

The Art of the Party

The buzz surrounding the parties at Art Basel and its related art fairs proves to the world that Miami is the center of the art universe, at least in December.

BY RON SHIPMAN

Left, Art in America party at MOCA; middle: Tom Friedman, *Untitled*, 2006, on view at INK Miami



"Get ready cause we're coming through, we like to party." These words from the song by Crazy Frog, "We Like To Party", seems to define the spirit of the party-hopping art aficionados who will descend upon Miami December 4-10. With more than ten art fairs taking place simultaneously, throngs of anxious collectors will shell out millions of dollars, artist's careers will be propelled and contemporary art history made.

Art-minded party folk should have no problem filling their dance cards. Cracking the party code and getting into the fashionable parties surrounding the art fairs in Miami this month doesn't require making a pact with the devil, just a little stamina, and, perhaps a can of Red Bull. So, strap on your Pradas, because Miami is not just serious about art, it is serious about the art of the party. Who cares if you max out your credit cards buying art, in this town you will still be able to party, dine and enjoy millions of dollars worth of art, all for free or close to it.

Tuesday, December 5, 3-8 pm: Photo MIAMI Preview Reception

The Miami premiere of the International Contemporary Art Fair for photo-based art, video and new media will launch with a preview reception to highlight the efforts of Legal Art, a Miami-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing artists with affordable legal service and educational opportunities. By invitation only, to receive an invitation call 323-937-4659 or e-mail info@artfairinc.com. Dorissa Building, 2571 North Miami Ave., Wynwood Arts District, Miami

Tuesday, December 5, 7-9 pm: MOCA/Art In America Party

MOCA joins with arts publication, *Art In America* to kick off Art Basel Miami Beach 2006 with a special reception and cocktail party. Party is free for museum members, Art Basel VIPs, admission for non-members \$20, Reception sponsored by Turnberry, Ltd., Aventura Mall

and Fairmont Turnberry Isle Resort; RSVP at 305-893-6211; Museum of Contemporary Art, 770 NE 125th St., North Miami

Wednesday, December 6, 6-8 pm, Thursday, December 7, 6-8 pm, Friday, December 8, 6-7 pm, Saturday, December 9, 6-7 pm: Flow Art Fair Cocktail Hour

FLOW Art Fair was founded to bridge the gap between Blue Chip dealers, which exhibit at Art Basel Miami Beach, and the younger galleries who exhibit at Scope, Pulse and Aqua. The eighteen national galleries that comprise FLOW invite guests to sip free flowing cocktails with their compliments, as they get in the FLOW, prior to seeing the world premiere of, *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*, a multi-discipline performance piece by international artist Janet Biggs. Synchronized swimmers will perform to live drummers, against a large-scale background of video projections. Performance dates: December 6 & 7 at 9 pm. Lounge at the Catalina Hotel & Beach Club, 1756 Collins Ave., 216-990-3349, info@flowfair.com

Thursday December 7th, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm: INK Miami Opening Reception Brunch

INK Miami is the first art fair to focus exclusively on works on paper. INK Miami celebrates its debut with an Opening Reception Brunch where guests can rub elbows with the many artists who will be exhibited. Guests will be invited to get imprinted (or INKED) with the INK Miami tattoo logo. Brunch and refreshments complimentary to the public. Suites of Dorchester, 1850 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 305 531 5745; www.inkartfair.com

Thursday, December 7, 6-9 pm: Scope Miami 2006 VIP Benefit

Scope Miami 2006 continues its mission to turn contemporary art viewers into art users. Now in its fourth year, Scope Miami will be

housed in an artist designed 40,000 square foot pavilion in Roberto Clemente Park. Collectors, exhibitors, museum patrons and Scope folk will gather on December 7th for a benefit cocktail party which will feature special performances and screenings, the purpose, to launch Scope Foundation which will aid emerging artists through grants, awards and acquisition. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased on site. Roberto Clemente Park, 101 NW 34th St., Wynwood Art District, Miami; <http://www.scope-art.com>

Friday, December 8, 2-5 pm, Saturday, December 9, 2-5 pm, Sunday, December 10, 2-5 pm: Scope Miami 2006

Join young collectors from around the world for cocktails and informal chats with Scope exhibitors, artists and fellow collectors. Cocktails free with the admission price of \$12. Roberto Clemente Park, 101 NW 34th St., Wynwood Art District, Miami; <http://www.scope-art.com>

Saturday, December 9, 8-10 pm: MOCASONIC presents E-Merce: In Fashion

MOCASONIC is the Museum of Contemporary Art's (MOCA) monthly event showcasing all, which is on the cutting edge bringing contemporary art to a new generation of collectors and art enthusiasts. E-Merce: in Fashion, runway show is inspired by the importance of costume and the legendary choreographer Merce Cunningham. The event honors the spirit of innovation in fashion and design; local fashion students will create clothing and apparel inspired by Merce Cunningham and dance. Admission and cocktails are complimentary. MOCA at Goldman Warehouse, 404 NW 26 St., Wynwood Arts District, www.mocanomi.org

