

# Stephen Friedman Gallery

Architectural Digest

13 Moments People Are Talking About From Miami Art and Design Week

Katherine McGrath

11 December 2019

# AD

**Didn't make it to Miami for the fairs? Here's what you need to know**

Another Art Basel Miami Beach has come and gone, and with it thousands of art and design insiders descending on Miami Beach. Between the main fair and a slew of satellites like Design Miami/, UNTITLED, NADA, and Art Miami, the week is notoriously jam-packed with countless VIP previews; exhibition openings; talks and panels; museum parties; celebratory brunches, lunches, and dinners; and, if you're lucky, a few minutes to take a dip in the ocean between appointments. For those who couldn't make it down to Miami and followed along on Instagram, there was certainly a plethora of things going on, but only a few really worth knowing about—here's 13 moments people are still talking about.

## Mickalene Thomas: Better Nights, The Bass



Image: Installation view of Better Nights. Photo by Zachary Balber. Image courtesy of The Bass.

A follow-up to her 2013 show, Better Days, the second iteration of Thomas's immersive installation calls to mind a speakeasy or a contemporary domestic interior from the '70s or '80s, complete with faux wood panels and furniture and wallpaper adorned in textiles and patterns of the artist's own design. Thomas draws inspiration from the parties her mother threw for family and friends to fundraise for both her theater company as well as her sickle cell

anemia treatment.

## Rodman Primack makes his debut as a gallerist with AGO Projects at Design Miami/



Image: AGO's booth at Design Miami/. Image courtesy of AGO Projects.

AD100 designer Rodman Primack has taken his talents into the gallery space with his AGO Projects, a new Mexico City- and New York-based venture he cofounded with Rudy F. Weissenberg. An incubator for exceptional design, the gallery presented its first fair booth at this year's Design Miami/ (where Primack is resident global ambassador), showcasing chairs made of volcanic rock by Pedro Reyes, Emmett Moore's colorful shelving, and more. Also of note at Design Miami/

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were Functional Art Gallery's neon and float glass chair, Miami Design District's display of Fernando Laposse's Pink Beasts, and the Fendi collaboration, the latter two of which Primack also curated.

### Dom Perignon's "Last Supper" dinner party

Image: Paris Hilton, Jordan Barrett and Caroline Vreeland, and a guest. Photo by Sean Zanni. Image courtesy of Getty.

The Champagne house made its return to Art Basel, this time with a more intimate affair: a lavish "Last Supper" dinner party thrown by Lenny Kravitz and Alan Faena at the hotelier's crystalized house in Miami Beach. The party brought together an exciting mix of guests including David Adjaye, Rosario Dawson, Sean Penn, Paris Hilton, and art dealer Marc Glimcher, while Diplo set the mood.



### Leandro Erlich's beach installation, Order of Importance



Image: A traffic jam on the beach.  
Image courtesy of Leandro Erlich.

In a city where crossing causeways can have drivers tied up in traffic for hours, the City of Miami Beach's presentation of Leandro Erlich's Order of Importance was entirely appropriate. As a clever take on the pains of sitting in traffic and a call to action to curtail the effects of climate change, 66 life-size cars are crafted from sand on the beach at Lincoln Road. "As an artist, I am in a constant struggle to make people aware of this reality, in particular, the idea that we cannot

shrink away from our responsibilities to protect the planet," says Erlich. A few other public installations also drew such attention, including Jana Winderen's site-specific sound installation at the Rotunda in Collins Park, presented by luxury Swiss watch manufacturer Audemars Piguet. Winderen's piece is a sonic installation that places microphones and ultrasound detectors underwater to capture what traces of marine life sounds like, and highlights the negative effects of manmade noise pollution on their environment.

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### Jeanneret Chandigarh table and chairs in Tina Kim Gallery's booth at Basel



Image: Jeanneret table and chairs courtesy of Kim's husband, Jea Chung of Vintage20.  
Image courtesy of Tina Kim Gallery.

