

INSIDE THE ARTIST'S STUDIO

Amid the bacchanal that surrounds art fairs these days, it's possible to lose sight of what it's really all about—the art. To get to the heart of creativity in the making, Art Basel Miami Beach brings the fair right to the artists' door with a two-day studio tour.

BY THOMAS HOLLINGWORTH



Frances Trombly

Friday December 5th, Design District

Bhakti Baxter: Represented by Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Baxter shares his studio with Jason Hedges, Jay Hines, Nicolas Lobo and Tao Rey. His works, which mainly take the form of ink on Mylar drawings, explore intelligent designs found in nature, spiritual divinity and the artist's personal history.

Jim Drain: Working with textiles and mechanisms, Drain creates large-scale yet intricate works whose psychedelic colors and forms disclose a variety of meaning.

Naomi Fisher: Considered internationally to be one of Miami's most important photographers, Fisher also produces voluminous bodies of vibrant ink on Mylar drawings.

Jason Hedges: A lover of food and history, Hedges expresses a variety of subtle societal and political mores through his work. Focusing on the primal instinct of cooking, Hedges recently created a modular spit triptych to simultaneously roast three whole lambs.

Jay Hines: An accomplished draftsman and sculptor, Hines' work takes the form of appropriated materials arranged in tongue-in-cheek configurations and Rorschach ink blot-style drawings.

Cristina Lei Rodriguez: Sharing her Miami studio with Leyden Rodriguez-Casanova, Frances Trombly and Wendy Wischer, Rodriguez sculpts abstract forms from a variety of plastic materials and adornments and coated with epoxy resin. Her works are admired for their unique visual textures and for the duality between natural and artificial forms.

Nicolas Lobo: Working in sculpture but unlimited to a specific medium, Lobo's intelligent works focus on intersecting cultural trends and social anthropology.

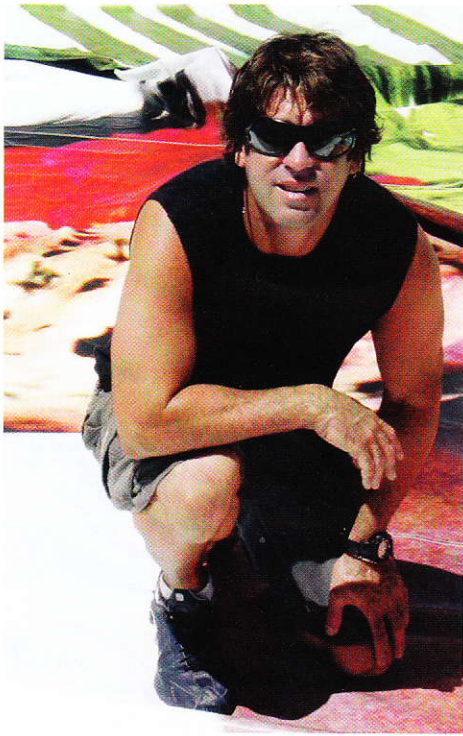
Martin Oppel: Represented by Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Oppel's whimsical sculptural pieces and hyper-impressionistic oil on canvas play with light and photorealistic techniques. His work deals with socio-political dualities and paradigms in ancient history.

Tao Rey: Primarily working in vinyl, Rey is an accomplished hand in his medium and long standing personality of the Miami art scene. His work is in the collections of a number of prominent local collections and museums.

Leyden Rodriguez-Casanova: Represented by David Castillo Gallery in Miami, Rodriguez-Casanova's work asks questions regarding domestic objects, suburban clichés and the labor associated with these traditions.

For this year's fair, Oliver Sanchez will convert his Design District studio into the Bordello Bodega— a Cuban-style convenience store of curiosities. All proceeds will be donated to the Design and Architecture Senior High school in the Design District.

Right, the studio of Cristina Lei Rodriguez; below from left, Carlos Betancourt, Mette Tommerup and Maria Martinez-Cañas; bottom, *Glitter*, 2008, by Wendy Wischer.



Oliver Sanchez: A New York art scene veteran, Sanchez's projects range from large canvases to quirky sculptures and performance pieces. For this year's fair he will convert his studio into the Bordello Bodega, a Cuban-style convenience store of curiosities. All proceeds will be donated to the Design and Architecture Senior High school in the Design District.

Frances Trombly: Very much a crafts person, Trombly employs her hand in the production of woven works of art that mimic everyday objects with sublime realism.

Wendy Wischer: Represented by David Castillo Gallery, Wischer's sculptural works take the form of ethereal light installations, glass bead floor configurations and retro/glam style forms with a quiet, otherworldly sensibility.

Wynwood

Beatriz Monteavaro: Represented in Miami by Fredric Snitzer Gallery, Cuban-born Monteavaro's work ranges from sculpture to cross-hatched drawings, to epic-scale storyboards.

Gavin Perry: Since his work *The Sleep of Reason Breeds Monsters* was featured on the cover of the *Miami Contemporary Artists* book last year, Perry's vortex-style images made from vinyl and resin have asserted themselves firmly within the Miami zeitgeist.

George Sanchez: Sanchez's context-driven public installations and architectural re-interpretations have long been a staple of group shows at institutions such as MOCA North Miami, the Miami Art Museum and Locust Projects.

Saturday December 6th, Throughout Miami

Daniel Arsham: One of the rising stars of Galerie Emmanuel Perrotin, Arsham, who now works between Miami and New York, produces sculptures and drawings that focus on the relationship

between nature and architecture.

Carlos Betancourt: Represented in Miami by Diana Lowen Fine Arts, Betancourt is a mid-career artist who stages elaborate camp sets for photo shoots involving brightly colored fruit and oily young models, his work has a playfulness that fits well with Miami's aesthetic.

Robert Chambers: One of Miami's best-known artists, Chambers' work, especially his large sculptures, often have sci-fi undertones. He is also a curator and teacher.

Craig Kucia: Butterflies, cookies, tree stumps and other emblematic objects cryptically appear amid tropical foliage in Kucia's paintings creating worlds of puzzling ingenuousness.

Lynne Golob Gelfman: Gelfman's canvases of purposeful drawings have been described as an elegant amalgam of Mark Rothko and Bernard Frize. Deeply concerned with both line and abstraction, Gelfman creates layered whirls of paint which evoke familiar forms that speak plainly about process, pattern and gravity.

Maria Martinez-Cañas: Martinez-Cañas is a photographer who works with innovative, non-traditional photographic techniques exploring the potential of technical challenges with symbolic imagery that depict realities found in nature and the human condition.

Magnus Sigurdarson: A photographer, video artist and obsessive collector of printed material, Sigurdarson is represented in Miami by Kevin Bruk Gallery. The artist imbues aspects of culture with personal messages that communicate his rare fascination for film and inimitable take on the emotion of love.

Mette Tommerup: Investigating themes of nostalgia associated with her Danish heritage, Tommerup's work has been featured in group shows in London, New York and Miami. Most recently her paintings have revolved around the themes of post-WWII nationalism.

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