

ICON DIES
Versailles founder Felipe Valls passes away, Page 2C



TOUGH ROAD AHEAD FOR DOLPHINS AFTER TEXANS
Sunday home game will be followed by away games against 49ers, Chargers and Bills. Playoffs hang in balance, Page 27A



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20 years of art

When Art Basel Miami Beach began in 2002, it unleashed a rush of international excitement that's now expanding into tech. A fair guide, 4-9A



VIDEO: Artist Shepard Fairey's tribute.
Fairey makes tribute mural to Wynwood Walls founder Tony Goldman ahead of Art Week.



VIDEO: MOCA North Miami curator Adeze Wilford.
Wilford talked to the Miami Herald about diversity in the visual arts world.

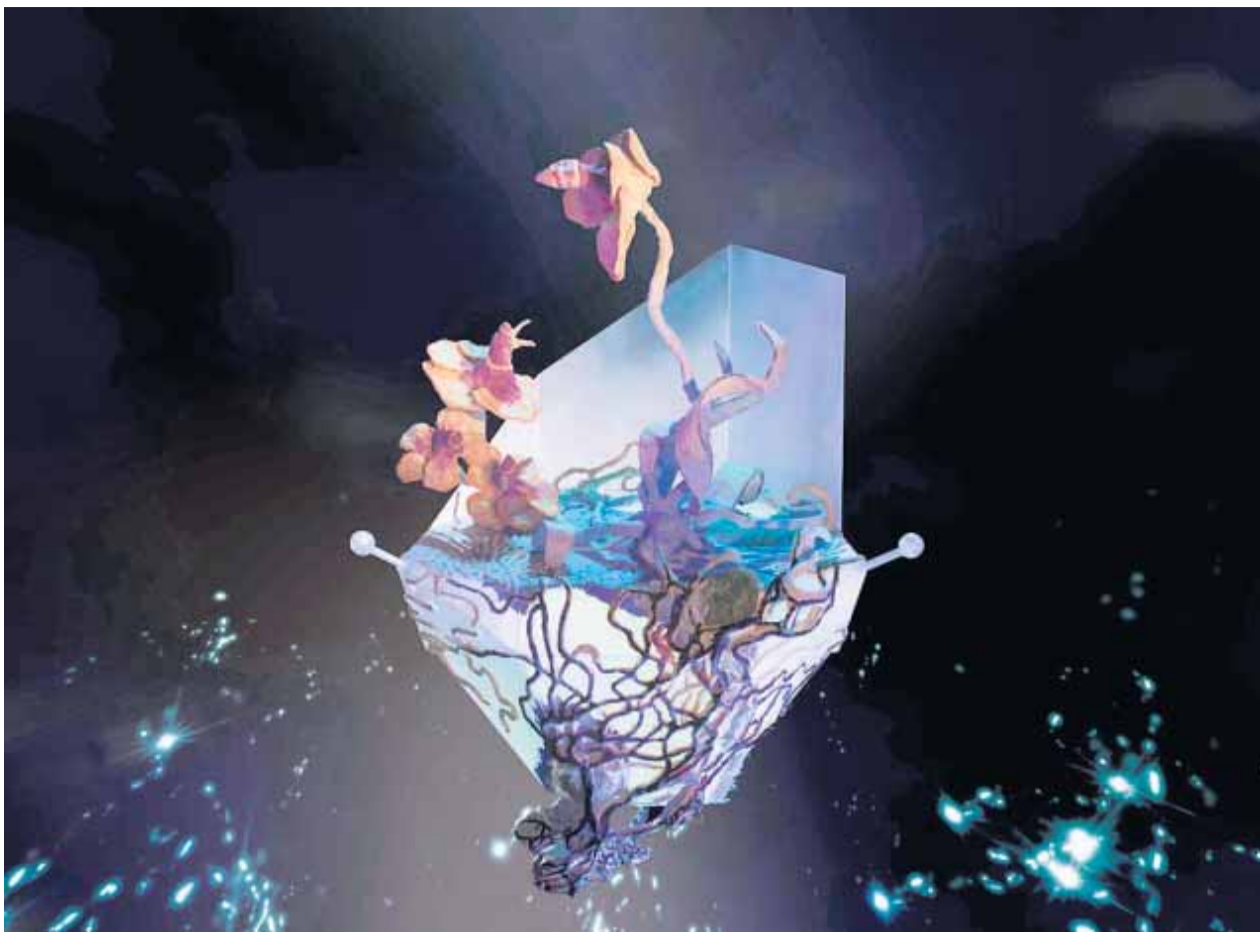


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Mostly sunny with a stray shower
85°/73° See 42A





A still from 'The Orchid and the Bee,' an expressionistic virtual reality artwork.

Courtesy of FilmGate

FROM PAGE 5A TECH

ations, said the event is meant to "onboard" everyday people into Web3 by educating the public on how emerging technology can work for them and their interests. The festival features interactive installations and panels exploring NFTs, art, gaming, finance, music and film.

"We have all these different, real, useful cases for what Web3 technologies can do for a normal person," Berdallans said. He added that the festival goes beyond the typical understanding of NFTs, which is "a cartoonish picture worth thousands of dollars just because I said so."

Events like The Gateway also point toward another trend — the growth of downtown Miami.

Berdallans said the festival is part of Mana's plans for "the rise of the Flagler District" as Miami's premier tech neighborhood. Though he credited Art Basel with solidifying Miami as an arts destination, he criticized the fair as slow to embrace digital art and NFTs. As more art and tech events spread beyond the Beach, it's time for downtown to shine, he said.

For years, Berdallans

said, the city of Miami has watched as millions of people fly into Miami International Airport, immediately take a cab to Miami Beach and stay there until they leave.

"The only time they look at downtown or the city of Miami at all is on the cab ride to and from the beach. They look at the skyline, they go, 'Oh, that's nice,'" he said. "This is the year that changes."

THE 'NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE'

