

Alberta Whittle, *Icon to Prepare for Masquerade*, 2022, Nicola Vassell

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLERY

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

By Payal Uttam

FORMIDABLE NEW TALENTS FROM THE FRINGES OF THE ARTWORLD are taking center stage at Art Basel Miami Beach this year. Alongside the usual lineup of blue-chip names, dealers will show diverse works ranging from a large-scale installation by a Nigerian painter to neo-surreal prints of nudes by a pioneering queer photographer. With the pandemic finally fading from view, the fair will also be filled with more interactive, immersive art including AI-activated sculptures, bold performative pieces and visceral video work. Here's our guide to must-see artists in this year's show.

NOVA SECTOR A FAVORITE AMONG COLLECTORS LOOKING TO UNEARTH NEW TALENT, THE NOVA SECTOR SHOWCASES WORK MADE WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS BY UP TO THREE ARTISTS.

IDENTITY, RACE AND MIGRATION are among the timely topics tackled by emerging artists in the Nova sector this year. Gallerists in this section will unveil new works fresh from artists' studios or made within the last three years.

Among the most striking presentations will be Spinello Projects' 'By the Skin of Your Teeth' centered on a dramatic painting, *The Entertainer* by Miami native Reginald O'Neal. The monumental 7-foot canvas features a glistening porcelain figurine of an African American jazz singer. Lying on his back with his eyes facing the glare of the spotlight, the impotent figure underscores the dehumanization and commodification of his people and their culture. Flanking the canvas will be Afro-Latinx Cuban-born artist Juana Valdés sculptures including a series of 12 delicate rags that appear to be soft fabric but are made of bone china porcelain. Made in skin-toned hues, the rags are placed in order from dark to light. The sequencing calls attention to colorism and how skin color continues to dictate perceptions of individuals' value and worth.

Another highlight is Nicola Vassell Gallery's presentation 'The Enigma of Arrival', which pairs mixed-media works by Glasgow-based, Barbados-born artist Alberta Whittle with paintings by Trinidadian artist Che Lovelace. Paying homage to their roots, both artists explore precolonial legacies and symbolism of the Caribbean. Whittle—who recently represented Scotland at the Venice Biennale—culls figures from childhood photographs and inserts them into lush landscapes adorning them with traditional masquerade garments, cultural signifiers which were once suppressed and hidden by her ancestors in an effort to assimilate in Barbados' westernized capital, Bridgetown. Reclaiming her history, she festoons the figures with talismanic materials like raffia, beads, doilies and cowrie shells.

Similarly, while Lovelace once shied away from bright colors to avoid being labeled as "too easily Caribbean," he has now embraced color and works with an exuberant palette. Playing with abstraction and geometric forms, he unabashedly celebrates symbols of Trinidadian life and the islands' natural landscape. ▶

MERIDIANS SECTOR

This sector is devoted to monumental, museum-quality works ranging from interactive installations to large-scale painting and sculpture.

