

# WALTER OTERO

## CONTEMPORARY ART

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## These Were the 5 Best Things at Art Basel Miami Beach 2016



Art Basel Miami Beach is famous for providing the type of hyper-stimulating diversions that, in other circumstances, might completely derail a person. Confetti-blasting floats, all-day pool parties, celebrity dinners and starry performances, and oh, yes, of course, the art! Between multiple art fairs, performances, happenings, various pool scenes, and the seeming mass exodus of the international art world, it's very easy to lose your way—which is why sometimes it's best to lean on an expert. And who better to call out what's new and now from Art Basel than José Carlos Diaz, the Milton Fine Curator of Art at the Andy Warhol Museum? (Bonus points: He's a Miami native.) Below, Diaz selects five standouts that he spied during the festival. Feel free to reference them at your next cocktail party and make like you saw it yourself.

### Faena Art's "Tide by Side" parade, Claire Tancons artistic director

"Claire's historical research into European and Caribbean processions and parades challenged her to select artists who could successfully make art an experience in the streets of Miami Beach," said Diaz, citing the appearances by Carlos Betancourt and Ernesto Neto. "For example, Betancourt's piñata exploded with red confetti and lottery tickets, successfully making the audience part of the experience."

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## 'TIDE BY SIDE' IN MIAMI BEACH, PRESENTED BY FAENA ART

BY *The Editors of ARTnews* POSTED 11/28/16 6:15 PM



Performance view of "Tide by Side," 2016, presented by Faena Art in the streets of Miami Beach.

JORGE MINA

**Today's show:** "Tide by Side" was a processional performance, present by Faena Art, in the streets of Miami Beach on Sunday, November 27. The performance, which was directed by Claire Tancons in collaboration with Arto Lindsay and Gia Wolff, featured Ernesto Neto, Los Carpinteros, Carlos Betancourt, Carnival Arts, Marinella Senatore, and Miralda, as well as more than 30 cultural institutions from South Florida.

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Pages 12-13 >>



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Pages 16-17 >>

➔ Faena fiesta  
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Pages 9-10 >>

➔ This week in Miami  
Our pick of the must-see shows, satellite fairs and events this week, starting with the Rubell Family Collection  
Pages 21-26 >>

### Los Carpinteros

The Cuban artist duo Los Carpinteros have put their own spin on the conga line—literally—by doing it in reverse. The artists wanted their performance to subvert the traditional carnival dance. Everything is the opposite of what is expected, including the performers' costumes, which were uniformly black instead of brightly coloured, and the music, which was played backward. "In Cuba, from the pre-revolutionary era through to today, carnival is not only an occasion for celebration but is also a popular way to express political views and propaganda," the artists say in a statement. "Conga Irreversible raises philosophical questions related to that history by reversing the musical score and choreography of a traditional Cuban carnival street procession."



Pelican Passage, a huge sculpture inspired by carrozas, altars and piñatas

### Celeste Fraser Delgado and Damián Rojo

Delgado and Rojo are the artistic directors of Carnival Arts, a community group in Miami that has produced numerous carnivals over the past decade. Siren Song, their contribution to Tide by Side, was the duo's final performance. They invited young artists from the crisis shelter Miami Bridge, along with 350 other participants from schools and youth groups, to reflect on "cultural wealth and consumer wealth", and the meaning of luxury today. A siren queen was carried on a boat at the head of the parade, followed by dancers and singers performing Bel Kongo (Beautiful Kongo). The project was "just a few miles from [the students'] homes, but a world away from their experience of life so far," Delgado says. "To bring young people whose

families have such limited resources into an environment built for billionaires at once gives them a glimpse of what can be achieved, and also reveals the great inequalities right here in our own community."

### Carlos Betancourt

For the Miami-based artist Carlos Betancourt, Tide by Side was too good an opportunity to pass up. "The traditions of carnival, parade and procession are part of my heritage, so it is only natural," he says. His contribution, Pelican Passage, revolves around a monumental sculpture inspired by carrozas (carnival floats), altars and piñatas. A small group of Betancourt's friends and family acted as "worshippers" congregating around the Pelican float as it glided down the street. "The theme focuses on ancient ritual

cleansing practices associated with the symbol of the pelican," Betancourt says. In Christian symbolism, the pelican pierced its own breast with its beak, feeding her young with the blood to avoid starvation.

### Marinella Senatore

The Italian artist Marinella Senatore staged an updated version of her 2013 work, The School of Narrative Dance, for the parade. She was unfazed by the scale of the production. "I have worked with over 76,000 people so far, in the last ten years, in over 12 countries, and every time the unpredictable part of such performances is the most intriguing aspect. I consider every community-based ritual a great tool for sharing stories, memories, and preserving and reviving cultures," she says. G.H.



The School of Narrative Dance (2013) received a refresh for the Miami parade

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## TIDE BY SIDE PROCESSIONAL CELEBRATING THE FAENA DISTRICT MIAMI BEACH

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Yesterday, the completion of the **Faena District Miami Beach** was commemorated by a processional entitled, *Tide by Side*. Taking place District-wide, the performance was directed by **Claire Tancons** in collaboration with **Gia Wolff** and **Arto Lindsay**, taking inspiration from festivals, carnivals, and civic rituals. Participants like **Los Carpinteros**, **Marinella Senatore**, **Carlos Betancourt**, and art collective **Carnival Arts** came together to celebrate **Faena Art's** future programming at **Faena Forum**, **Bazaar and Park** with **Alan Faena** and **Len Blavatnik**.

This week's Faena Art programs throughout the Faena District are likely to become the highlight of happenings during **Art Basel in Miami Beach**, including: "Once with me, Once without me," a dance performance by **Pam Tanowitz**; "Soledades," a series curated by **Florencio Noceti**; "TimeCapsule," a geodesic dome designed by **Juan Gatti**; and **Graciela Hasper's** site-specific monumental mural "Untitled."

The Forum, designed by OMA/Rem Koolhaas, promises to be a state-of-the-art venue in presenting and showcasing the ambitious, the innovative, and the groundbreaking in fields ranging from art and entertainment to business and beyond. Its appellation is an evocation of the civic and architectural concept of a forum. Following this ancient Greek inspiration, the Forum will offer Miami a dynamic and democratic setting faithful to Alan Faena's vision of a neighborhood rooted in art, culture, and erudition.

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