

Art in America



DECEMBER 2006

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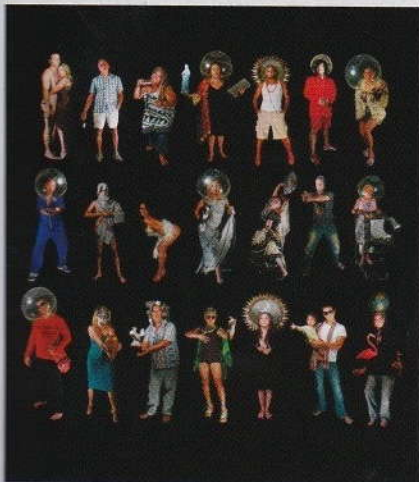
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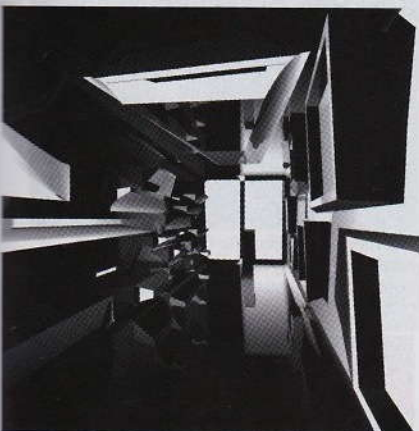
MIAMI PREVIEW

BY RONI FEINSTEIN

The fifth edition of the international fair **Art Basel Miami Beach** (Dec. 7-10) once again offers visitors a cornucopia of citywide exhibitions and events geared to cutting-edge art. At the Miami Beach Convention Center, the principal venue, some of the world's most prominent galleries present their wares in the company of younger galleries comprising the **Art Nova** section of the fair. In a beachfront village of converted shipping containers situated a few blocks away, **Art Positions** offers the work of other



Detail of Carlos Betancourt's *The Cut-Out Army*, 2006, 100 individual cutouts on cardboard, each 8 feet tall. Courtesy Diana Lowenstein Fine Arts.



Zaha Hadid Architects: Digital rendering of a 42-foot container, 2006; at Kenny Schachter ROVE. Courtesy Zaha Hadid Architects, London.

young galleries. One of the exhibitors, Kenny Schachter ROVE, London, has replaced the usual shipping container with a prototype portable pavilion designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid that is itself for sale. A few of the other exhibitors have variously violated their containers or dispensed

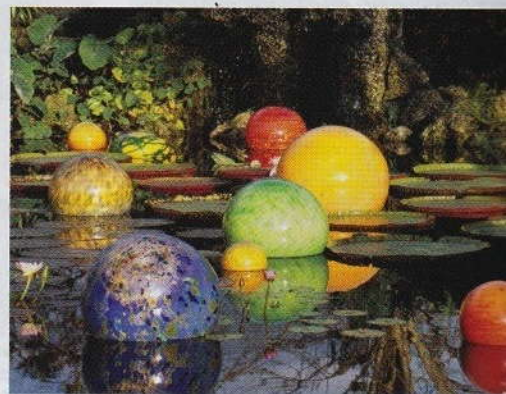
with them altogether. Also in this location is **Art Perform**, a program of daily performances curated by Jens Hoffman of the CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco, and an artist DJ program organized by Alanna Heiss and Klaus Biesenbach of New York's P.S.1. **Art Projects** includes both public works of art and performances that are on view at various sites in Miami Beach (maps are provided). In the botanical gardens opposite the convention center are the **Art Video Lounge**, programmed by Michael Rush of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University, and the **Art Sound Lounge**, curated by David Weinstein of P.S.1.

Seeking to take advantage of the more than 36,000 visitors expected to arrive in Miami for the fair, the city's numerous art institutions, collections, galleries, alternative spaces and artists have planned a rich array of offerings. As in years past, a few new art spaces have timed their openings to coincide with ABMB. One of these is the **Freedom Center**, a new cultural and educational facility established by Pedro Martin's Terra Group. Sited in Miami's historic Freedom Tower, it opens with the exhibition "Carlos Alfonzo: Extreme Expression, 1980-1991," curated by Julia P. Herzberg. The Moore Space, one of the city's leading alternative galleries, is inaugurating a satellite venue, the **Moore Space Loft**, a few blocks from its Design District location, and the **Ambrosino Gallery**, a long-prominent commercial gallery that stands opposite the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami, is opening a Wynwood branch. The Wynwood Art District, the epicenter of Miami's contemporary art scene, promises to deliver any number of surprises, as on a seemingly daily basis empty warehouse spaces are being turned over to artists and dealers for temporary exhibitions, installations and performances. Already planned is the presentation of Carlos Betancourt's "The Cut-Out Army," consisting of a group of 8-foot-high photographic cutouts of people (nearly 100 of them), at the warehouse of the future offices of **La Comunidad Agency** on NW 1st Place. The Design District once again has a full program of exhibitions and events planned and this year a record number of 10 satellite fairs round out the whole.