It's hard to imagine where art, technology and Miami go from here when few could have predicted where we are now. Matt Medved seems to have an idea.

Medved, a co-founder of nft now, envisions a creative, virtual utopia. He stressed the importance of educating people on how NFTs work, especially through events like The Gateway.

He views NFTs as tools that can empower artists of all disciplines, both financially and creatively. As today's children grow up going to virtual concerts in the Metaverse, Medved noted that the next generation will be Web3 natives, not skeptics.

"We actually see The Gateway as a glimpse into that not-so-distant future where digital art and NFTs coexist with tradi-

tional art in creative harmony," Medved said. "That's where we really feel things are going."

Artists' careers can benefit from the potential of NFT technology, he said. Digital artists can build a collector base similar to traditional artists. Musicians can collect royalties on the blockchain. Creators can directly connect with their supporters without the middle man of social media or streaming services. The plight of the "starving artist" could be over, he posited.

But the promises of the not-so-distant future have to contend with today's realities. The crypto market has been hit hard in recent months, and the bankruptcy of FTX, the cryptocurrency exchange company that the Miami Heat arena was named after, shocked the industry.

Though the FTX collapse damaged crypto's credibility, Medved said that the ordeal may be healthy for the space in the long run. He said he is in favor of sensible regulations in the U.S. to deter irresponsible "bad actors" from crypto.

"Digital ownership isn't going anywhere," he said. "The importance of digital assets will only increase."

Just down the street from The Gateway, another multi-day festival hopes to push the boundaries of film, art and technology.

FilmGate, which runs from Dec. 2 to 5 in downtown Miami, promotes innovative artworks and performances from around the world that use emerging technologies like augmented reality, virtual reality and artificial intelligence, said Alexander, the FilmGate founder.

The event is organizing several activations across Miami that use technology that wasn't possible just a few years ago, she said. One of the artworks is "Cosmogony," a live performance at the Frost Museum of Science Dec. 3. A group of dancers in a studio in Europe will be motion-captured and broadcast in real-time as avatars in Miami.

