



NOV 30 - DEC 4 | 2016  
VIP PREVIEW NOVEMBER 30

## AQUA ART MIAMI CELEBRATES IT'S 12<sup>th</sup> EDITION WITH STRONG SALES AND ATTENDANCE

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

MIAMI, FL – December 7, 2016 - **Aqua Art Miami**, the sister satellite fair to Art Miami, celebrated an incredibly successful five-day fair for their 12<sup>th</sup> edition at the Aqua Hotel. This year the fair reported impressive attendance and sales with more than 11,000 collectors, curators, art advisors, artists and museum professionals.

Fair Director, **Katelijne De Backer**, carefully curated a selection of 51 international galleries that highlighted emerging and mid-career artists from around the world. Numerous galleries reported strong sales throughout the fair with works by **Ben Frost**, **Hebru Brantley**, **Ken Wood**, **Liz Tran** and **Frank Hyder**, proving to be in very 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. "Aqua gives young artists and galleries the chance to grow by offering an incredible platform with an international audience through Miami Art Week," said **Katelijne De Backer**, **Director of Aqua Art Miami and Art New York**.

### Sale highlights included:

- Chicago based **Vertical Gallery** sold 90% of their booth during the VIP Preview with selections by **Ben Frost** and hometown artist **Hebru Brantley** selling for close to six figures.
- **Stick Together Gallery** based in Amsterdam held a solo exhibition by **Max Zorn** and sold their entire room to various collectors with placements between \$35,000 and \$40,000.
- Brooklyn's **New Apostle Gallery** placed works by **David Hollier** including *Jimi Hendrix* for \$12,000, *Lady Gaga* for \$8,000 and the typed *Obama* for \$4,000.
- Florida based **CASS Contemporary** placed **Natalia Rak's** *Whisper of the Witch* for \$4,600, and **Shark Toof's** *Triptych* for \$4,100, the entire collection of **Michael Reed's** works on display was acquired.
- Pittsburgh based **BoxHeart Gallery** sold **Kyle Ethan Fischer's** assemblage sculpture *Rats Get Fat* to Swiss collector, **Daria Sandburg's** assemblage sculpture *Light Traveler: All Aboard* and her wall sculpture *Light Traveler: A Fresh Breath of Elsewhere*.
- Istanbul's **Galeri Selvin** placed two works from **Mahmut Karatoprak** as well as a piece from **Zerrin Tekindor** and **Nejdet Vergili**.
- **j ferguson gallery** from Farmville placed a selection of their spray-painted model train works from street artists **CON**, **STOE**, **PRE**, and **KICK**.
- St. Louis' **Pele Prints** placed five large prints including **Carly Kurka's** *Fall and a Divide* series and **Ken Wood's** *Writ Large* series, which hung in the lobby in the hotel.
- London's **Simons Gallery** placed four large works including **Leonor Anthony's** homage to Basquiat, *Sin Titulo* for \$13,800, two sculptures from **Aimee Perez** for a combined total of \$5,000, and a photo by Italian artist, **Daria Cipriani** for \$3,500.
- Miami's **Projects Gallery** experienced a selling frenzy amongst fairgoers when they sold thirty-five pieces in one day.
- **Fine Art Consultancy** based in London and Tokyo sold all of their works from artist **Jasia Szerszynska** to a private collector.

- Paris' **galerie bruno massa** had a total of \$15,000 in sales.
- **Ernest G. Welch School of Art & Design, Georgia State University** placed thirteen works to various collectors.

**Nanna Kassenaar** of **Kallenbach Gallery** based in Amsterdam was thrilled with the response from fairgoers at Aqua Art Miami stating, "For Kallenbach it was the first time presenting original work by Favela Painting in the United States. The response was amazing and we sold almost all of the works and have options on the ones that are still available." She continued, "We sold them to respected collections from Netherlands and the United States. For a first time, this was unexpected and we are very pleased."

The fair also featured an exciting selection of special projects in the hotel lobby and idyllic courtyard entitled *Art in Public Spaces*, where a group of provocative installations and large site-specific projects curated by **Grela Orihuela** and the Aqua Art Miami Director, **Katelijne De Backer**.

