



## **AQUA Art Miami Celebrates its 13<sup>th</sup> Year with Strong Acquisitions & Attendance at Exclusive VIP Preview**

(December 6 – 10, 2017)

AQUA Art Miami, a sister fair of Art Miami that kicked off art week, celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> edition at the AQUA Hotel in Miami Beach with an exclusive VIP Preview on **Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**. The VIP Preview presented a tightly curated array of emerging and mid-career artists with 52 international exhibitors in the intimate exhibition rooms that open onto the classic South Beach hotel's beautiful courtyard.

The VIP Preview welcomed over 3,750 prestigious art collectors, connoisseurs, advisors and notable museum professionals, 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, and **Annie Carlano**, Senior Curator of Craft, Design & Fashion, The Mint Museum, Charlotte, NC, **Kandi Burruss** from *Real Housewives of Atlanta*, and **Matt Altman** and **Josh Altman - The Altman Brothers** from *Million Dollar Listing*, who viewed and acquired important works from emerging and mid-career artists, fresh talent, important street artists, and fashion designers.

**Highlights from the first day's sales at AQUA Art Miami included:** **Stick Together** placed over half of **Max Zorn's** new collection with the sales valued at over \$50,000; **Galerie LeRoyer** placed five works by **Rock Therrien**, including *OMG*, *ROCKETMAN*, *PORN STAR*, *BACK OFF* and *WTF* totaling sales of \$18,000; **Black Ship 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 Bling Big* by **Keyser Siso**; **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; and **AC Contemporary**, from Buenos Aires Argentina, sold eight works from a collective of female Chilean artists.

**Audrey Sykes, Director of Stick Together** commented: "I saw a build up of demand from this year turn into an early rush of sales as doors opened yesterday. Collectors came in knowing exactly what they wanted, others knew they had to be here early to see the full collection. Half of it was gone before sundown."

**Grela Orihuela, AQUA Art Miami Fair Director** commented: "I am so happy with the attendance and sales. Everyone enjoyed the performance from DJ Bea Pernia and engaging with the exhibitors and artists."

At the entrance of the hotel, fairgoers were greeted by *LOVE*, created by Burning Man breakout star, **Laura Kimpton** and presented by **HG Contemporary**. Once inside the lobby, artist and fashion designer **BAS Kosters** creations were presented by Amsterdam's **Rademakers Gallery**, while **Cindy Lisica** Gallery's pop-up shop offers a curated selection of original artwork and collectable art objects, photography, limited edition prints and books.



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

New York's **Morphew** is presents "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 features 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 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Confederation, and spearheaded **Art From Canada** curated by **Tranter-Sinni Gallery**. The project highlights 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**.

On **Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**, the **Consulate General of Canada in Miami** and **Tranter-Sinni Gallery** will host an up-close and personal talk with **Jay Bell Red Bird** and **Halina Stopyra**. Red Bird will speak 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, have influenced his style and technique, while **Stopyra** will discuss her work from a healing arts perspective, as well as her technique and ability to heal through nature, people and the universe.

#### **EDITOR INFORMATION:**

Click [here](#) to view and download images.

**The generous sponsors and partners include:** Artsy.net; Consulate General of Canada, Tito's Handmade Voka, Bourlet Art Logistics, UBER, Turon Travel, La Croix, greathire. Cultural partners include: The Bakehouse Art Complex; BOCA Museum of Art; Patricia & Phillip Frost Art; The Museum of Contemporary Art; ICA Miami; Uprise Art; NSU Art Museum; The Boca Raton Museum of Art; HistoryMiami Museum; ICA Miami; CultureOwl; Young At Art Museum, Lily Noches, VOSS, Buonicotti Fund, Venu Magazine, The Art Newspaper, Mutual Art, Art Nexus, Miami Magazine, Create! Magazine, Aesthetica and Artillery.

**Fair Hours:** Thurs., Dec. 7, 12PM - 9PM, Friday, Dec. 8 - Sat., Dec. 9, 11AM – 9PM, Sunday, Dec. 10; 11AM – 6PM

**Location:** AQUA Hotel at 1530 Collins Avenue Miami Beach, FL 33139

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

A One-Day Fair Pass provides admission to AQUA Art Miami. A Multi-Day Pass provides admission to Art Miami, CONTEXT and Aqua Art Miami Fairs.

- One-day fair pass (includes admission for AQUA Art Miami only) - \$25
- Multi-day fair pass (includes admission for Art Miami, CONTEXT and Aqua Art Miami) - \$95



- Seniors 62 years + - \$20
- Students 12-18 years - \$20
- Children under 12 years accompanied by adult – free. Due to risk of damage to artwork, strollers are not allowed.
- Groups 10 or more AQUA only (online ticket purchases only) - \$20

For further information or tickets, please call 1.800.376.5850, email [AQUA@AQUAartmiami.com](mailto:AQUA@AQUAartmiami.com) or visit [www.AQUAartmiami.com](http://www.AQUAartmiami.com).

### **TRANSPORT**

- A courtesy shuttle service will run daily during fair hours provided for all ticket holders between AQUA Art Miami at Aqua Hotel and Art Miami/CONTEXT Art Miami at One Herald Plaza
- **First View VIP Courtesy Car Service** – Uber is Art Miami's preferred private transportation provider. Art Miami, CONTEXT and AQUA First View VIP Cardholders will have access to complimentary one-way transportation to the fairs by registering their First View VIP card at [www.artmiami.com](http://www.artmiami.com), [www.contextartmiami.com](http://www.contextartmiami.com) or [www.aquaartmiami.com](http://www.aquaartmiami.com) to receive promo code.
- **Uber Offer for All Attendees** – Art Miami and CONTEXT have teamed up with Uber to provide \$20 off first ride (use code ARTMIAFAIRS) and up to \$5 off first time POOL rides (use code MIAUBERPOOL) to or from Art Miami, CONTEXT and Aqua. Valid for new Uber users only.

### **FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

#### **VIP RELATIONS, MARKETING, SPONSORS + PARTNERS:**

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