"We are approaching it from a creative point of view," Alexander said of the festival. "We reflect how technology is changing artistic expression and also storytelling."

For some Miami-based artists participating in Web3 events and art fairs, this year's Art Week marks a pivotal time in their careers. Previous Art Basels helped introduce artists like J.N. Silva and Cory Van Lew to Miami before they decided to move to the area full time.

Van Lew, a painter and digital artist originally from the Seattle area, said visiting Art Basel Miami Beach in years past helped him level up as an artist.

"It was like a portal I would go through and come back. I would just feel so much better about my art and have new visions," he said. "I just gravitated toward Miami."

While living in upstate New York during the pandemic, an artist friend introduced Van Lew to NFTs, a concept he thought was cool but didn't understand at all.

Van Lew had been selling some of his artwork online through a website, but the idea of a collector buying an NFT instead of the original, physical artwork didn't make much sense, he said.

One person, who made his riches by "selling land in the Metaverse," told Van Lew that if he minted his work on SuperRare, an NFT marketplace, he would buy the first one. Van Lew gave it a go and sold his first five NFTs quickly.

Since then, he said, the NFT space has changed his life and career for the

better. He's more financially stable and able to focus on his art and networking with others. As he dove into the NFT rabbit hole, he learned that Miami was a crypto-friendly city and moved here just over a year ago.

Compared to other cities, Miami's approach to art and technology is especially inspiring, he said.

"Miami being such a hub of culture, it's a place where the American Dream has happened time and time again," he said.

Silva, a Venezuelan-born photographer and digital artist, made a similar leap of faith when he moved to Miami from New Jersey in April 2021. Miami just seemed "like the future," he said.

A lifelong "computer nerd," Silva got into blockchain technology in 2017. In 2020, after losing photography jobs, he was able to work from home and sell his art on the blockchain.

But after a depressing experience during the pandemic up north, he needed a change of pace. Miami was the perfect fit, he said. He's felt at home ever since.

"It's been one of the best decisions I've ever made," he said.

Silva, who has a stacked schedule this Art Week speaking on several panels, is passionate about educating fellow artists on NFTs and the crypto world as the technology develops. Soon, he said, Web3 technology will become easier for the average person to use, like sending an email.

The excitement among digital artists is palpable, Silva said, even after a disastrous few months for the crypto market. Artists are just happy to display their work to a wider audience despite the sometimes-bumpy ride.

"The way we express ourselves is through art," he said. "When you're up, you make art. When you're down, you make even more art."

For now, Miami Art/Tech Week is up.

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VIDEO: Take a look at last year's fair.

After a 2020 pandemic hiatus, the Art Basel fair returned to Miami Beach in 2021 with new ways to connect with collectors and art buyers.

Here's where to find Miami Art Week fairs in 2022 (some have moved!)

BY MIAMI HERALD STAFF

• Dates below reflect public opening hours; VIP openings are generally a day or two prior. Some fairs invite VIP applications on their websites.

SUNDAY, NOV. 27

• **Art With Me Miami 2022**, Virginia Key Historic Park, 4020 Virginia Beach Dr., Miami; <https://bit.ly/3RTbAeT>. A mini-Burning Man-type fest on Virginia Key, with music, food, wellness practices and art. Tickets: \$75.

TUESDAY, NOV. 29

• **Fridge Art Fair**, 2705 NW Second Ave., Miami; 202-590-1357; fridgeartfair.com. Fun and funky fair welcoming artist of all sorts. Through Dec. 3. Tickets: Free admission, reserve a spot online.

• **Prizm Art Fair**, 4220 N. Miami Ave., Miami; prizm.art. Now in its 10th year, Miami's premier fair for art from the African diaspora has its own tent this year in the Design District; some events will be held at the Little Haiti Cultural Center. Through Dec. 4. Tick-

ets: \$15 for one-day pass, \$50 for multi-day pass, VIP passes range from \$100 to \$500.

