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**25th ANNIVERSARY OF ART MIAMI AND THIRD ANNUAL CONTEXT ART FAIRS**

 **CLOSE WITH RECORD SALES & ATTENDANCE**

***Participating Galleries Realize Six- and Seven-Figure Sales as Private and Institutional Buyers Acquire Important Works and Discover New Talent at Miami’s Anchor Fairs During Art Week***

**MIAMI (Dec. 9, 2014)** – Marking its 25th anniversary, **Art Miami**, the leading international contemporary and modern art fair that takes place each December during Miami Art Week, along with its adjacent sister fair **CONTEXT**, closed this past weekend with record-breaking sales and attendance that far exceeded the 2013 figures. Significant works sold to both established and new private and corporate collectors, notable museum professionals, cultural foundation executives, dealers, art advisors and consultants. More than 82,500 attendees visited Art Miamiand CONTEXTthrough its duration, with more than 14,000 patrons attending the private VIP Preview on Tuesday, December 2, which benefited the **Pérez Art Museum Miami and Miami Light Project**. Additionally, the fair was attended by hundreds of international members of the press who reported on the fairs.

Bruce Helander said in his review in *The Huffington Post*: “Art fairs come and go, but the city’s original and longest running contemporary and modern art fair, Art Miami, has the enviable position of showcasing annually a great deal of high level, cutting edge works that are always a highlight. Maintaining this enviable and preeminent position in America’s contemporary art fair marketplace is a complicated feat, as each year the management employs a rigorous vetting process for galleries that invariably denies some prior participants to make room for new and more exciting prospects.”

“The 25th edition of Art Miami was a tremendous success on every level,” said Nick Korniloff, Fair Director and Partner of Art Miami LLC. “The fair’s attendance of 82,500 visitors over six days was unprecedented, and our exhibitors reported strong sales to collectors, institutions, and private art advisors while they made new relations with culturally-savvy international clientele. Many exhibitors left with new commissions for their artists and a tremendous amount of follow-up to do on works that have been placed on hold. It was an amazing week!”

Recognized as two of the most important annual contemporary art events in the U.S., Art Miami and CONTEXT together showcased artists from more than 200 leading galleries representing 1,875 artists from 60 countries around the globe. Spanning 250,000 square feet across three city blocks, the fairs buzzed as record crowds of high-quality international collectors acquired important works by established, emerging, mid-career, and cutting edge artists. The open atmosphere between both fairs afforded an energetic and spirited dialogue between artists, galleries and collectors.

“The 2014 edition of Art Miami was better than ever,” said Frej Forsblom, Director of Galerie Forsblom in Helsinki, Finland. “There were numerous collectors, museums, and important institutions on premises looking for new things. We sold 13 works total, which included a six-figure piece by Jason Martin and several five-figure pieces, in addition to five other works that are still on hold.”

Starting with the VIP Preview on December 2, art enthusiasts lined up around the block for early access and the first opportunity to acquire the works on view. Notable guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in an extravagant VIP lounge hosted by prestigious Italian car maker **Maserati**, who celebrated their 100th Anniversary and showcased a luxurious collection of their latest automotive designs outside the fair’s entrance. Guests also mingled at the interactive **Christie’s International Real Estate** booth, which presented international luxury residential real estate offerings. Throughout the fair’s duration, the pavilions at Art Miami and CONTEXT were filled with some of the biggest names in the art world, from top collectors and museums directors to celebrities and socialites. Key influencers included: **Pérez** Art Museum Miami Director **Thom Collins,** collectors **Steve and Shari Ashman,** Nike CEO **Mark Parker,** Miami Theater Center founder and artistic director **Stephanie Ansin, Robert and Diane Moss, Louise Sunshine, Ira and Roni Elegant, Marvin Ross Friedman, Isaac Rosenberg, Paul Pebbly, Michael Rose, Jorge and Darlene Pérez, Christie’s International Real Estate CEO Dan Conn, Jeff and Lori Hyland, Tony and Jenny Baumer, Jessica and Janet Goldman, Tommy Hilfiger, Adrienne bon Haes, Josh and Ashley Liemer, Anthony and Katharine Rubino, Jeff and Yolanda Berkowitz, Beth and Richard Tasca, Jerry Powers, Edward Shumsky, Daniel Templon, Stephan Ropac, Andrew and Stacey Kroll, Susan Kronick, Rick Moser, Ron Shuffield, Audrey and Martin Gruss, Juan Montoya, Urban Karlsson, Alberto and Fernanda Gavazzi, Michael and Carolynn Friedman, Mario Cader-Frech, Jane Wooldridge and Stetson Glines, Carmen Bigles, Amy Zakarin, Carol and Vincent Damian, Jean Shafiroff, , David Lombardi, Nick and Lynn Buoniconti, Chip Gesner,** artists **Udo Noger, Chul Hyun Ahn, Peter Sarkisian, Peter Anton, Victor Matthews,** and **Mr. Brainwash**, among others.