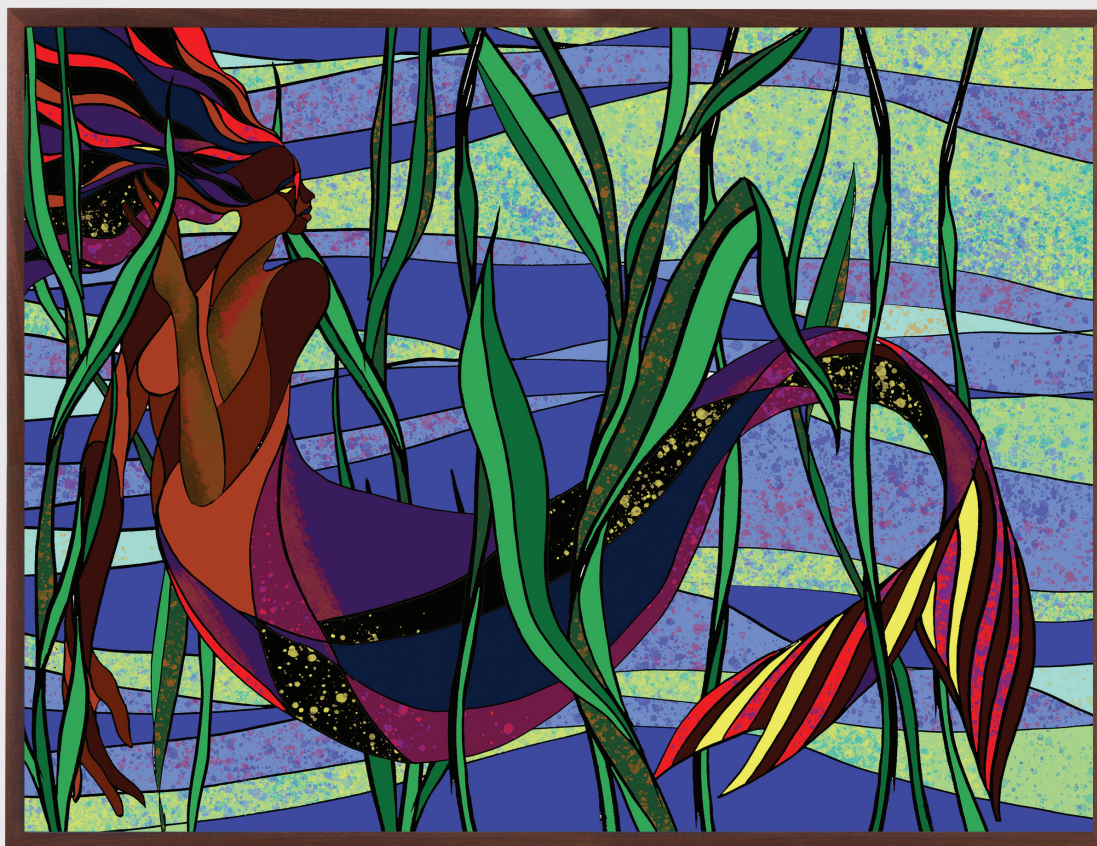


WHILE THE SPECTER OF COVID-19 LOOMED OVER THE MERIDIANS SECTOR last year, this edition is completely different. “It’s really exciting because you cannot feel the pandemic as a presence,” says the show’s curator, Magali Arriola, the director of Museo Tamayo in Mexico City. “I’m looking forward to going back to immersive formats in the fair.” Unlike last year’s edition, which featured a great deal of painting, this year the sector will come alive with larger-than-life installations, complex mixed-media works and monumental sculptures.

American artist Christopher Myers’ *Let the Mermaids Flirt With Me*, 2022, for instance, will absorb viewers in a multisensory experience. Upon stepping inside a giant chapel-like structure, they will be confronted with a vivid stained-glass window referencing the disturbing history of the trans-Atlantic slave trade as well as a live shadow puppet show brought to life with music.

A stone’s throw away, Brazilian artist Jonathas de Andrade invites viewers to navigate a playful landscape of fragments of clay bodies clad in colorful Speedos strewn across the floor. To create the installation, ‘Achados e ►

Nengi Omuku, *Swing*, 2022, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery



Perdidos / Lost and Found', 2020, the artist spent 10 years gathering used swim trunks which had been forgotten or abandoned in changing rooms in the Brazilian city of Recife. He then invited local craftsmen—many of whom create religious pieces—to make the earthenware body fragments. Like many other works in his oeuvre, the project provokes questions about representation of the male body and the homoerotic gaze.

Meanwhile, Nigerian painter Nengi Omuku—who trained as a horticulturist—will transport viewers to a space similar to her verdant studio in Lagos in another large-scale installation. Inspired by her workspace, she will create an intimate environment in the fair—adorned with plants, rugs and cushions—where visitors can explore her monumental figurative work made using Sanyan, a traditional precolonial Nigerian fabric. ►

Christopher Myers, *Let the Mermaids Flirt with Me*, 2022

GALLERY SPOTLIGHT



WHEN THEY WERE STILL IN GRADUATE SCHOOL, Angelina Volk and Leopold Thun began staging pop-up exhibitions in an array of unusual venues from a beach hut in Brazil to a 17th century church in Naples. Since opening a permanent space in East London in 2016, they have built a reputation for their ambitious program of international talents ranging from established American performance artist and rock musician Kembra Pfahler to rising Lithuanian artist Augustas Serapinas.

