

# Artful Living

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By Wendy Lubovich

## Inside Art Basel Miami Beach, the Most Fabulous Event of the Year



Courtesy of Carmo Johnson Projects and MAHKU

Just when those December temperatures dip into the chilly zone, along comes the glittering, celebrity-driven [Art Basel Miami Beach](#), where art lovers from around the globe pack their party outfits and descend on [Florida](#) for the start of the winter season. The event is the premiere modern and contemporary art fair in the [Americas](#), and this season, it's buzzier than ever. Welcome to the most fabulous party of the year.



Photography by James Jackman for Art Basel

Leading the creative charge for 2024 is the fair's new director, [Bridget Finn](#), who brings a deep knowledge of the art world after working in New York City galleries and co-owning the Detroit gallery [Reyes | Finn](#). "Miami Beach is like no other place in the world," Finn tells us exclusively, "The city is the meeting place of North and [South America](#), with its tangible Latin and Caribbean influences."



Artwork by Pedro Mana for Carmo Johnson

Art Basel's spectacle grows every year, but this season, there is an emphasis on smaller galleries. That's because they are offering petite-sized booths — all geared towards modest-sized galleries. Some 34 first-time artists are participating, the most significant number of newcomers since 2008. "We created the linear sliding scale system to ensure a more level playing field for galleries across all market segments.



Artwork by Andile Dyalvane

Building on last year's success, the fair will be a visual beehive for art aficionados poised to discover their newest favorite artist, from large-scale immersive pieces to innovative installations. On tap, [Carmo Johnson Projects](#) out of [Brazil](#) will show works by the artist collective [MAHKU](#). These colorful, kaleidoscopic paintings depict indigenous chants from the [Huni Kuin](#) people living in the [Amazon](#) region of Western Brazil. Meanwhile, [Gordon Robichaux Gallery](#) in New York City will show mixed media and photo works by the late [Agosto Machado](#), a Chinese-Spanish-Filipino visual and performing artist and activist.

"The show is, more than any other event in the world, a cultural conduit for not just art but design, fashion, music and film," Finn points out. "It's such a spirited, dynamic and fast-evolving event where every corner of the city is brimming with art."



Artwork by Pierre Bonnefille

Be sure to pop into [Design Miami](#), which offers collectible designs from the 20th and 21st centuries — think Art Basel for [home decor](#). Peruse their streamlined setting, where you'll find curated vignettes of furniture, lighting and accessories. This year, look for [Pierre Bonnefille's](#) bronze "[Banc Rhizome](#)" from [Les Ateliers Courbet](#) in New York City, colorful ceramic works by "clay healer" [Andile Dyalvane](#) for [Southern Guild](#) and sculpture from designers [Éric de Dormael](#) and [Agnès Baillon](#) for [Galerie Negropontes](#) out of [Paris](#).



Artwork by Eric de Dormael and Agnes Baillon

Finally, after breezing through the tents, don a fun party frock for some special openings in Miami's many museums, galleries and private collections. Marvel at the art deco architecture, then book a table near the beach. And if you are lucky enough to find yourself at one of the many VIP parties, take it all in — this is Miami Beach with all its sizzle, the very nexus of art and culture in the Americas.  
*Art Basel Miami Beach December 6–8, 2024*