

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**AQUA ART MIAMI DEBUTS 10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION DECEMBER 3RD**

***Leading Hotel Fair to Feature Dynamic Mix of International Galleries and Special Programs***

**MIAMI, Fla. (November 19, 2014)** – **Aqua Art Miami** (<http://www.aquaartmiami.com>) will celebrate its 10th anniversary as one of Miami Art Week’s **top emerging art fairs** when it runs **December 3 through December 7**. Throughout the past decade, Aquahas been critically recognized for presenting vibrant and noteworthy international art programs showcasing a wide range of emerging and mid-career artists, and is a renowned crowd favorite defined by its intimate and unique indoor/outdoor setting within the [**Aqua Hotel**](http://www.aquamiami.com/), a classic Art Deco building in the heart of **South Beach** on Collins Avenue.

Aqua Art Miami will completely transform all **47 hotel rooms** to showcase **46 galleries** from **7 countries**. **One hundred and eighty artists** from **16 countries** will present a dynamic range of high-quality artworks in all media, including painting, photography and works on paper to design, sculpture, installation, video and multimedia art. For the 2014 program, exhibitors were selected through a newly formed Advisory Committee, comprised of Mat Gleason of Coagula Curatorial, Los Angeles, Nancy Toomey of Toomey Tourell Fine Art, San Francisco, and Henry Chung and Robert Walden of Robert Henry Contemporary, Brooklyn, NY. Additional curated program highlights for 2014 include special installations and a series of interactive performance works that encourage audience interaction in the artistic process.

“This year is very significant for Aqua Art Miami as we celebrate our 10th anniversary and our second year as part of the Art Miami family. As Aqua continues to grow and evolve curatorially, we’re reaching an increasingly diverse roster of galleries, from established exhibitors to galleries that are new to the Miami art market,” said Jennifer Jacobs, Director for Aqua Art Miami. “Their offerings will be enhanced by an array of interactive installations and performances rooted in art as social practice, blurring the lines beyond object making and expanding the fair experience for our visitors.”

Living up to the fair's signature unique atmosphere and energy, and to honor the fair’s 10th anniversary, Aqua Art Miami will present a number of dynamic installations and performance programs throughout the week. Highlights for this year include the following:

**AQUA ART MIAMI 10TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMS AND EXHIBITIONS**

**Advice Station | M.K. Guth**

M.K. Guth, presented by Elizabeth Leach Gallery of Portland, Oregon, is a visual artist and professor working in video, photography, sculpture, performance and interactive based exchange projects. Small shifts in what is familiar amplify human presence and speak to the intricacies of social relations in M.K. Guth’s work. Her videos depart from everyday scenarios into the site of fiction as an entry point to more complicated issues of identity and self and her sculptural installations often act as visual containers for audience interaction.

Open throughout the duration of the fair, the Advice Station is a hybrid psychiatry office and information booth where visitors can sit and talk about their experiences and solicit tips, pointers and opinions about Miami Art Week from the artist. In exchange, visitors will be asked to offer their personal advice which will be added to a collective advice receptacle from which future visitors can gain wisdom. Guth will later compile a book encompassing all of the advice collected from visitors which can be pre-ordered through Elizabeth Leach Gallery.

***ArtSlant* Prize Showcase**

The contemporary art network and magazine *ArtSlant* will present the results of its 6th annual contest with a special exhibition at Aqua Art Miami. The open call to artists worldwide was juried by a panel of international art luminaries who selected several finalists for this annual opportunity to gain invaluable exposure during Art Week.

**Design at Aqua | Industry Gallery**

Aqua Art Miami is proud to showcase its first design project with Industry Gallery from Los Angeles/DC presenting an immersive installation re-envisioning the hotel penthouse as a modern design showcase, exploring surrealism and the avant-garde in contemporary design. Industry will also be sponsoring a small pop-up installation in the Aqua Art Miami courtyard featuring the 3D jewelry by designer Jenny Wu of LACE. The intricately detailed pieces extend from her avant-garde architectural work, merging her modern design sensibilities with the latest in 3D printing technology and material.

