



AQUA ART MIAMI CELEBRATES 13th EDITION WITH STRONGEST SALES AND ATTENDANCE TO DATE

Emerging Artists and Galleries Showcase Highly Sought-After Works at Aqua Hotel in South Beach

MIAMI, FL – December 14, 2017 - **Aqua Art Miami**, the sister satellite fair to Art Miami, celebrated an incredibly successful five-day fair for their 13th edition at the Aqua Hotel. This year, the fair reported impressive attendance and sales with more than 11,500 collectors, curators, art advisors, artists and museum professionals, and more than 3,750 prestigious art collectors, connoisseurs, advisors and notable museum professionals at the VIP Preview.

Fair Director, **Grela Orihuela**, carefully curated a selection of 52 international galleries that highlighted emerging and mid-career artists from around the world. Numerous galleries reported strong sales throughout the fair with works by **Max Zorn**, **Bernadette Despujols**, **Emilie Duval** and **Rock Therrien** proving to be in high demand.

Aqua Art Miami continued to solidify itself as a completely unique fair with mass appeal for those looking to procure works by young, emerging and mid-career artists with a variety of notable guests seen throughout the week including **Helga Piaget**, **Kara Ross**, **Janna Bullock**, **Bill Arning**, Director, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, **Don Bacigalupi**, Founding President, The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, **Gabriel Groisman**, Mayor of Bal Harbour, **Wendy Kaplan**, Department Head and Curator, Decorative Arts and Design at Los Angeles County Museum of Art, **Alex Nyerges**, Director, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, **Eric Shiner**, Vice President, Modern and Contemporary Art Sales at Sotheby's New York, **Annie Carlano**, Senior Curator of Craft, Design & Fashion, The Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC, **Kandi Burruss** from *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*, and **Matt Altman** and **Josh Altman** - **The Altman Brothers** from *Million Dollar Listing*, and **Shawn Marion**.

Aqua Art Miami is the perfect fair for those looking to acquire artwork by young, emerging and mid-career artists. "Aqua gives young artists and galleries the opportunity to engage with an international group of collectors and an ebullient audience through Miami Art Week," said **Grela Orihuela**, **Director of Aqua Art Miami and Art Wynwood**.

Alvaro Perez, Director, **Black Ship** said "Aqua Art Miami is very well suited to my artists and my clientele due to the price point, the environment and the fairs overall aesthetics. Our pieces were beautifully displayed and complimented the hotels look very well. I really enjoyed the intimacy of the fair, and thought the harmony between the guests and the exhibitors was very in tune. Our clients responded very well and we placed many of the pieces we brought with us."

Sale highlights included:

- **Stick Together Gallery** placed all of **Max Zorn's** new collection with the sales valued at over \$100,000.
- **BP Project** sold ten pieces by **Maryam Alakbarli** – a young female artist with Down Syndrome whose fans include **Juliette Binoche**, **John Travolta**, **Gérard Depardieu**, for \$40,000.
- **Black Ship** and **&gallery** placed several works including *Love Is No Game* by **Bernadette Despujols** for \$22,000 as well as two *Love Dolls* by the same artist; a **Valeria Krasavina** installation for \$5,000; *Bling Blmg Big* by **Keyser Siso**, and **Leslie Chacon's** 11-piece Seaside Series collection entitled *Caribbean Seaside Imagery* for \$13,000.

