

# aqua art miami

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VIP PREVIEW DECEMBER 2



## **AQUA ART MIAMI CLOSSES 11TH EDITION WITH NEW DIRECTOR, HUGE CROWDS AND BIG SALES**

*Emerging Galleries and Artists Find Success at Aqua Hotel in South Beach*

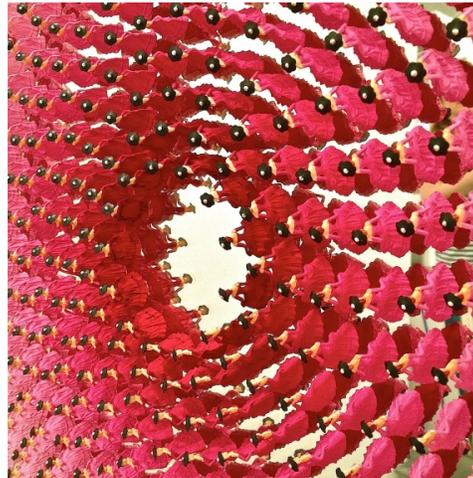
**Aqua Art Miami**, the sister satellite fair to Art Miami, made a huge splash during Art Week with its successful five-day exhibition with the strongest emerging and mid-career artists and galleries in the industry. The fair reported a record-breaking 10,500 people in attendance this past week all under the direction of the established fair's new Director, Katelijne De Backer, who handpicked 46 galleries across 28 cities and 10 countries.

Several galleries reported strong sales including Ernest G. Welch School of Art &

Design at Georgia State, who sold two prints by MFA candidate **Jack Deese** for \$1,600 titled *Congress St* and *Clear Martin*; Amsterdam-based Rademakers Gallery sold an abstract animalistic piece sourced from bullet shells by **Sebiha Demir** titled *Happy* for an undisclosed price; Rhode-Island-based Aureus Contemporary placed a dazzling mixed-media sphere from **Claire Shegog** titled *Busby's Fiorucci* for \$19,000; an acrylic print from **David Hollier** titled *\$100 Bill* was acquired from Brooklyn-based New Apostle Gallery for \$6,000; RED CORRIDOR, a Frankfurt-based gallery, placed **Leszek Shurski's** acrylic painting *Rollball* for \$7,500; Shanghai and Brooklyn-based SPiN Galleries sold a mixed-media piece by **Victor Spinelli** titled *Diver UP Yankee*; Washington-based Morton Fine Art saw an acquisition of two works ranging from \$2,000-\$4,500, one by **Nate Lewis** titled *Still Symphony* and the other by **Vonn Sumner** titled *New Ancient Pictures*; Houston-based Revision Space sold an ink print from **Terry Boyd** titled *Everything and Nothing* for \$6,000; Derek Gores Gallery, based in Florida, sold 35 works, including a newsprint collage titled *Full Volume Pink Graffiti* from **Derek Gores** for \$2,400.



Sebiha Demir, "Happy"  
Rademakers Gallery, Amsterdam



Claire Shegog, "Busby's Fiorucci"  
Aureus Contemporary, Providence



With all the massive success this exhibition has cultivated this past week, Aqua is the ideal showcase to discover under-the-radar works. "When I first was approached to direct Aqua, I was excited by the challenge to help grow and advise young galleries and artists, and I'm thrilled at how receptive the public was to their work," said Katelijne De Backer, Director of Aqua Art Miami and Art New York. "The boutique presentation of Aqua is intimate, and it allows people to feel the passion behind each piece, instilling a much deserved sense of appreciation."

Amy Morton, Owner and Director of **Morton Fine Art**, was pleased to sell five works on canvas and five mixed-media works. Since one of her focuses is African-American and African art, she had a lot of repeat clients but also noted the attendance of many new collectors and museum professionals.

Sara Nightingale, Owner and Director of her eponymous **Sara Nightingale Gallery** who sold eight works to both novice and established collectors, remarked on the unique identity of Aqua for emerging exhibitors: "The cozy, relaxed and intimate atmosphere provided a much needed respite for many; the mix of indoor and outdoor public spaces is such a winning formula. I do love the Aqua experience of discovery and accessibility that the fair is known for."



Theresa Ganz, "Glory and the Complex Body",  
Winner of the ArtSlant Prize 2015

**Aqua Art Miami showcased an impressive array of innovative installations and exhibitions. Highlights from the show are as follows:**

- In Aqua's lobby, *ArtSlant*, the premier resource for art and the fair's official sponsor, decorated the spaces with the network's emerging artist including: Theresa Ganz, Rachel Garrard, Helena Parriott, Tina Tahir and Bryan Volta. The opening VIP night of Aqua announced Ganz as the winner of their Prize

Shortlist for her Rococo-inspired piece titled *Glory and the Complex Body*.

- *Orbs* by Ai Campbell: Celebrated for her harmonious monochromatic use of black and white, Ai Campbell's new body of work entitled "Orbs" carries the fluidity and serenity that is characteristic of her intricate work. Here, her ink grace the contours of one of the most challenging infinitely-dimensional surface of all; the unrelenting sphere. The orb accentuates and liberates the lively shapes in her work. In addition, the orb is functionally synergistic as the delicately curved patterns readily traverse each circular plane to meet at their starting points. Aesthetically, each orb has its own character and progression. Displayed together, the orbs interact to create a kaleidoscopic effect.
- *The Tender Noise* by Akane Yorita: The art work, which was elegantly installed over the hot tub at Aqua, changes its shape with the breath of wind, the visual experience based on sequence and the essence of "before and after" embodied in the chain of repetitive threads: through these features of her works Akane Yorita wants the viewer to revert to his/her own position while facing the always changing image of the work. She creates indefinite, unstable space inviting the image of the onlooker as well as his/her point of view into the blank/space of the threads she creates. The Tender Noise is a part of "Where Threads Lead" a touring exhibition.
- *Believe* by Nara Park: Washington DC-based sculptor Nara Park's Believe replicates a shallow wishing well through the artist's signature modular design of printed boxes that intimate natural motifs. Arranged into a carefully stacked assemblage and filled with sand and stray coins, the work invites viewers to insert their own aspirations into the ongoing accumulation of collective wishful thinking. The overall ephemerality and transience of "Believe" gives way to Park's chief philosophical concern as she posits the human desire for stability and permanence through a candid veneer of fragility, artificiality, and feigned authenticity.

Notable Guests at Aqua Art Miami included **Brooke Goldstein**, filmmaker and human rights attorney; **Talin Maltepe**, art dealer and curator, Sevan Gallery; actress **Barbara Edwards**; actor **Adrian Grenier**; and many other prominent collectors, dealers and television personalities.

### **Sponsors & Partners**

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**For more information on Aqua Art Miami, please visit [www.aquartmiami.com](http://www.aquartmiami.com), call 305.517.7977 or email [info@art-miami.com](mailto:info@art-miami.com).**

**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 Art Wynwood during Presidents Day weekend in February, Art New York + CONTEXT New York in May, Art Southampton in July and Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco in October.