In Miami, Emalin will show German Vietnamese Sung Tieu's latest works inspired by her ongoing research into the "Havana Syndrome," a mysterious set of symptoms reported by overseas US embassy workers, which

are now thought to be a result of politically motivated attacks. Many victims experienced concussion-like symptoms which are believed to be caused by sounds from hidden acoustic devices. Tieu exposed herself to a reconstruction of the acoustic attacks inside an MRI scanner. On view at the fair will be 12 metal engravings based on her brain scans documenting her response to the assault. Alongside the metal plates, she will be showing a series of sculptures and a four-channel sound installation featuring sensory reconstructions based on witness testimonies about the syndrome. Seen together, the works are a potent exploration of the psychological dimension of warfare and the weaponization of sound. ►

Sung Tieu, *Monologue 1-3*, 2020, Haus der Kunst

POSITIONS SECTOR

This sector celebrates young gallerists and ambitious solo projects by emerging names.



Gallery: Edel Assanti

Image: Oren Pinhassi, *The Mourner*, 2021

Tel Aviv-born, New York-based sculptor Oren Pinhassi will be unveiling four new deeply expressive sculptures. The towering forms evoke mournful female figures with feet tightly curled around rocks. Made with sand, carefully layered over welded steel armatures, they appear at once primitive and contemporary.



Gallery: Sultana

Image: Jesse Darling, *Liberty Torch 1 (Ace of Wands Series)*, 2016/2022

French dealer Guillaume Sultana describes his spartan booth of Jesse Darling's sculptures as "radical and pure." Among the works on view will be *Liberty Torch 1 (Ace of Wands Series)*, 2016/2022, a playful sculpture of an outstretched hand clad in a clinic blue glove clutching a vibrator. Inspired by the Ace of Wands tarot card, it raises questions about the relationship of technology and bodily desires.

GALLERIES SECTOR

The main sector of the fair features modern and contemporary work from leading international and US-based galleries.



Gallery: Patron

Image: Alex Chitty, *Ptng#12 (Swipe)*, 2016

Patron Gallery is known for championing contemporary female artists such as Chicago-based Alex Chitty, who creates assemblages which combine unusual materials like this piece made of walnut wood, spoons, nylon and a Xerox print. Chitty once described her works as “mind gyms, a place where viewers can go to build muscles” as they push you to find new ways of contextualizing objects and seeing the world.



Gallery: Schoelkopf

Image: Georgia O'Keeffe, *Dead Tree Bear Lake Taos*, 1929

Schoelkopf Gallery presents an exhibition which spans a variety of artistic movements across the 20th century from 1906 to 1978, including Cubism, Abstract Expressionism and Color Field painting, highlighting artists who experimented with new materials and methods as they responded to rapidly evolving events and experiences. Georgia O'Keeffe's *Dead Tree Bear Lake Taos*, 1929, is among the most striking canvases on view. Featuring an elongated anthropomorphic pine tree, the work embodies the deep spiritual connection she formed with the dramatic natural landscape of America's Southwest which would come to define her oeuvre.

SURVEY SECTOR

Historic works from across the globe take center stage in the Survey sector.



Gallery: Berry Campbell

Image: Lynne Mapp Drexler, *Mutinous Water*, 1964

New York dealers Christine Berry and Martha Campbell will be showing the long forgotten but recently resurrected abstract expressionist Lynne Mapp Drexler for their Miami debut. Highlights of their booth include exuberant works such as *Mutinous Water*, 1964, which Drexler painted while living on a remote island in Maine.



Gallery: Magenta Plains

Images, from top: Barbara Ess, *No Title (Row of Houses)* and *No Title (Sunflower)*, both 1997-1998

Magenta Plains' booth will be filled with haunting, experimental pinhole photographs by the late American photographer Barbara Ess. Enveloped with dark shadows, moody images like the above print depicting a sunflower encapsulate the intensity and emotion that courses through her oeuvre.

EDITIONS SECTOR

An impressive array of editioned works and prints by leading galleries and publishers can be found in this sector.