- **Galerie LeRoyer** placed five works by **Rock Therrien** including *OMG*, *ROCKETMAN*, *PORN STAR*, *BACK OFF* and *WTF* totaling sales of \$18,000.
- **Cindy Lisica Gallery** placed two pieces by **Emilie Duval** including *The Predictive Order of Algorithm* from 2017 for \$9,000 and *Ripple Order* from 2017 for \$5,000, in addition to *Beer Can* by **Jeff Schwarz**.
- **reference: contemporary** placed *Blue Fallacy One* and *Blue Fallacy Two* by **Kal Mansur** from 2017 for \$9,000, *Gray Sojourn One* by **Kal Mansur** from 2017 for \$3,500, and seven small hand-cast acrylic sculptures by **Courtlandt Swartz** from the series *Fractions*.
- **Exhibit A** placed *Whittling* from 2015 by **Samuel C. Guy** for \$9,400, four pieces by **Ronald Gonzalez** including three of his 24-inch-tall 'Black Figures,' including *Spector*, *Mute and Cage*, all from 2015, for a combined price of \$8,160, *Voltage* from 2015 for \$3,000, as well as **Robin Whiteman's** *Which Way* from 2016, *Quiet* from 2017, and *Messenger* from 2015 which was sold to TV personality **Robert Verdi**.
- **glave kocen gallery** placed *the wind carried it in its belly, the city nursed it* by **Josh George** for \$5,000, and *Smoke and Ashes* by **Robert Browning** for close to \$3,000.
- **Morphew** placed a vintage **Comme de Garcon** black trench coat for \$3,800.
- **Galleria Ca' d'Oro** placed *Red, White, Bike* from 2017 by **Erika Calesini**; as well as three *Snails* from 2016 by **Cracking Art**.
- **&gallery** placed two oil paintings from **Patricia Schnall Gutierrez** from 2017.
- **AC Contemporary**, from Buenos Aires Argentina, sold eight works from a collective of female Chilean artists.
- **Tranter-Sinni Gallery** placed *Red Fox Wisdom* by **J.F. Albert**, *Three Sisters* by **Rob Martin**, and two prints from 2017 by **Jay Bell Red Bird**.
- **Studio A** sold 20 paintings by **Josh Wingerter** all from 2017 including four **Muhammad Ali**, four **Frank Sinatra**, four **Wonder Woman - Lynda Carter**, four **Audrey Hepburn**, and four **Elvis Presley**.

The fair also featured an exciting selection of special projects in the hotel lobby and idyllic courtyard, including *LOVE*, created by Burning Man breakout star, **Laura Kimpton** and presented by **HG Contemporary** which was located at the entrance of the hotel to greet fairgoers. Once inside the lobby, artist and fashion designer **BAS Kusters** creations were presented by Amsterdam's **Rademakers Gallery**, while **Cindy Lisica Gallery's** pop-up shop offered a curated selection of original artwork and collectable art objects, photography, limited edition prints and books.

AQUA Art Miami also hosted a selection of curated special projects and enchanting performance pieces. **Black Ship** presented AQUA Moments with **Bea Pernia**, a multimedia performance artist, who provided the musical background for the VIP Preview, and attendees crowded around tattoo artist **Thea Duskin**, who offered single-session original tattoos to fairgoers presented by Richmond's **Ghostprint Gallery**.

New York's **Morphew** presented "Which Comes First, the Art or the Fashion?", an art gallery and shop that featured avant-garde luxury vintage fashion designs, an installation dedicated to **Keith Haring** and a collaboration with **Kara Ross** and **UNLEASHED**, which featured three original works that utilized vintage textiles and celebrated a collective of artisan women, who are experts in the art of hand beading from Bareilly, India.

This year, the Consulate General of Canada in Miami celebrated Canada's 150th anniversary since the Confederation, and spearheaded **Art From Canada** curated by **Tranter-Sinni Gallery**. The project highlighted work from emerging and established Canadian artists including **Barbara Steinman**, **John Brown**, **Paterson Ewen**, **Wolfgang Kals**, **Jay Bell Red Bird**, **Russell Leng**, **Halina Stopyra**, **Andrew Maize** and **Christopher Gorey**. The **Consulate General of Canada in Miami** and **Tranter-Sinni Gallery** also hosted a talk with **Jay Bell Red Bird** and **Halina Stopyra**. Red Bird spoke about Canada's aboriginal people and about the time he spent with Canadian artist **Norval Morrisseau**, and how great Canadian artists, including his father, **Duke Redbird**, influenced his style and technique. **Stopyra** discussed her work from a healing arts perspective, as well as her technique and ability to heal through nature, people and the universe.

ABOUT ART MIAMI LLC:

Art Miami LLC is a partnership consisting of art and media industry veterans **Nick Korniloff**, **Mike Tansey** and **Brian Tyler**. In addition to three fairs during Miami Art Week, Art Miami, CONTEXT Art Miami and Aqua Art Miami, the

company annually produces the Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary in January; Art Wynwood during Presidents Day weekend in February; Art New York and CONTEXT New York at Pier 94 in New York in May; and Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco in October.

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