

# In Focus: Art Basel Paris

Five presentations not to miss in Art Basel Paris's new Premise sector



Wally Hedrick, Vietnam Series XXVI: You Have, Nothing 2 Lose but Your Life!, 1970, Courtesy of the Estate of Wally Hedrick and Parker Gallery.

A new addition to Art Basel Paris for 2024, the Premise sector showcases nine highly singular, curated presentations that defy boundaries and challenge norms. This year's selection brings together a dynamic mix of artists who explore the complexities of identity, power, and resistance. From reexamining the role of fashion in oppression to dismantling societal conventions through underground comics, these five standout presentations exemplify how art can nudge its elbows into the sides of society, clearing a path for fresh ideas to emerge.

## **Wally Hedrick (1928–2003, USA)** **Presented by Parker Gallery (Los Angeles)**

Wally Hedrick's 'Black Paintings' don't just hang on a wall – they protest. Rooted in his growing disillusionment with US military interventions, these stark canvases became Hedrick's silent rebellion. A veteran himself, Hedrick started covering his older works in thick layers of black oil paint in 1957, erasing his creations to symbolize his withdrawal from the toxic structures of society. The act of negation became a powerful form of protest – mourning the endless cycles of violence while resisting complicity. Over decades, Hedrick continued 'blacking out' his paintings, sometimes layering black upon black, reflecting an ever-growing despair over war. His works in Parker Gallery's booth stand as a testament to the enduring power of protest, expressed not with words, but with silence and shadow.

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**PARKER GALLERY**