

ArtReview

INTERNATIONAL ART & STYLE

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Sunshine state

*The fair, the collectors:
why the art world
loves Florida*

The high life

making it in Miami

clusives:

o-essay by Tierney Gearon, Ed Ruscha in the studio
Gabriel Orozco, Rodney Graham, Gabriel Kuri

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Roll with it

Beyond the art fair, Sarah Gavlak discovers that Miami is an eclectic, easygoing city. Just make sure you have a ride

Miami in September is a sweltering 97 degrees. But it's not just the weather that makes Miami sizzle; contemporary art is hot here, too. On my trip to sample the scene, I discover that while 'the new' is paramount in this city, and the thirst for young talent nearly unquenchable. There is also a rich history of architecture, collecting and sophisticated living that pre-dates the familiar art deco story. Add to this mix of flash and fine a diverse culture of people from all over the world (over 60 per cent of Miami residents were born somewhere else) and you have one of the most exciting cities of the 21st century.

I arrive at my hotel, the Sagamore in South Beach. Although taking a dip in the pool is quite a temptation, I am due at the Wolfsonian Museum, which I discover to be quite a bit further than the quick walk promised by the hotel concierge. Miami is very much a car kind of place, and taxis are expensive. Renting a car is a good option; having a car and driver at your beck and call is even better! During my stay many of the curators, collectors, dealers and even artists chauffeur me to my next destination. It's a very friendly city, and you get the feeling you really can rely on the kindness of strangers. ▶



Miami is a friendly city. You get the feeling you can rely on the kindness of strangers

Clearwater is a major force down here; as she puts it, she "wanted to create the kind of art scene I would want to be in". And she has achieved this brilliantly, mixing shows of Miami artists, such as Dara Friedman, with international surveys. For Art Basel Miami Beach, emerging local artist William Cordova (29 Nov-8 Feb) is showing alongside Richard Artschwager (3 Dec-15 Feb).

I dash over to the Design District to investigate the small, but vital, gallery scene. My first stop is the Moore Space, founded as an experimental art centre in 2001 by collector Rosa de la Cruz and housed on the second floor of the Twenties Moore Furniture Company building owned by her friends and fellow collectors Ivelin and Craig Robins.

Next, over to Kevin Bruk Gallery to see new work by Jesse Bransford and Pablo Tamayo. In addition to established artists (Peter Halley, Fabian Marcaccio), Bruk shows younger talents, such as Sam Gordon and Adam Ross.

He admits to being a painting gallery and to hating photography; and along with his suspicion of new media is a neglect of women artists (there are none on his roster).

I move on to the new Casa Reigner Gallery, where the owner and the director are both women and the art on show is a healthy mix of media by both boys and girls. I walk around a group exhibition of video installations, paintings, works on paper and sculpture from a culturally diverse group of artists from both Miami and abroad. This is definitely the gallery to visit if you are looking for the freshest talents from Latin America.

A visit to the large and comparatively posh space of Bernice Steinbaum is equally impressive. The grande dame of the Miami scene, Steinbaum – who had a gallery in New York for many years – has always prided herself on showing a wide-ranging group of African-American and Latin-American artists.

Tired and hungry, I take a taxi to SOYKA, which is actually north of the Design District, but well worth the trip. This is the place all the galleries recommend for lunch; in fact, when I walk in, I spot Kevin Bruk eating with one of his artists. I have a delicious salad and an iced tea, but nearly freeze to death in the Arctic air-conditioning. Take a sweater to Miami. You won't need it outdoors, but the restaurants, hotels and shops are freezing! My last two ▶



Wolfsonian

1001 Washington Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33139
+1 305 531 1001
www.wolfsonian.fiu.edu

Rubell Collection

95 NW 29th Street
Miami, FL 33127
+1 305 573 6090
Open Weds-Sun, 10am-6pm

Margulies Collection

591 NW 27th Street
Miami, FL 33127
+1 305 576 1051
Open Fri & Sat, 11am-5pm



MoCA Miami

Joan Lehman Building
770 NE 125th Street
North Miami, FL 33161
+1 305 893 6211
www.mocanomi.org

SOYKA

5580 NE Fourth Court
Miami, FL 33137
+1 305 759 3117



Founded as the centre of an ultra-elite social season, Palm Beach symbolizes the good life

Feb); photographic portraits of Frida Kahlo by the artists in her circle (4 Dec-1 Feb); and film-maker Jonathan Demme's renowned collection of Haitian art alongside Bruce Weber's photographic series documenting Haitian life in Miami (to 31 Dec). There's something for everyone.

Another museum that has brought an outstanding variety of visual culture to the city is the very new Miami Art Museum. Located in the yet-to-be-renovated downtown area, MAM was created in 1996 through a community-wide planning process, headed by civic and county government leaders. It sounds like a red-tape nightmare, but somehow it's worked, thanks to the determination of its director, Suzanne Delehanty, who has built an institution that is definitely an international contender. Delehanty and the museum curators walk me through their impressive exhibitions, including a haunting multi-sensory installation by Brazilian artist Cildo Meireles.

MAM is currently in the process of relocating to a new facility in Bicentennial Park as part of Museum Park Miami – the city's proposal for an abandoned 29-acre waterfront property on Biscayne Bay in downtown Miami, which will also include a premier public park and sculpture garden and the Miami Museum of Science.

This could be one reason why MAM has mounted "Museums for a New Millennium" (to 4 Jan, 2004), an exhibition focusing on contemporary museum architecture by the likes of Frank Gehry, Rem Koolhaas, Ricardo Legorreta, Daniel Liebeskind, Richard Meier, José Rafael Moneo and Renzo Piano. The show comes to the rather worrying conclusion that many museums today are valued by their external appearance, not by the treasures they contain. MAM, at least, is destined to impress both inside and out.

ArtReview's trip was co-ordinated by Arthur Duncan, whose cultural tours can be booked through Western and Oriental. His extensive knowledge and first-hand experience of countries worldwide enable him to create diverse and exciting tailor-made itineraries.

Arthur Duncan, +49 170 533 0839,
 arthurduncan.journey@t-online.de.
 Western and Oriental, +44 (0)20 7313
 6600, info@westernoriental.com



The Moore Space

4040 NE Second Avenue
 Miami, FL 33127
 +1 305 438 1163
 www.themoospace.org

Grass

28 NE 40th Street
 Miami, FL 33137
 +1 305 573 3355
 www.grasslounge.com



Bass Museum of Art

2121 Park Avenue
 Miami Beach, FL 33139
 +1 305 673 7530
 www.bassmuseum.org



Miami Art Museum

101 West Flagler Street
 Miami, FL 33130
 +1 305 375 3000
 www.miamiartmuseum.org