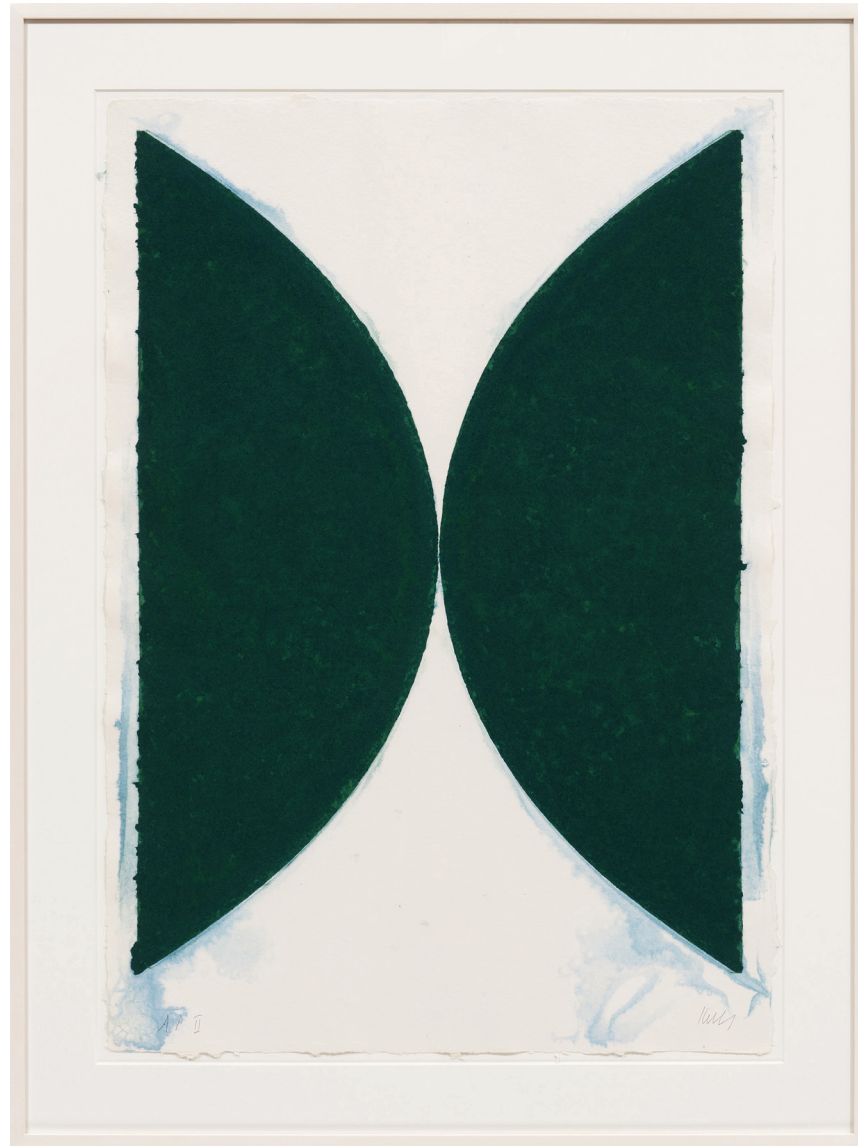


Gallery: Gemini G.E.L.

Image: Frank Gehry, *Wishful Thinking*, 2022

LA-based print workshop Gemini G.E.L. has been working with internationally renowned artists since the 1960s. Alongside pieces by Richard Serra, Tacita Dean and Julie Mehretu, a new series of prints by architect Frank Gehry will be on display at their booth. Pictured here is Gehry's whimsical take on the Mad Hatter's tea party from *Alice in Wonderland*.

EDITIONS SECTOR



Gallery: Susan Sheehan

Image: Ellsworth Kelly, *Colored Paper Image II*
(*Dark Green Curves*), 1976

Susan Sheehan Gallery will showcase rare prints and works on paper by prominent postwar American artists like this experimental work by Ellsworth Kelly. He created the print by placing green paper pulp into curvilinear metal molds, allowing the color to freely spill out once it was pressed firmly onto a sheet of damp white paper.