While Tina Kim Gallery's inaugural presentation at Art Basel Miami Beach was indeed memorable (highlights of the booth included an early *Compositions* by Kim Tschang-Yeul), it was the Jeanneret Chandigarh table and chairs that caught the particular attention of a few design aficionados. The set served a more functional purpose than an aesthetic one, used as a desk to make deals and sign paperwork rather than as official work on display, but their presence captured our hearts no less. Elsewhere in the fair, James Fuentes's presentation of Didier Williams, Marian Ibrahim's debut booth, and Kathleen Ryan's bejeweled bounty of fruit at Josh Lilley were buzzed about.

### Thom Browne's panel with Mera Rubell at the new Rubell Museum



Image: Thom Browne and Mera Rubell in conversation.  
Photo by Darian DiCianno.  
Image courtesy of BFA.com.

The fashion designer has proclaimed himself an artist, with the debut of his first-ever public artwork: a colorful 21-foot tall palm tree appropriately titled *Palm Tree 1*. On view in Miami's Moore Building, the work is said to represent the American dream, and the "tension between work and rest." Browne sat for a panel with *Surfacemagazine* and renowned collector Mera Rubell at her new Annabelle Selldorf-designed home for her the Rubell family's impressive collection of contemporary art, which has just relocated from their former home in Wynwood to up-and-coming arts destination Allapattah (where billionaire collector Jorge M. Perez will soon be opening new museum El Espacio 23, as well).

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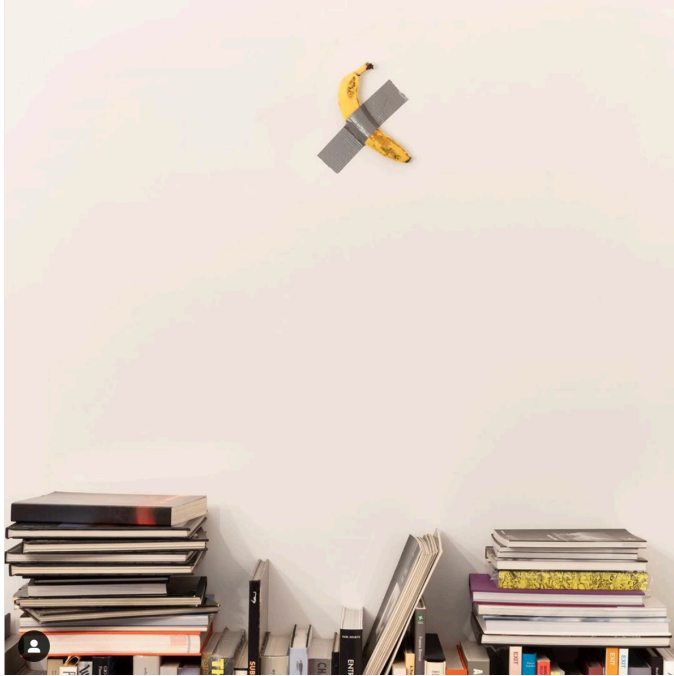
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### The \$120,000 banana—love it or hate it



On the cover of the New York Post, in your Instagram feed, or even on the local news, Maurizio Cattelan's devilish conceptual work *Comedian* is everywhere. For those late to the party, Cattelan's presentation at Galerie Perrotin involved nothing more than a banana duct-taped to the wall, whose concept (banana and tape excluded) sold for \$120,000 at the VIP preview. Of course, what the collectors really purchased were expensive certificates and the right to reproduce the work should they so choose, but the simplicity of Cattelan's artistic gesture sparked a wildfire debate about what really constitutes art—as did the opportunist who plucked, peeled, and polished off the banana late on Saturday afternoon.

### Marilyn Minter and Jerry Saltz's intimate dinner party at Soho House

Image: New York art critic Jerry Saltz and artist Marilyn Minter.  
Photo by Tiffany Sage. Image courtesy of BFA.com.

Calling upon its noted history of publishing works by the likes of Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, and Picasso, Playboy is making known its commitment to art once again. To celebrate, it threw a small dinner party hosted by Marilyn Minter and Jerry Saltz, and attended by artists Shantell Matin and Shepard Fairey, gallerist Jack Shainman, Grammy-nominated Tove Lo, and other art world insiders. No topic was off limits, as the two led a discussion on internet censorship and art, what they called the "creeping Puritanism" of the art world, and hopes for the next generation of creatives.