• **Untitled Art Fair**, along Ocean Drive at 12th Street, Miami Beach; 646-405-6942 or untitledartfairs.com. Curated fair on the sand features cutting-edge global galleries. Through Dec. 3. Tickets: \$45 for one-day pass, \$75 for multi-day pass.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30

• **Art Miami and Context Art Miami** at the Art Miami Pavilion, One Herald Plaza at Northeast 14th Street, downtown Miami, on Biscayne Bay between the Venetian and MacArthur causeways, Miami; 800-376-5850 or art-miami.com. Miami's longest-running fair remains a local favorite while drawing major collectors of secondary-market works (at Art Miami) and new works by emerging artists (Context). One ticket gets visitors into both. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: \$57.50 for adult one-day pass, \$130 for multi-day pass.

• **DesignMiami**, Meridian Avenue and 19th Street, adjacent to the Miami Beach Convention Center, Miami Beach; 305-572-0866 or

designmiami.com. The finest in historic and contemporary furniture, jewelry and (somewhat) practical installation. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: \$38 for general admission one-day pass, \$112.50 for VIP pass.

• **Ink Miami Art Fair**, Suites of Dorchester, 1850 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; inkartfair.com. Top-quality prints and multiples from major artists. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: Free admission; reserve a spot online.

• **Miami River Art Fair**, Penthouse at Riverside Wharf, 125 SW North River Dr., Miami; 973-270-7774 or miamiriverartfair.com. Boutique contemporary art fair, this year hybrid. Through Dec. 1.

• **MUCE Modern & Contemporary Art Fair**, Kimpton Angler's Hotel South Beach, 660 Washington Ave., Miami Beach; 305-534-9600; anglershotelmiami.com. Showcase of work by 20 female and artists of color. Through Dec. 4; free.

• **New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA) Miami**, Ice Palace Studios, 1400 North Miami Ave., Miami; 212-594-0883; newartdealers.org. One of the most popular venues of the week for discovering emerging artists. Tip: Works here sell

lightning fast. Through Dec. 3. Tickets: \$55 for one-day pass, \$75 for multi-day pass.

• **Pinta Miami**, 3385 Pan American Drm, Miami; pintamiami.com. Pinta moves to the historic Coconut Grove Pan Am hangar for this year's showcase of Ibero American Art. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: \$75 for VIP inauguration day admission, \$30 for standard admission.

• **Red Dot Art Fair**, and **Spectrum Miami Art Show**, Mana Wynwood, 2217 NW Fifth Ave., Miami; reddotfair.com. Sister fairs, with Red Dot for galleries and Spectrum for artists. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: \$35 for one-day pass, \$75 for opening night preview, \$100 for multi-day pass.

• **SATELLITE Art Show**, Indian Beach Park at 4601 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; satellite-show.com. Exhibitions in shipping containers, performance and interactive experiences. Nov. 29 VIP tickets \$100; Nov. 30-Dec. 4, \$20 for one day.

• **Scope**, Scope Miami Beach Pavilion, 801 Ocean Dr., Miami Beach; 212-268-1522 or scope-art.com. Contemporary work in a tent on the Beach. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: \$60

for one-day admission.

THURSDAY, DEC. 1

• **Aqua Art Miami**, Aqua Hotel, 1530 Collins Ave., Miami Beach; 800-376-5850 or aquaartmiami.com.

Cutting-edge work from emerging artists. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: \$25 for one-day pass, \$130 for multi-day pass, \$275 for VIP pass.

• **Art Basel Miami Beach**, Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Dr., Miami Beach; artbasel.com. The mother ship fair that started it all offers top international galleries and artworks. Through Dec. 3. Tickets: \$70 for one-day pass, \$90 for first access pass

• **Point Comfort Art Fair + Show** presented by Hampton Art Lovers, Historic Ward Rooming House and Gardens, 249 NW Ninth St., Miami; hamptonartlovers.com/gallery. One of the highlights of Soul Basel, with conversations, historic exhibitions and works by contemporary Black artists. Through Dec. 4. Tickets: Free admission, reserve a spot online.

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