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Art Industry News: Damien Hirst Loves That You Hated His Over-the-Top Venice Show + More Must-Read Stories

Plus, art historians sign a letter supporting the removal of racist monuments and the feds want to confiscate Martin Shkreli's Wu-Tang album.

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Damien Hirst in 2013. Photo: Mireya Acierio/Getty Images for Soho Beach House.

Art Industry News is a daily digest of the most consequential developments coming out of the art world and art market. Here's what you need to know this Monday, December 4.

NEED-TO-READ

The Feds Want Martin Shkreli's Wu-Tang Album – Authorities are looking to seize \$7.3 million in forfeitures from the disgraced pharmaceutical CEO. Luckily, he has a few pricey objets d'art, including a Picasso painting and the Wu-Tang Clan's one-of-a-kind album *Once Upon a Time in Shaolin*, for which he paid a hefty \$2 million in 2015. ([The Art Newspaper](#))

More Than 120 Scholars Protest Racist Monuments – In a letter to New York's advisory commission on art and monuments, a group featuring the prominent art historians Lucy Lippard, Claire Bishop, and Hal Foster and the artist Martha Rosler, among many others, has advocated for the removal of statues dedicated to Christopher Columbus, J. Marion Sims, and Teddy Roosevelt. ([Hypertext](#))

Damien Hirst Says He Sold More than \$300 Million in Venice – The reviews of his Venice exhibition "Treasures of the Wreck of the Unbelievable" may have been dismal, but the show has garnered an estimated \$330 million in sales, according to Hirst. (It cost \$65 million to produce.) As for those critical slams? "As an artist, the best you can hope for is people arguing, mixed reviews," Hirst says. "If everyone loves or everyone hates it, you're in trouble." ([Vulture](#))

documenta 14 Artists Write Second Letter in Support – After first putting their names to a letter defending the show's artistic director Adam Szymczyk, 74 artists who participated in documenta 14 have now written a second letter in retroactive support of the controversial—and expensive—choice to expand this year's presentation to Athens. ([Artforum](#))

COMINGS & GOINGS

V&A Helps Open a Design Society in Shenzhen – The Victoria and Albert Museum in London and China Merchants Shekou have joined forces to open the \$200 million Design Society in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. The venue, which has four galleries featuring V&A loans, is part of the Fumihiko Maki-designed Sea World Culture and Arts Center. ([TAN](#))

Vincent Honoré Will Serve as Curatorial Advisor for Independent Brussels – The curator has been busy since the David Roberts Art Foundation closed in October. He is now senior curator at London's Hayward Gallery, which will reopen after a two-year revamp in January, and has taken on the role of guest curator at the Independent Brussels art fair. ([Financial Times](#))

Journalist Who Sparked Tate Bricks Controversy Has Died – The investigative journalist Colin Simpson has died at age 86. Simpson's great art scoop, in 1976, was spotting that the Tate had paid £3,000 (\$4,000) for [Carl Andre's Equivalent VIII](#), provoking media and moral outrage. He also exposed the tricks of the Old Master trade in his 1987 book, "The Artful Partners: Secret Association of Bernard Berenson and Joseph Duveen." ([The Times](#))