MAKING THE MOST OF MIAMI'S FREE ART SCENE

December 10, 9:30 am- 12:00 pm: The Martin Z. Margulies

Sculpture Park & The Frost Art Museum

Celebrate Art Basel Miami Beach With Breakfast In The Park. The Martin Z. Margulies Sculpture Park in conjunction with The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum present the fourth annual Breakfast In The Park featuring acclaimed American sculptor Deborah Butterfield. Enjoy a complimentary outdoor breakfast, an informal lecture by Deborah Butterfield and a guided tour of the world renowned Martin Z. Margulies collection which features works by 75 artists including Willem de Kooning, Louise Nevelson, Donald Judd, Richard Serra, Jean Dubuffet, Isamu Noguchi, Jenny Holzer. Free roundtrip transportation from Miami Beach Convention Center Hall D at 9:30 am. Charles Perry Building, SW 107th Ave. & 8th St. at the Florida International University, University Park campus; 305-348-0401; www.frostartmuseum.org;

December 4-10: The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum

The Frost Museum welcomes the public to explore the exhibition, A Room of One's Own, a conceptual work of four international Cuban-American women artists, Teresita Fernandez, Maria Elena Gonzalez, Quisqueya Henriquez, and Maria Martinez-Canas, which investigates the boundaries of space, architecture and materiality. The exhibition challenges the notions that traditionally define artistic categories such as sculpture, installation art, photography, video and architecture. Museum hours, 10am-5pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 10 am - 9 pm on Wednesday; noon to 4 pm Saturday. Charles Perry Building, SW 107th Ave. & 8th St. at the Florida International University, University Park campus; www.frostartmuseum.org; 305-348-2890

Monday-Sunday, December 4-10, 9 am - 2pm:

The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse

The Warehouse is a not-for-profit institution dedicated to the presentation of exhibitions and educational programs that explore contemporary art. It occupies a 45,000-square-foot facility containing over 1,100 works from the collection of prominent

Miami art collector Martin Z. Margulies. Among the artists on view are Ernesto Neto, Do-Ho Suh, Frank Stella, Amar Kanwar, Thomas Hirschhorn and Jason Rhoades. The collection is open to the public free of charge. Wynwood Art District, 591 NW 27th St., Miami; 305-576-1051; www.Margulieswarehouse.com

NOT TO BE MISSED: THE BEST DEAL FOR FIVE BUCKS

The Rubell Family Collection

Red Eye: Los Angeles Artists from the Rubell Family Collection, an exhibition featuring art that includes, John Baldessari, Mike Kelley, Barbara Kruger, Paul McCarthy, Lara Schnitger and many more. The Rubell Family Collection is housed in a 40,000 square-foot warehouse previously used as a storage facility for the Drug Enforcement Agency. Admission: \$ 2.50 for students and under 18, \$5 for adults. Open to the public, December 8 & 10, 10 am-6 pm, December 9, 10 am-10 pm, 95 NW 29th St., Miami, 305-573-6090

FAIR PLAYDATES & LOCATIONS

Aqua Art Miami, December 7-10, 2006, Thursday-Saturday December 7-9, 11 am-8 pm; Sunday, December 10, noon-5 pm
Emphasis on west coast galleries & emerging artists. Admission: No fee. Aqua Hotel, 1530 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, www.aquaartmiami.com

Flow, December 6-10, 2006

Hours: Wednesday, December 6, 6-10 pm; Thursday, December 7, 10 am-10 pm; Friday and Saturday, December 8 & 9, 10 am-8 pm; Sunday, December 10, 10 am-5 pm. Focus on American contemporary art. Admission: No fee. The Spy Lounge at the Catalina Hotel & Beach Club, 1732-1756 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, 216-990-3349, www.flowfair.com

Bridge Art Fair, December 7 - 10, 2006

Admission: No fee. Contemporary art. Catalina Hotel & Beach Club, 1732 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, www.bridgeartfair.com

NADA/ New Dealers Alliance Art Fair, December 6-10, 2006,

December 6-9, 11 am-7 pm; December 10, 11 am-4 pm
Works of art presented by leading innovative contemporary galleries. Admission: No fee. The Ice Palace Film Studios, 59 NW 14th St.; www.newartdealers.org

INK Miami 2006, December 7-10, 2006

Thursday, December 7, noon-8 pm, December 8-9, 10 am-8 pm, December 10, 10 am-3 pm. Admission: No fee. Suites of Dorchester, 1850 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Florida; 305-531-5745; www.inkartfair.com

At the end of the day, the international buzz surrounding the art fairs in Miami proves to the world that Miami is hot, hot, hot! 

