

Joanne Burke,
Press

White Hot Magazine, 2026



Don't Miss These Seven Pieces at the 15th Edition of Frieze New York, Open Now at The Shed



Joanne Burke, *Starrchamber*, brought to Frieze by Soft Opening, London. Photo by Jamie Lubetkin

Joanne Burke

Soft Opening (<https://www.softopening.london>), London

Joanne Burke's small bronze sculptures look like artifacts from a civilization that never existed. In works such as *Divers Arms* and *Starrchamber*, fan-like fringes, folded metal planes and shell-like forms suggest boats, fish, organs and ceremonial objects all at once. Burke begins by pouring molten wax into cold water, a divination technique known as hydromancy, then translates the resulting forms into bronze and aluminum. The process leaves room for chance, but the finished objects feel uncannily precise. Brought to Frieze by Soft Opening, the body of work sits somewhere between surrealism, craft and alchemy.

The Art Newspaper, 2026

New fund helps museums make purchases at Frieze



ALL IMAGES: STEVEN MOURA CONTRERAS

***Festival 7 (2025)* by London-based Joanne Burke has been acquired by the Baltimore Museum of Art; it is the artist's first museum acquisition**

collections of the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum. The Brooklyn Museum acquired two works by the late US conceptual artist Bettina (Bettina Grossman)—*Traffic Patterns* (1970-80s), from the series *Phenomenological New York*, and an untitled work (1970s), also from *Phenomenological New York*—from the Manhattan-based gallery Ulrik.

The Baltimore Museum of Art acquired three works through the fund: *Both Banks I* (2026) by the Japanese artist Reika Takebayashi from London-based Public Gallery; *PILLAN SIKILL I* (2024) by the Chilean artist Seba

A major new fund launched at Frieze New York has enabled US museums to acquire works for their collections at the fair. The Sherman Family Foundation Acquisition Fund will provide \$50,000 annually to help support artists and galleries exhibiting in the Focus section of the fair, which is dedicated to solo stands from galleries established fewer than 12 years ago. The Baltimore-based Sherman Family Foundation was founded by the philanthropic collecting couple George and Betsy Sherman.

In the fund's first year, acquisitions will enter the

Calfuqueo from W-Galería in Buenos Aires; and *Festival 7 (2025)* by Joanne Burke from London's Soft Opening. Each artist will receive an unrestricted \$5,000 award as part of the fund.

Antonia Marsh, the director of Soft Opening, says that this is "Joanne's first museum acquisition; for an emerging artist, it's a major moment". Nicole Estilo Kaiser, the director of Public Gallery, says that "we're excited by the many opportunities and wonderful placements that have emerged from this presentation".

Gareth Harris

Frieze, 2026

Five Emerging Artists to Watch at Frieze New York 2026

Featured in the *Focus* section, supported by Stone Island, these bold new voices offer experimental takes on family, memory, glaciers and hair

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Joanne Burke, *Eave Compass Poynted*, 2025. Cast bronze and aluminium
31 × 6 × 8 cm. Courtesy: the artist and Soft Opening, London. Photo: Eva Herzog

Joanne Burke | [Soft Opening](#), London (Stand F02)

Joanne Burke begins her alchemical sculptural process by dispersing molten wax in water. Shaped into unpredictable forms by its liquid element, the wax becomes the basis for Burke's bronze and aluminium casts. At once abstract and insidiously familiar, Burke's sculptures will sit uneasily within glass vitrines on Soft Opening's stand at Frieze New York.

The Art Newspaper, 2025

From sexed-up suburbia to sculptural alchemy: our pick of Condo London 2025

The gallery-sharing event, spread across different parts of the UK capital, features participants from Guatemala, Lebanon, Los Angeles and more



Joanne Burke, *Festival 2* (2023), 925 silver

Courtesy of the artist and ADZ Gallery, Lisbon. Photography Vasco Stocker de Vilhena

Joanne Burke at Soft Opening

Soft Opening took part in Condo for the first time in 2024 and this year it is hosting the New York gallery Derosia. Soft Opening's Condo exhibition, titled *Oes with Works Like Esses*, features a new group of metal sculptures in bronze and silver by the London-based artist Joanne Burke, presented within a glass vitrine. Burke's alchemical process starts with hydromancy, a 17th-century divination technique whereby molten wax is dropped in cold water and allowed to form unpredictable shapes. Those shapes are then cast in bronze or silver to form the basis of Burke's intricate sculptures. Derosia, meanwhile, will exhibit dyed fabric works, largely canvas, by the US-based artist Kern Samuel. A mutual interest in craft and process can be seen between Burke and Samuel's work, says Antonia Marsh, Soft Opening's founder. For example, "the connections to craft techniques from the past in their work—Samuel works with hand dyeing and quilting while Joanne works with techniques gleaned from basketry, costuming and weaving."

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