

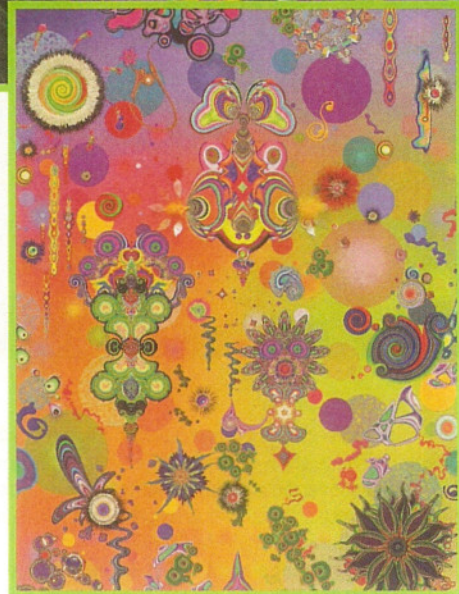


Art Basel Miami Beach

BY RON SHIPMON

# The Winter Rendez-Vous of the International Art World

Each year Art Basel Miami Beach reinforces Miami as a center for culture and innovation, in the process garnering greater praise, applause, and, respect. Here A-list purveyors of fine art, the well-heeled and the not-so-well-heeled, schmooze, canoodle, and above all, view, buy and sell contemporary art.



Left: Warhol's *Marilyns* from Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles, Above. L. to R. Christian Hoischen, *Lost Highway*, Tumm; Cindy Sherman, *Untitled* photograph, Metro Pictures; Art Supernova, Jose Alvarez, *The Myth*, Gavlak

This month Miami ushers in the ultimate of all art fairs with the seventh edition of Art Basel Miami Beach. Held Dec. 4-7 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, Art Basel Miami Beach is the sister event of Switzerland's Art Basel, the most prestigious art show in the world for the past 39 years. There are art fairs, and then there is "Basel," as it is often called by those in the know. The Miami Beach show is now the most important art show in the United States, and a cultural and social winter highlight of the international art world.

More than 40,000 art lovers are expected to visit during the show's five-day run, where selected galleries for 30 countries will be showcasing paintings, drawings, sculptures, installations, photography, and videos. Located in the city's beautiful Art Deco District, within walking distance of the beach and most of South Beach's hotels, Art Basel Miami Beach combines an international selection of top galleries with an exciting program of special exhibitions, parties, and crossover events featuring music, film, architecture and design. Top-quality exhibitions in the museums and galleries of South Florida and special programs for art collectors and curators make this art show a special place for encountering art. It's the favorite winter meeting place for art aficionados from all over the world.

#### 240 GALLERIES, 2000 ARTISTS

Art Basel Miami Beach offers an exclusive selection of more than 240 leading art galleries from North America, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa, exhibiting 20th and 21st century artworks by over 2,000 artists. It consistently attracts record numbers of visitors, including more than 80 museum and collector groups from across the U.S. and around the world. The exhibiting galleries comprise the world's most respected art dealers, offering exceptional pieces by both renowned artists and cutting-edge newcomers. As in the

past, works in all price categories are offered, ranging from pieces by young artists costing less than \$5,000 to museum-quality works valued in the millions.

#### SPECIAL SECTIONS

There are several adjacent exhibits to the main art exhibit in the convention center. In the **Art Nova** sector, recent pieces by more than 150 artists are on display, providing visitors with a platform for discovering pieces that have been created during the last two years, that are often fresh from artists' studios around the globe. **Art Supernova** features 20 galleries presenting new works by their artists in an experimental group show format, with interconnected exhibitions. This year's **Art Kabinett** program has an exciting mix of tightly focused small exhibitions presented by 18 galleries chosen by The Art Basel Selection Committee.

Other special exhibitions and events include **Art Basel Conversations** and the **Art Salon**. Art Basel Conversations offers the show's public access to first-hand information on aspects of art collecting by facilitating direct encounters between leading personalities of the international art world. It is a forum that encourages the exchange of ideas through a series of platform discussions. Art Salon is a new and open platform for discussion, with an emphasis on current themes in contemporary art, informal in format yet international in scope. Art Salon encourages experimental roundtable discussions with an array of speakers ranging from artists and curators to authors and architects on a variety of art-related topics.



L.: Art Kabinett, Beatrice Wood, *Un Peut d'Eau dans du Savon*;  
Above: From Friedman Gallery in London

### SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Special exhibition sections feature performance art, public art projects and video art. These shows are a vital source for art lovers, allowing them to both discover new developments in contemporary art and experience rare museum caliber artworks, and all are near the convention center where the main fair is held.

The **Art Video Lounge** and the **Art Sound Lounge** are located at the Botanical Garden Building, across from Entrance D of the convention center. The Art Video Lounge is a program of video art curated by Rike Frank, an independent curator from Berlin.

The Art Sound Lounge presents a glimpse at the turntable as musical instrument and its role in sparking creative innovation in music from the streets of the Bronx to the ateliers of the avant garde. Visitors can also select from an audio menu as they stroll or lounge in the Miami Beach botanic Garden.

The beachfront exhibition, **Art Positions**, located at Collins Park between 21st and 22nd Sts., provides a platform for 20 young galleries presenting cutting edge projects in shipping containers converted to exhibition spaces, as well as an additional 20 exhibitions in an experimental collaborative space. In cooperation with Art Radio WPS1.org, Art Basel Miami Beach presents the futuristic structure ULTRA by Federico Diaz and the Czech design collective E-Area at the entrance of the Art Positions site. The public space has been redefined with a topology shaped for sitting, relaxation and interaction. The lounge, cafe, and Art Radio WPS1.org broadcast booth has been transformed by undulating waves and extrusions and will host the Art Sound Lounge curated by David Weinstein.

**Art Projects** are artworks in public places, such as Lummus Park along Ocean Drive, and Island Gardens on Watson Island.

### GUIDED TOURS

Get carried away with The ArtNexus guided visits which are conducted daily by internationally recognized art critics. The ArtNexus guided visits are carried out daily by art critics.

Tours are available both in English and Spanish.

Duration: 1 hour.

Cost per person: \$17.


Art Nexus at 305.891.7270 opt. # 4

tours@artnexus.com

### SATELLITE EVENTS

Art Basel is also known for the satellite events which create a whirlwind of happenings at numerous locations around town, including lectures, film screenings, roundtable art discussions, as well as a number of related events that deal with architecture, music, fashion, photography, etc. Top-quality exhibitions in the museums of South Florida and special programs for art collectors and curators also help make the event a special time for encountering art.

### PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Once again, Miami will allow you to get up close and personal with the finest art that Magic City has to offer. Leading private collections, among them the Margulies Collection, the Rubell Family Collection, and CIFO—the private collection of Ella Cisneros, are open to the public. Top private collections such as the de la Cruz Collection, the Mora Collection, the Shack Collection and the Robins Collection will be open to guests by invitation only. 

### ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH 2008 ADMISSION

One-Day Ticket \$35, Two-Day Ticket \$55, Permanent Pass \$75 Evening Ticket (after 5 p.m.) \$15. To order tickets call ticketmaster, 305.358.5885

### SCHEDULE

Thurs, Dec. 4 to Sat., Dec 6, 2008:

Daily from noon to 8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 7: noon to 6 p.m.