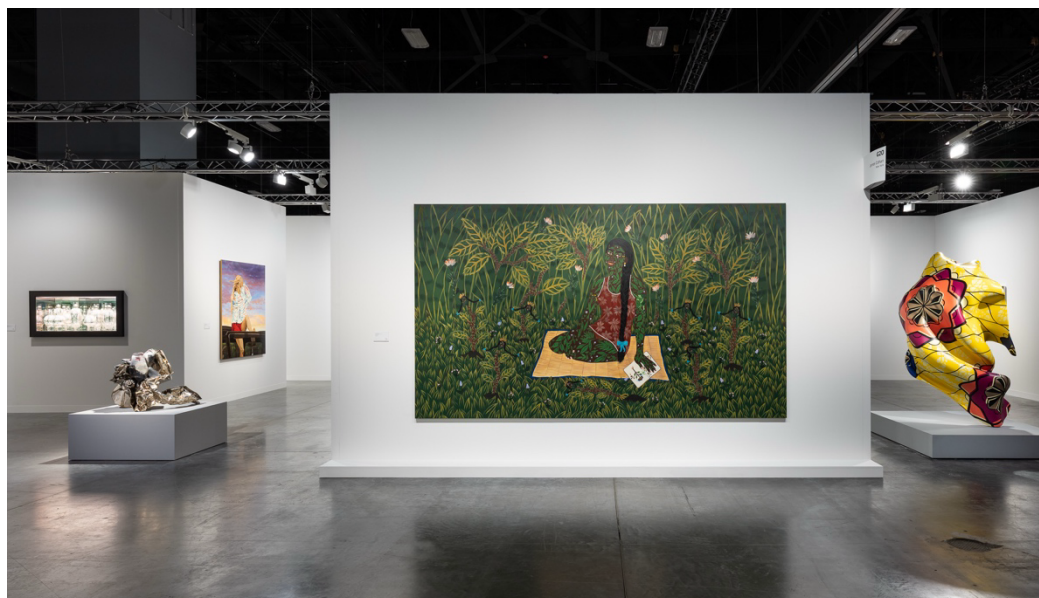




## Kelly Sinnapah Mary and James Cohan Gallery Awarded the 5th Edition of the CPGA–Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize at Art Basel Miami Beach 2025

*The \$15,000 prize, organized by the Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art (CPGA) and Villa Albertine, is given annually to a contemporary artist from the French art scene and their exhibiting gallery at Art Basel Miami Beach*



Kelly Sinnapah Mary's work in James Cohan's Art Basel 2025 presentation. Courtesy James Cohan, New York. Photo by Silvia Ros.

Kelly Sinnapah Mary, *The Book of Violette: Marie-Anne*, 2025. Acrylic on canvas. 78 3/4 x 136 1/4 in. 200 x 346 cm

**Miami Beach, December 4, 2025 — Kelly Sinnapah Mary and James Cohan Gallery** are winners of the **2025 CPGA–Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize**. Now in its fifth year, the award recognizes outstanding contemporary creation and acknowledges the important role of galleries in furthering the careers of artists from the French art scene globally.

Co-organized by Villa Albertine, the French Institute for Culture and Education, and the CPGA (Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art / French Professional Committee of Art Galleries), the CPGA–Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize sustains the work of contemporary artists through the issuance of a **\$15,000 award** to be shared between a living French or France-based artist and their representing gallery, acknowledging significant artistic contributions.

This year's winning artist, **Kelly Sinnapah Mary**, born in Guadeloupe, France, creates paintings, sculptures, and installations that draw upon the complex interrelationships between folklore, literature, inheritance, history, and the natural world. Sinnapah Mary's work is rooted both materially and narratively in the artist's immediate environment of the Caribbean archipelago of Guadeloupe, a French overseas department, and her own evolving understanding of her ancestral origins. This landscape, with its verdant forests and mangroves, consistently serves as both character and metaphor: as Sinnapah Mary transfigures her personal history into fantastical narratives, she underscores issues of colonialism and the Anthropocene.

The winning gallery, James Cohan, is a contemporary art gallery with two locations in New York's Tribeca, and a third space on the Lower East Side. Its diverse programming includes solo exhibitions and thematic group exhibitions every year, which often span in three galleries. In the fall of 1999, James Cohan opened on West 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The gallery moved to Chelsea in 2002.

"We are thrilled with the jury's selection of the Kelly Sinnapah Mary, whose work was previously featured in the 2018 Villa Albertine Miami program. Since its inception, Villa Albertine has been committed to supporting new and emerging voices; seeing Sinnapah Mary's work shine at Art Basel Miami is a striking affirmation of this commitment," stated **Mohamed Bouabdallah**, Cultural Counselor of France in the United States and Director of Villa Albertine.



© Soul Berenson 2025. Courtesy of the artist and James Cohan, New York.

“I am deeply honored to receive the CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize,” stated **Kelly Sinnapah Mary**. “This recognition means so much to me, not only as an artist but as someone whose work seeks to bridge histories, geographies, and identities that are often kept separate. My practice is rooted in the complexities of the Guadeloupean experience—the intersections of Indigenous, African, European, and southeast Asian cultures that shape our region and my own heritage. This prize represents an important acknowledgment of voices and narratives from the margins, and I am grateful to Villa Albertine and Albertine Foundation for their commitment to supporting artists who are expanding the conversation about what French and Francophone art can be,” the artist continued.

First introduced in 2019 and brought to Art Basel Miami Beach in 2022, the **CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize** underscores Villa Albertine and CPGA’s commitment to excellence in contemporary art and amplifying the French art scene worldwide. Any gallery presenting at least one work from a living French or France-based artist is eligible to apply for the CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize.