**AQUA ART MIAMI 2014 PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS**

Curated by Mat Gleason of Coagula Curatorial

**Unraveled (in Aqua) | Performance Interruption by Amy Kapps**

“Unraveled (in Aqua)” will occur during the **VIP Preview on** **Wednesday,** **December 3** and is literally the unraveling of over **1,700 feet of flagging tape** that begins as a "dress" and results in a trail marking Amy Kapps’ journey through the day. Tied to a fixed starting point, the route will intersect paths dictated by the architecture, people and objects within the space. In Kapps’ own physical twirling, she will circulate through the Aqua Hotel grounds welcoming conversation and detours. Order, manifested in the form of the dress, is unraveled to reveal the human body unadorned.

**Assembling Heaven’s Collection | Performance Interruption by Michael McCall**

Also happening exclusively during the **VIP Preview** is Michael McCall’s “Assembling Heaven’s Collection” that will **conjure up the spirit of Walter Hopps**, famed curator and past director of the Menil Museum of Houston, Texas, and an old friend of McCall. Hopps co-founded the Ferus Gallery, credited with putting Los Angeles on the contemporary art map, along with Ed Kienholz during the late ‘50s in Los Angeles, then later moved on to become curator and director of the Pasadena Museum.

While wearing a stylish suit once owned by Hopps, McCall will attempt to make trades during the evening with anyone who wants to be in Heaven’s Art Collection. McCall will communicate with the late, esteemed curator during the performance, as Hopps has been asked by “The Almighty” in heaven to find better artworks for the Pearly Gates Collection. McCall will use **paper money and coinage from various countries** where Hopps visited during his travels for the Menil and Guggenheim Museums. The foreign currency was recently passed on to McCall from representatives of Hopps’ estate and will be used to trade for artworks. The pieces procured during the performance will consequently be shipped to Heaven by a courier to be named at a later date.

**Artists Anonymous | Performance by Karen Finley**

Held **December 4 – 6 at 2 p.m.**, Karen Finley will host Artists Anonymous for visitors who feel that their lives have been affected by art making, the art world, and/or the troubles of maintaining a creative life. The meetings offer a space to consider and reflect on challenges artists, arts professionals and art-lovers encounter. Reimagining the format of a 12-step program, each meeting will begin with a brief topic or prompt, or a creative exercise for consideration by Finley. Surprise guest artist speakers, including notable curators and collectors, will join each day’s meeting and offer testimonials of transformation.

**Psychic Portraits | One-on-One Performance by Karen Finley**

Karen Finley will be painting psychic portraits in the Aqua courtyard **December 4 – 6** **from 4:30 – 6 p.m**. The half-hour, one-on-one performance sessions are strictly between artist and subject. The result is a portrait of what Finley sees within you, a tongue-in -cheek toying with new age sentimentality, but a transformative interaction with a renowned performance artist nonetheless. The portrait is the participant’s to keep. Sessions can be purchased through Coagula Curatorial’s booth, and the **Coagula Video Lounge** at Aquawill alsofeature historic and contemporary video and digital art by Finley.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Aqua Art Miami, December 3 – 7, 2014**

**VIP Preview Event:**

Wednesday, December 3, 3 p.m. - 10 p.m.

**General Operating Hours:**

 Thursday, December 4, 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

 Friday, December 5, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

 Saturday, December 6, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

 Sunday, December 7 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Location:**

Aqua Hotel, 1530 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, FL 33139

**Admission:**

One-day fair pass (Aqua Only) - $15

Multi-day fair pass (Aqua, CONTEXT and Art Miami) - $75

Students 12-18 years and seniors - $10

Children under 12 years accompanied by adult - Free

Groups 10 or more - $10

[www.aquaartmiami.com](http://www.aquaartmiami.com)

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**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 the three fairs during Miami Art Week, the company annually produces Art Wynwood during Presidents Day weekend in February, Downtown Fair, NYC in May, Art Southampton in July and Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco in October.

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