As guests entered the hotel they were greeted by **Liz Tran's** explosive *Traveling Planets*, a mixed media on nylon from 2016, presented by **Phylogeny Contemporary**, continuing into the courtyard, they were presented with **Vertical Gallery** showcase of Chicago graffiti artist turned art star, **Hebru Brantley's** multicolor *Fly Boy (Blue)*, *Fly Boy (Green)*, *Lil Mama (Red)* fiberglass sculptures. He draws inspiration from pop culture icons, comic book heroes, Japanese anime and street art pioneers including **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, **KAWS** and **Keith Haring**. Defined as an Afro-futurist, he uses comic book style compositions to address his own experiences of African American and urban life in America.

Late Colombian artist **Luis Jimenez's** brightly painted sculpture *The Crop Series* presented by **ACA Art Center** from Miami was a huge crowd pleaser amongst fairgoers. Paying tribute to Mother Nature, the artist noted that, "It was an invitation to fall in love with nature all over again, to treat it with respect, to observe it, and listen to it because it's always telling us something. We need to reconnect with it."

**Sheila Giolitti's** 2016 *Tomorrow #2*, made from ink, acrylic, gouache, archival metallic pens on Yupo was presented by **Mayer Fine Art**. Her works focus on her fixation with the connections between all matter and consciousness.

**Frank Hyder**, who participated in New York City's Great Egg Hunt, created the mixed media work, *Janis*, which was the talk of the fair creating a unique centerpiece in the middle of the hotel's courtyard. The work was comprised of denier nylon, acrylic paint, LEDs, iPod audio system, internal electric blower and nylon tie downs and presented by **Projects Gallery**.

Lie Nay Tijen (Chen's) *Spheres* was presented by **Lassiter Fine Art** in the courtyard. Chen creates each work piece by piece, in one-inch increments of polished stainless steel and the hallmark of Chen's art is the emotion maintained within each piece.

Pele Prints presented artist **Ken Wood's** 2016 series with works including *Writ Large V*, *Writ Large IV* and *Writ Large VI*. These were all collagraph and relief prints studying color and geometry and were found within the lobby of the hotel.

The installation *El Vuelo de la Semilla* by the Cuban-born contemporary artist **Leonor Anthony** from 2015 was presented by **Simons Gallery**. The installation was inspired by her experience as a Cuban-born immigrant.

**NAOYA's** *Kira Kira Poly Kanten* (2016) made from resin, plastic and LED light was presented by **Onishi Gallery** creating a childlike exhibition at Aqua Art Miami. POLY KANTEN is the ever-

evolving imaginary world filled with fairy-like children, animals with human personalities, and animistic goddesses.

This year, the five-day fair partnered with the Association of Women Art Dealers (AWAD), a non-profit trade network on a mission to facilitate business between and for women art. As a special treat, Aqua Art Miami and AWAD hosted a morning panel on Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> addressing *Unconscious Bias and the Art World* moderated by **Susan Mumford**, Founder and CEO of AWAD. The panel included **Sara Kay**, Founder and Chairwoman of the Professional Organization of Women in the Arts (POWArts,) and Founder of Sara Kay Fine Art; **Mashonda Tifre** an American R&B recording artist and the Founder of ArtLeadHER, a dynamic platform celebrating and bringing awareness to the women creating, curating and thriving in the male-dominated art world; **Dawn Delikat**, Associate Executive Director of Pen + Brush, a 120-year old non-profit championing women artists and writers, and **Steven Alan Bennett**, collector of realist art of women, made by women.

A variety of notable guests were seen at Aqua Art Miami including **Lenny Kravitz, Janna Bullock, DJC Money, LaBlanc, DJ Moonray, Bee Miranda, Tiffani LeBlanc, Jean Shafiroff, Gina Mcfall, Stephanie Zabriskie, Tristan Eaton**, and many other important collectors, curators, dealers and art aficionados.

#### **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, Art Southampton in July and Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco in October.

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