Among the noteworthy events is the two-day symposium "Creator, Collector, Catalyst: The University Art Museum in the Twenty-First Century," hosted by the Wolfsonian-Florida International University and co-organized with the Princeton University Art Museum, being held at the Miami Beach Convention Center

Dec. 5-6, just prior to the opening of ABMB. On Dec. 6, *Aquarelle*, Guillermo Kuitca's site-specific public art project for Aqua, a Dacra Development project on Allison Island, is being unveiled; last year, a Richard Tuttle project was dedicated at the same site. On Dec. 7, the night of the fair's official opening, Miami artist George Sanchez-Calderon will stage an art exhibition/event in Bicentennial Park in downtown Miami. Titled "An American Falla," it involves the creation (and subsequent destruction by fire) of a full-scale re-creation of the first home built in Levittown, N.Y., ca. 1947. On the same night, the Miami collaborative FriendsWithYou is organizing a blimp parade titled "Skywalkers" to extend from 21st to 5th Streets along the Miami Beach shoreline; other events are promised as well.

On Dec. 8, **Art Loves Film** shows



Dale Chihuly: *Nijjima Floats*, 2005, hand-blown glass; at the Fairchild Tropical Gardens. Photo Terry Rishel.

the 1969 classic *Easy Rider* at the Colony Theatre on Lincoln Road; Dennis Hopper, its director and one of its stars, will be present at the screening. On the 10th, a reception will be held at Cesar Pelli's new **Carnival Center for the Performing Arts** with public art works by José Bedia, Cundo Bermudez, Gary Moore, Anna Valentina Murch, Robert Rahway Zakanitch, Konstantia Kontaxis and Ed Talavera [see "Front Page," this issue].

Satellite Fairs

At least 10 additional art fairs will occur during the four days of ABMB (one focuses on design, another on photo-based work and still another on contemporary prints). The **New Art Dealers Alliance Inc. (NADA)**, made up of 90 international galleries, once again takes up residence in the Ice Palace Studios at 59 NW 14th St., while **Pulse**, with 50 exhibitors, returns to Miami for its second run at 2700 NW 2nd Ave. **Scope**, which is making its fifth appearance in Miami, occupies a new venue: a 40,000-square-foot tented structure set in Roberto Clemente Park at 101 NW 34th St. in Wynwood. On its inaugural run in Wynwood is **Photo Miami**, which is directed by Tim Fleming and includes 50 international galleries showing photo-based work, video and new media; it takes place in the SOHO Building at 2136 NW 1st Ave. In a warehouse space across the street from Pulse is **Fountain**, an "alternative fair" organized by Williamsburg, Brooklyn, dealers John Leo and David Kesting, which presents the work of young artists and galleries (it is at the corner of 29th St. and NW 2nd Ave.). The Design Miami fair is located in the Moore Building.

The remaining five fairs are taking place on Miami Beach in proximity to the convention center: **Aqua**, created last year by Seattle dealers with an emphasis on West Coast galleries and artists, is at the Aqua Hotel (1530 Collins Ave.). Two fairs making their debuts—the **Bridge Art Fair**, initiated by Chicago's *Bridge* magazine, and **Flow Miami International**, directed by Matthew Garson—are at the Catalina Hotel and Beach Club (1732 Collins Ave.). Sponsored by the International Fine Print Dealers Association (IFPDA), **INK**, which includes 15 publishers offering contemporary work on paper, is at the Suites of Dorchester at 1850 Collins Ave.

Finally, in lieu of Frisbee, which was held at a Miami Beach hotel during the past two years, founders Anat Egbi and Jen DeNike have initiated **Free Frisbee**, consisting of posters by more than 60 artists distributed throughout the Greater Miami area, the intention being to make artwork available to all.