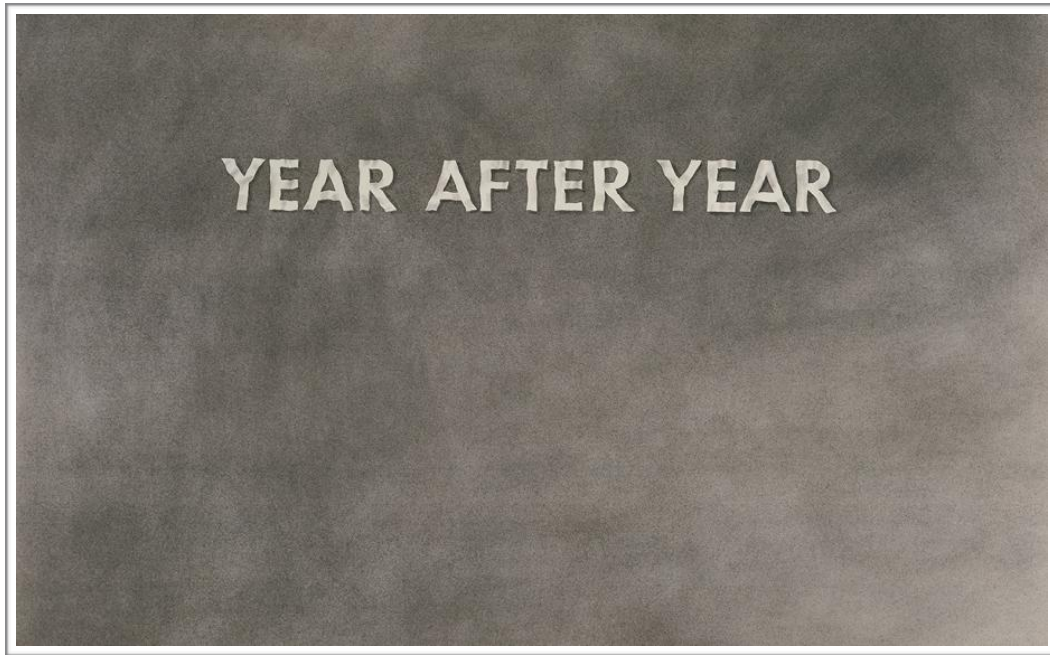
Source : UBS Art Gallery

Issue 25 of ArtProbe looks at the UBS corporate collection. As some galleries remain closed to the public, UBS, an investment bank and financial services company, orchestrates a virtual exhibition, called '*The Art of One's Own Era*'. UBS has been collecting contemporary art since the 1960s. "*The guiding mission for the Collection is to capture the most significant artists and ideas of our time, and we are proud to have a dedicated gallery space to share that work with the public*", explains Mary Rozell, Global Head of UBS Art Collection.

'*The Art of One's Own Era*' draws important pieces of work from the former PaineWebber collection, which has now become a part of the present-day UBS Art Collection, showcasing diverse works of 29 artists.

## 1) Year After Year, 1973

Artist : Ed Ruscha



Source : UBS Art Gallery

Renowned American visual artist *Ed Ruscha* (b.1937), associated with the Pop-Art movement, is regarded as one of the most important living artists of contemporary times. He works in a variety of media including painting, printmaking, photography, and film, using peculiar materials such as vaseline, blood and antacid medication. Ruscha's work is inspired by the idiosyncrasies of routine, which he often conveys by the means of language.

In this piece, '*Year After Year (1973)*', *Ruscha* uses gunpowder on paper. He positions the centrally aligned text slightly towards the top of the composition. This conceptual piece is one of his seminal works, exploring materiality as well as typography. What's most fascinating about the hounding quality it radiates. Anyone familiar with a sense of being trapped, either in a relationship, a career rut or in these times of the COVID pandemic, where city-wide lockdowns are not uncommon, is familiar with *Ruscha's* deadpan lyricism.

## 2) 99 Cent, 1999/2016

Artist : Andreas Gursky



Source : UBS Art Gallery

*Andreas Gursky (b.1955) is a German photographer, known for his large-scale digitally manipulated images. His style encompasses a dizzying repetition of elements, as seen in '99 Cent (1999)'. In regards to his work, he says, "In retrospect, I can see that my desire to create abstractions has become more and more radical, art should not be delivering a report on reality, but should be looking at what's behind something". He was a part of a group of photographers who went by the name, The Dusseldorf School of Photography.*

In this piece, '99 Cent (1999)' Gursky explores the wondrous interior visual of a grocery store — the numerous aisles, stacked with umpteen goods; resulting in an optical extravaganza. It is a hyperreal image, which means it is rooted in reality but still seems illusory. One can see the spectacle of consumerism through the linear, rigorous composition of the stock. Measuring a gargantuan 205.5 cm x 336. cm, this work is an ornate scape of contemporary city life.



### 3) Identical Twins, 1990

Artist : Kiki Smith



Source : UBS Art Gallery

West German-born American artist, *Kiki Smith* (b.1954) addresses the themes of sex, birth and regeneration, through her sculptures, installations, etchings and printmaking. *Smith* used the body as a metaphor for the passions and tribulations of existence. They are meditations on life and spirituality, featuring narratives about origins and endings.

Through this piece, *Smith* empathises with aspects of physiology, as she sculpts two identical pairs of hands, in aluminium. The hands seem feminine. They are tough, stiff, rough and dark; contradicting the ideal nature of a woman's hand as stated by American poet Amos Russel Wells :

Soft and tender, smooth and white,  
Formed for winning and delight,  
Nature has no lovelier sight,—  
A woman's hand.

The sculpture's minimal quality and its potential to address the social, cultural, and political roles of women, makes this work brilliant.

## REFERENCES

### **The Art of One's Own Era, 2021:**

Embed.artland.com. 2021. *The Art of One's Own Era*. [online] Available at: <<https://embed.artland.com/shows/the-art-of-ones-own-era?backURL=https://www.ubs.com/global/en/our-firm/art/art-collection.html>> [Accessed 23 May 2021]..

### **UBS Art Gallery Virtual Exhibition, 2021:**

Contemporary Art. 2021. *UBS Art Gallery Virtual Exhibition*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.ubs.com/global/en/our-firm/art/art-collection/online-exhibition.html>> [Accessed 23 May 2021].