KABINETT SECTOR

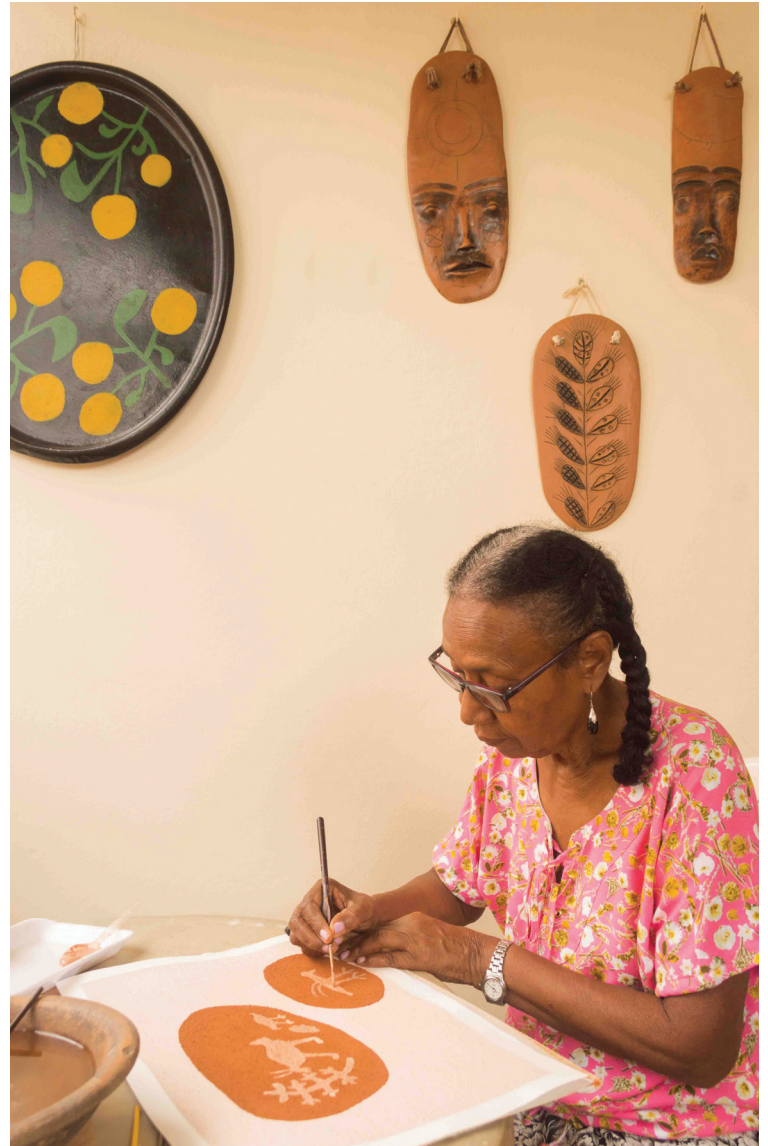
This sector features mini-exhibitions curated by galleries spanning from solo presentations to thematic group shows.



Gallery: P.P.O.W

Image: Jimmy DeSana, *Cardboard*, 1985

The late New York-based photographer Jimmy DeSana is finally getting the attention he deserves. P.P.O.W will exhibit a series of his ravishing, richly saturated photographs of nudes from the 1970s and '80s, including this image of a Dali-esque nude positioned within an accordion-like assemblage of cardboard.



Gallery: Gomide & Co

Image: Studio shots of the artist, Maria Lira Marques

Maria Lira Marques is a Brazilian artist and activist who creates primordial paintings on paper and river pebbles using raw mineral pigments that she binds together with glue. She draws inspiration from the flora and fauna of the sun-drenched landscape of the Jequitinhonha Valley where she grew up.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF Art|Basel Miami Beach

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE, BUT IT WASN'T VERY LONG AGO THAT MIAMI BEACH WAS JUST A SWATHE of mangroves and mud. Fast-forward to present, and the city has transformed into a major cultural hub and magnet for celebrities and collectors. The arrival of Art Basel Miami Beach in 2002 sparked a citywide creative renaissance. Each December, the balmy beach city transforms into an epicenter of the art, design and fashion worlds with countless openings and events.

From early on, the fair has reflected Miami Beach's vibrant multicultural identity and brought the North American and the Latin American artworlds together into dialogue spotlighting significant artists from both regions. Since the first edition, the fair made room for exciting up-and-coming talents showing their work in converted shipping containers perched by the beach.

By 2005, the fair introduced the Kabinett sector featuring thoughtfully curated exhibitions ranging from solo shows to historical presentations within the bustling convention center grounds. In 2012, Art Basel Miami Beach expanded beyond the confines of booths. Partnering with The Bass Museum of Art, it transformed Collins Park into a temporary outdoor sculpture park filled with site-specific installations and performance-based pieces. The recent arrival of the Meridians sector in 2019 added a sense of drama to the fairgrounds, giving viewers a chance to explore colossal museum-worthy works.

Today, as Art Basel rings in its 20th anniversary at Miami Beach, it is not only credited for being a catalyst for the city's vibrant art scene but also for being one of the most important fairs on the global art calendar. •



Beauford Delaney, *Untitled*, 1946, Schoelkopf Gallery at ABMB