

The 10 Best Booths at Art Basel in Basel

Galerie Christophe Gaillard

Booth H8

With works by *Ceija Stojka*



Galerie Christophe Gaillard's booth at Art Basel in Basel. Courtesy of Galerie Christophe Gaillard.

Ceija Stojka's harrowing story lies behind her captivating works. Born in Vienna in 1933, she and her Romani family were persecuted by the Nazis, imprisoned, and deported to concentration camps. Stojka survived the horrors and would go on to become a writer, activist, musician, and, later in life, an artist before her death in 2013. She is being shown by Galerie Christophe Gaillard in the fair's Feature section, which, in Art Basel's description, highlights two dozen "precisely curated projects including solo presentations by an individual artist, juxtapositions and thematic exhibits from artists representing a range of cultures, generations, and artistic approaches."

Her moving paintings are divided into two distinct categories, "light pictures" and "dark

pictures," dealing with the time before and after her family's deportation. Drawing heavily from expressionist and folk traditions, these images are deeply charged explorations of memory, the light works bursting with color, the dark ones alternatively desaturated and brooding or filled with chaotic conflagrations of reds and oranges. In *Untitled* (2001), her family relaxes around a fire next to a wagon, a spotted pony nearby alluding to their history as horse traders. But above this quiet outdoor scene of domestic tranquility, a dark, leafless tree spreads its branches, a portent of the terrors that lie ahead. Far more dour is *Botte*, ref 504 (2001), a tall, black jackboot on whose collar are stamped two ominous letters: SS.



Ceija Stojka, *Botte*, 2001
Acrylic painting on cardboard
50 x 35 cm
19 3/4 x 13 3/4 in

Artsy - 15 juin 2022
Artsy news / Art market

The 10 Best Booths at Art Basel in Basel par Brian P. Kelly

GALERIE CHRISTOPHE GAILLARD
www.galeriegaillard.com