A strong museum presence was seen daily at the fairs with board members, curators and directors attending from: Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Arts and Design, , Phillips Collection, Los Angeles Contemporary Museum of Art, Chrysler Museum of Art, Smithsonian Institution, The Dalí Museum, Wolfsonian, **Pérez** Art Museum Miami, Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Jewish Museum, Norton Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, ICA Miami, Whitney Contemporaries, Junior Associates of MoMA, Bass Museum of Art, Frost Museum, McNay Art Museum, Crocker Art Museum, NSU Museum of Ft. Lauderdale, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Cornell Fine Arts Museum, National Academy Museum, National Gallery of Art, and MOCA North Miami, amongst dozens of others.

Among the **dealers reporting six- and seven-figure** sales were Amy Li Gallery, Birnam Wood Galleries, BLANK SPACE, Company Agenda, Cernuda Arte, Dranoff Fine Art, Emmanuel Fremin Gallery, Fabien Castanier Gallery, James Barron Art LLC, KM Fine Arts, Kuckei + Kuckei, Mike Weiss Gallery, Seager Gray Gallery, Sundaram Tagore Gallery, Susan Sheehan Gallery, Michael Schultz, Galerie Forsblom, Galería Casa Cuadrada, Licht Feld Gallery, Lyle O Reitzel Gallery Mark Borghi, Galeria Mayoral, Michael Goedhuis, The McLoughlin Gallery, and White Room / Liquid Art System. **Six-figure sales** far surpassed 2013 purchases for paintings, sculptures, photographs and mixed-media works by artists such as Wifredo Lam, Cy Twombly, **Jason Martin, Fernand Léger, Miya Ando, Roy Lichtenstein, Joan Miró, Alexander Calder Andy Warhol, Donald Sultan, Tony Cragg, Hans Hoffmann, Sam Francis, Robert Chamberlain, Frank Stella, Marc Chagall, Keith Haring, Willem de Kooning, Amelia Peláez** .

A sampling of some of the several **$1 million+** sales includes *Cinq Tournesols dans le Paysage* by **Fernand Léger** from the Michelle Rosenfeld Gallery and *U.L.* by **Gerhard Richter** from Galerie Von Vertes.

Avid interest in **newer and mid-career, cutting edge artists** translated into strong sales and sold out series of works by Armando Marino, Mart Visser, Axel Crieger, Seung Mo Park, Byung Jin Kim, F. Lennox Campello, Audrey Wilson, Brett Amory, Christian Faur, MARCK, Erwin Olaf, Achille DE LUCIS, Jerry Powers, Drew Tal, Antoine Rose, Melisa Mizrakli and Nathan Vincent.

“The third edition of CONTEXT concluded with great success,” said Julian Navarro, Director of CONTEXT. “Strong sales were reported throughout the six days of the fair, and various high-profile museums, institutions, private and public collectors, and the general public had the opportunity to appreciate and acquire works by some of the most important emerging and mid-career contemporary artists today. I’m so pleased with the results in my inaugural year of directing the fair, and I extend my sincere gratitude to the galleries and artists for attending from far and wide and trusting in our vision. Looking forward to what’s ahead!”

Art Miami and CONTEXT showcased an impressive array of innovative installations, programming, and exhibitions.Highlights from the shows are as follows:

 **• Perceived Values** provided artists with a space to stretch out through solo presentations in the passageways linking Art Miami’s three main pavilions, which showcased bold installations carefully selected by **LaRete Art Projects’** curators: **Julia Draganović, Elena Forin and Claudia Löffelholz**. Art Miami provided an opportunity for visitors to explore and evaluate the concept of value over the course of the past decade – specifically as it relates to ethics, lifestyle, and meaning.

 **• HOT SPOTS**, also curated by **LaRete Art Projects’** esteemed team, positioned provocative installations and projects by individual artists whose galleries participated in the fairs. At Art Miami, the three artists on display were **Jaildo Marinho (Durban Segnini Gallery)**, a Brazilian native whose work is focused on geometry and abstraction; **Victor Matthews (KM Fine Arts)**, an internationally exhibited artist who has been working on the recognizable White Paintings series for the past decade; and **Antonio Pio Saracino (Todd Merrill Studio)**, an Italian-born artist, architect, and designer who presented a marble sculpture The Guardians: Hero, which is a reinterpretation of Michelangelo’s David. The 8,000-pound piece sits at 13ft.-high and is a permanent exhibition in New York City’s Bryant Park.

 **• Art From Berlin** offered insight into Berlin’s influential art scene with six contemporary galleries selected by a panel of Berlin-based curators and art critics. In the BERLIN LOUNGE, the Galleries Association of Berlin (lvbg) installed a curated exhibition and offered information on the city’s contemporary art galleries and institutions, featuring Freundeskreis Willy-Brandt-Haus e.V. This microcosm of the global art capitol's gallery community includes a cross-section of established and emerging exhibitors, including Galerie Friedmann-Hahn, Galerie Kornfeld, Läkemäker, Grundemark Nilsson, Galerie Tammen & Partner, and Wichtendahl Galerie. Art From Berlin is presented with official support from the municipality of Berlin and the European Union (EU).

