

Newsletter #05, 2009 – Happy Birthday, everyone!

Somewhat belatedly we are officially celebrating the first birthday of Independent Collectors.

First things first: We would like to thank you, the members of Independent Collectors, for joining us at such an early stage, for your activity, for your support, for the real-life meetings at fairs, for your input, for your encouragement and for your overall enthusiasm. Without you people, it would still be Christian and Tommi sharing the platform among themselves.

The birthday speech consists of:

- Looking back, briefly
- Future Features
- The Collectors' Duel

Looking back, briefly

In the past year, Independent Collectors has managed to attract 1.645 members from 68 countries. We have relaunched the site twice. We have added a number of functions, including the discussion forum. We have met at a number of fairs around the world and just recently we were able to welcome our first Global Partner, BMW. We've come a long way. And this "we" means all members of Independent Collectors.

www.independent-collectors.com

Future Features

The next 12 months are going to be awesome. We will publish the first "Art Exhibition", a short film produced in Berlin with BMW. There will be additions to your Independent Collectors start page, displaying some of the things that are happening in your personal network.

Also, there will be an additional form of membership, offering some exclusive benefits. This new membership will be subject to an annual fee. One of its exclusive features is the possibility to anonymously offer works from your collection you might be willing to part with, and, naturally, to express interest in such items. Obviously, there is more to tell about this subject, but we'll come to that later this year.

The logo for Independent Collectors features a small black square to the left of the text. The word "independent" is in a lowercase, sans-serif font, and "Collectors" is in a larger, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below the text is a large, dark, abstract graphic element that resembles a stylized map or a collection of shapes.

The Collectors' Duel

As you might have read in the blog, the time of the Upcoming Collector is over. Tommi Brem, who started collecting contemporary art when Independent Collectors went online, documented his first 12 months in the art world. Now he is somewhere beyond "Upcoming". He will not disappear though. He and Christian Schwarm have agreed on a challenge. In the tradition of bets between Gentlemen (like the journey around the earth in eighty days) they have started their very own duel. Inspired by the story of the "one red paperclip", they are ready to begin one year of competitive art trading ...

The Collectors' Duel

Again, we thank all of you for a very successful and inspiring first year!
Your Team at Independent Collectors

The logo for Independent Collectors features a solid black square to the left of the text. The text "independent" is in a lowercase, bold, sans-serif font, and "Collectors" is in a larger, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. Below the text is a thick, solid black horizontal bar.

**independent
Collectors**