Courtesy of Villa Albertine

For its fifth year, CPGA–Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize was conferred by a jury of respected French and American art patrons and leaders. In total, 21 artists were in competition for this year’s prize.

This year’s jury was comprised of:

- **Lena Baume**, Philanthropist and art collector
- **Celia Birbragher**, Colombian editor, researcher, collector, artist, critic, leader, and entrepreneur
- **Rodolphe Blavy**, Special Advisor, IMF and Collector
- **Cathleen Chaffee**, Charles Balbach Chief Curator, Buffalo AKG Art Museum
- **Catherine Petitgas**, Art historian, philanthropist, and collector

The jury collectively stated, “We are pleased to award the prize to Kelly Sinnapah Mary at James Cohan Gallery. The jury would like to recognize in Sinnapah Mary’s work deep cross cultural references and dialogue with art history grounded in a strong metaphorical character. Additionally, the jury recognizes the excellence of **Sylvie Selig** at **mor charpentier**.”

Following Kapwani Kiwanga who first won the prize with Galerie Jérôme Poggi in 2019; Julien Creuzet with his two galleries, High Art and Andrew Kreps Gallery, in 2022; Daniel Otero Torres with mor charpentier in 2023; and Johanna Mirabel with Galerie Nathalie Obadia in 2024, **Kelly Sinnapah Mary** and **James Cohan Gallery** have been awarded the CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize in 2025.

For the CPGA, which has a long history of representing art galleries in France, this prize is part of a series of three related international awards, held annually and that recognize French and France-based artists and their galleries at major international fairs: the FLUXUS-CPGA Prize at Frieze London, the Emerige-CPGA Prize at ARCO Madrid, and the CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize at Art Basel Miami Beach.

Named after Villa Albertine's flagship visual arts program, the **CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize** also honors a legacy of fostering transatlantic cultural exchange. Since 1994, the Étant Donnés program has supported over 700 artists, 50 curators, and 350+ projects in 200 institutions across 87 cities in the U.S. and France.

Étant Donnés is organized by Villa Albertine and Albertine Foundation with the exclusive sponsorship of the AXA Foundation for Human Progress, in partnership with Institut Français, the French Ministry of Culture and Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, and ADAGP.

### **2025 Artists and Galleries Participating in Competition for the CPGA-Villa Albertine Étant Donnés Prize**

Nino Kapanadze / **Almeida & Dale**  
Pablo Reinoso / **Barro**  
Philippe Decrauzat / **Cayón**  
Julien Creuzet / **Document**  
Valérie Belin / **Edwynn Houk Gallery**  
Marielle Plaisir / **Fredric Snitzer Gallery**  
Julio Villani / **Galeria Raquel Arnaud**  
Roméo Mivekannin / **Galerie Cécile Fakhoury**  
Louise Sartor / **Galerie Crèvecoeur**  
Christine Safa / **Galerie Lelong**  
Eva Jospin / **Galleria Continua**  
Kelly Sinnapah Mary / **James Cohan**  
David Douard / **Konrad Fischer Galerie**

Dora Jeridi / **Marianne Boesky Gallery**  
Sylvie Selig / **mor charpentier**  
Guillaume Bresson / **Nathalie Obadia**  
Alexis Ralaivao / **Olney Gleason**  
Iván Argote / **Perrotin**  
Julia Kater / **Simões de Assis**  
Jiab Prachakul / **Timothy Taylor**  
Angela Detanico & Rafael Lain / **Vermelho**

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## About Villa Albertine, the French Institute for Culture and Education

Villa Albertine is an institution of the French Embassy in the United States, supported by the French government and Albertine Foundation. Villa Albertine's mission is to strengthen ties between the United States, France and the French-speaking world through culture and education.

In the arts and culture sphere, we encourage collaboration among French and US-based organizations and provide creators, thought leaders, and professionals with customized residencies, immersive networking experiences, grants, and connections to audiences so they can explore and share new insights into society's pressing issues.

In the field of education, we craft projects and programs aimed at making French language and culture accessible to young US-based audiences, expand opportunities for students to study and complete internships in France, and support partnerships between French and American higher education and research institutions.

Villa Albertine is present in 10 major US cities: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Washington, DC. It is headquartered in New York's historic Payne Whitney mansion, home to Albertine, our bookshop and nexus for French-American intellectual exchange.

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[villa-albertine.org](http://villa-albertine.org)



## About the French Professional Committee of Art Galleries

Since 1947, the **Comité Professionnel des Galeries d'Art** (CPGA) has represented art galleries in France and defended their interests in dealings with institutional representatives and administrative authorities. It participates in the development of art market regulations and contributes to cultural policies favoring the growth of the art sector. For several years now, the CPGA has been involved in major cultural events, helping to raise the profile of art galleries as genuine partners in artistic creation. It also works to develop the French art scene internationally.

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<https://www.comitedesgaleriesdart.com/>





## About the AXA Foundation for Human Progress

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ABOUT THE AXA FOUNDATION FOR HUMAN PROGRESS The AXA Foundation for Human Progress brings together the main philanthropic actions of AXA Group and AXA Mutuelles d'Assurances, in France and in 50 countries worldwide. With an endowment of 60 million euros per year, this fund aims to amplify support for impactful projects in AXA's four historical areas of sponsorship: health and sciences; planet protection; solidarity, inclusion, and education; and arts, culture, and heritage. The AXA Foundation for Human Progress is fully aligned with our mission: "Acting for human progress by protecting what matters." Through this Fund, AXA implements its broader vision of protection, which extends to the resilience of societies and the reduction of inequalities, today and for future generations.

Visit the website <https://www.axa.com/axa-foundation>