 **• The Director’s Project**, *CONTEXT-ing / Listening as CONTEXT*, created immersive and intimate situations for listening to the work of sound artists exploring the ontological aspects of sound, while also working with various materials, approaches, and techniques. *CONTEXT-ing / Listening as CONTEXT* premiered on the VIP opening night in a 2,600-square-foot Sound Positions Pavilion, a dedicated space annexed to the main CONTEXT pavilion that featured 12 individual sound stations, the largest sound project ever showcased at an art fair.. Artists included Tania Candiani, Mexico; Richard Chartier, U.S.; Richard Garet, Uruguay/U.S.; France Jobin, Canada; Emeka Ogboh, Nigeria; Kristin Oppenheim, U.S.; Manuel Rocha, Mexico; Steve Roden, U.S.; Hong-Kai Wang, Taiwan; Hildegard Westerkamp, Germany/Canada; Jana Winderen, Norway; and Zimoun, Switzerland.

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 **• New York-based Keszler Gallery** presented a unique collection of works by famed English street artist **Banksy**, representing some of the artist’s most important pieces from 2005 through today.  Several of the original works, including spray paintings and mixed media sculptures, were created during his month-long New York City residency in 2013 and featured in HBO’s recent documentary, “Banksy Does New York.”

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 **• JW Marriott Marquis Miami**, the official luxury hotel of Art Miami, hosted a special exhibition in conjunction with the fairs, welcomed VIPs, hotel guests, and the public at large to peruse curated pieces by emerging and mid-career international talents on display in the hotel lobby. The unique satellite installation was comprised of more than 15 works of art from renowned galleries around the world.

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Other exciting special events during the fairs included:

 **• Miami Light Project** partnered with CONTEXT to present Grammy nominated artist/producer Mr. Pauer, who performed an exclusive selection of his signature sound Electrópico™ filled with live percussion and an array of guest singers, turning the night into a memorable experience.

 **• 1AN Symposium**, presented by One Art Nation, brought together prominent opinion leaders and industry experts to speak on a variety of art topics, including valuation, security, shipping, storage, restoration, authenticity, and more.

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 **• A Piece of Me** featured visual arts students from the high school honors class of Miami's renowned **New World School of the Arts**, who collaborated to produce site-specific installations in response to a significant artwork by Hernan Bas, an acclaimed alumnus from their school,. The young collaborators worked in the antithetical medium of paper, and the results were exhibited with the video by their predecessor.

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 **• The Children’s Art Center** provided a safe, on-site playroom at Art Miami for children ages 3-13, who were introduced to art while their parents visited the fairs. Kids enrolled in the program had exclusive access to participate in activities that included art explorations, games, puzzles, and storytelling.

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**Sponsors & Partners**

The generous 2014 sponsors and partners for Art Miami and CONTEXT include: Christie’s International Real Estate – Official Luxury Real Estate Partner of Art Miami, Maserati North America – Official Luxury Automobile and VIP Lounge Host, Pérez Art Museum Miami – VIP Preview Partner, JW Marriott Marquis Miami and Hotel Beaux Arts Miami – Official Luxury Hotels of Art Miami, CNN, Wall Street Journal, Bourlet Art Logistics – Official Art Handling and Transport Provider, Turon Travel, Onkyo, *Haute Living*, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, Midtown Miami, Harvard Business School Club of New York, Heineken, Société Perrier, Flavorpill, LaRete Art Projects, Art From Berlin and the Galleries Association of Berlin (lvbg), Spuntino Catering, Bakehouse Art Complex, Boca Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Nova Southeastern University, Museum of Art | Fort Lauderdale, Mutual Art, Artfacts.Net, artprice.com, ArtForbes.com, International Sculpture Center and Sculpture Magazine, Art in America, The Art Newspaper, Art + Auction, Blouin ArtInfo.com, Art & Antiques, Hyperallergic, Artlog, Art Nexus, Arte Al Día, art ltd., Artillery Magazine, ANNUAL Magazine, IRREVERSIBLE magazine, ART OnCuba, Art Circuits Guide and Maps, Around Town Arts & Culture Magazine, The Miami Herald, New York Observer, Manhattan magazine, Social Life Magazine, Private Air Luxury Homes, Balthazar, South Florida Luxury Guide and VENÜ MAGAZINE.

**About Art Miami LLC**

Art Miami LLC is a partnership consisting of art and media industry veterans Nick Korniloff, Mike Tansey and Brian Tyler. In addition to the three fairs during Miami Art Week, the company annually produces Art Wynwood during Presidents Day weekend in February, CONTEXT New York in March, Art Miami New York in May, Art Southampton in July, and Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco in October.

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