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## Lalanne at the Peter Marino–designed Raleigh Gardens



Image: Les Lalanne at the Raleigh Gardens.

Photo by Douglas Friedman. Image courtesy of Raleigh Gardens.

The Raleigh Hotel may be closed, but the jungle-like gardens out back were filled all week with visitors strolling the grounds for the largest-ever outdoor presentation of sculptures by the late French duo Claude and François-Xavier Lalanne, presented by Michael Shvo. In the first week alone, more than 5,000 people had already visited the gardens, which were designed by Peter Marino and Raymond Jungles.

## The Bottega Diner

Image: The exterior of the retro diner.

Photo by Robin Hill. Image courtesy of Bottega Veneta.



Fashion house Bottega Veneta took over an Art Deco–style Paramount dining car at the 11th Street Diner for the week, transforming it into one of the most glamorous diners we've ever seen. Wrapped in gold and outfitted with a neon Bottega sign, the cute, retro diner was the perfect spot for an informal dinner party—guests ranging from designers Katie Stout, Chen Chen, and Chris Wolston mingled with boldface names like Derek Blasberg, Paloma Elsesser, and Kate Bosworth were treated to classic hamburgers, spiked shakes, and lots of Champagne—convenient to fuel up before heading to next-door nightlife spot Twist.

## Meridians sector debuts at Basel



Image: Tom Friedman's 2015 Cocktail Party. Photo by Scott Rudd. Image courtesy of Art Basel Miami Beach.

The newest section of ABMB debuted to mixed reviews, with some fairgoers balking at the distractingly bright patterned carpets underfoot, while others appreciated the advantage of breadth of space. There was a lot of praise to go around for the youngest artist in the fair, 28-year-old Woody de Othello, who made his Art Basel debut with Cool Composition (presented by Karma

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and Jessica Silverman Gallery), and Tom Friedman's Cocktail Party, which renders typical art world gatherings in tongue-in-cheek form.

## Britney Spears's birthday at the Miami Beach EDITION

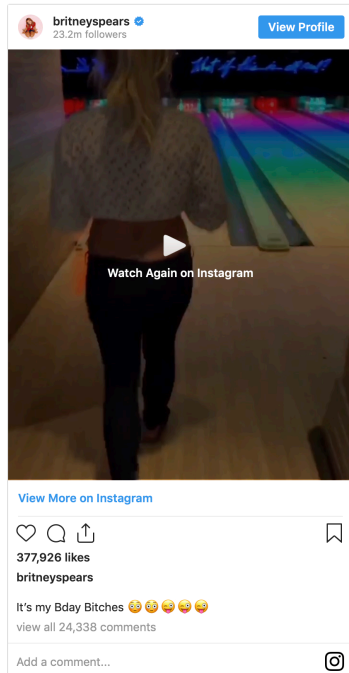


Image: Models walk the runway in Miami. Photo by Frazer Harrison. Image courtesy of Getty.

Forget Leo—pop princess Britney Spears was this year's 1990s darling to spot around Miami during Basel. On Monday, December 2, Spears celebrated her birthday at the Miami Beach Edition, where she was seen skating rings around the resort's colorful indoor ice rink and taking a turn in the rainbow bowling alley. It's unclear whether she attended any of the fairs, but the singer documented some public installations on her Instagram account throughout the week. The Edition proved to be one of the hottest spots in Miami during the week, playing host to book signings, a Leo Villareal installation presented by Polestar and Pace gallery, and other glitzy affairs.

## Dior Men's Pre-fall 2020 Show



"Were you at Dior?" was one of the hottest questions of the week, as designer Kim Jones paraded his newest collection down the runway at the new Rubell last Monday evening. It seemed as though every celebrity, artist, and designer on the planet was at the show—between Bella Hadid, Daniel Arsham, Kate Moss, curator Hans Ulrich Obrist, Kim Kardashian West, Swizz Beats, and Ricky Martin, it was quite the mix.