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A brisk business in 20th century art

IN THE six days from June 16-21, 49,002 visitors, including all major private collectors and museum directors, visited the 13th International Fair of 20th Century Art in Basle.

A striking feature of these attendance figures was the large proportion of young visitors interested in contemporary art.

Buying was particularly brisk, even on the traditionally quieter last day of the fair. It was as if high interest rates and the general uncertainty caused by the international situation were suddenly dispelled.

Gallery owners who had come to the fair with "zero expectations" confirmed on the final day that "a great deal of money" had been spent.

Sales of between 200,000 and one million Swiss francs for masterpieces of the "classical moderns" were by no means the exception.

It is also some time since new editions of graphics by young European artists were able to achieve such good sales.

Of special interest, particularly to young visitors, were the film and video works shown by the Basle-based Stampa gallery. The 100 seats of the fair's cinema and video room were consistently occupied by an attentive audience and not used as a comfortable resting-place for the over-

tired visitor!

Further proof of the increased, genuine interest shown is provided by the fact that the catalogue (10,500 copies were printed at a selling price of Sfr. 25 each) had already sold out by the second-to-last day of the fair.

The fair showed yet again that

it has the ability to present modern art in all its facets, not only to a small elite of collectors but also to the public at large.

The next International Art Fair, the ART 14'83, will be held in the same location, the "Rundhof" Hall of the Swiss Industries Fair on June 15-20, 1983.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Heinz Holliger, oboe, is the soloist in the following concerts:

With the London Sinfonietta: Saturday, August 21, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall (works by Ravel, Milhaud, Britten, Knussen and Debussy); Wednesday, August 25, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall (works by Haydn, Mozart and Grainger).

With the Amadeus Quartet: Monday, August 23, 7.45pm,

Queen Elizabeth Hall (works by Haydn, Mozart and Schubert).

With Andras Schiff, piano: Thursday, August 26, 7.45pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall.

The **Geneva Opera Ballet** perform Oscar Araiz's "Tango" in the Edinburgh International Festival September 1 to 5, 7.30pm, Music Hall, Edinburgh.

"Les Montreurs d'Images"

perform in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in "The Tryptych", a show of masks, music, dance and giant marionettes for adults and children, August 24 to September 5, 2pm, The Marquee, The Meadows (not Monday).

Exhibition "Paris sans fin": lithographs by **A. Giacometti**, August 28 to September 18 at Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery.

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