

Art Miami and Context Art Miami close Miami Art Week with record sales & VIP attendance



Art luminaries, celebrities and collectors acquired the most important six- and seven-figure artworks from the world's leading galleries at Miami Art Week's premier anchor fairs. © Ken Hayden Photography.

MIAMI, FLA.- The first major event to kick off Miami Art Week, [Art Miami](#) maintains its prestigious reputation as the leading international contemporary and modern fair each December. Along with its sister event, [CONTEXT Art Miami](#), the fairs report record-breaking sales and VIP attendance throughout the week, and an overwhelming representation of significant works sold to both established and new private and corporate collectors, notable museum professionals, cultural foundation executives, dealers, art advisors and consultants.

A total of 79,000 people attended Art Miami and [CONTEXT Art Miami](#) throughout the week, and nearly 14,500 VIPs attended to kick off the fairs at the VIP Preview, which was presented by Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, sponsored by Christie's International Real Estate and benefited the Pérez Art Museum Miami.

"This year was a level above any in our 26 years of Art Miami," said Nick Korniloff, Fair Director and Partner of Art Miami LLC. "We saw the highest level of quality art work ever on exhibit for acquisition at Art Miami." There was a prevalence of works by artists such as Frank Stella, Joan Miró, Alexander Calder and Roy Lichtenstein.

The true success of the week was characterized by the massive sales reported by the galleries. Further establishing Art Miami as the city's integral anchor fair, Cernuda Arte gallery had some of the most significant sales for Latin American, and specifically Cuban, artists. There were two pieces by artists Mario Carreño and Amelia Peláez purchased at Cernuda Arte gallery, representing some of the most important modern work in private hands for Cuban art and totaling over \$3.5 million.

"Once again Art Miami is fantastic," said Ramon Cernuda, Gallery Director of Cernuda Arte. "We have sold over \$6 million in art in five days, and we have met a very interesting group of new clients. It is our 13th edition this year."

As well as presenting an Ai Weiwei piece, Haines Gallery sold Iranian artist Monir Farmanfarmaian's *The First Family*, which is worth over \$300,000; Farmanfarmaian recently was the subject of a career showcase at the Guggenheim. Waterhouse & Dodd placed three pieces from artists Sam Francis, Jean-François Rauzier and Theodoros Stamos, amounting to over \$450,000 in sales. Bernarducci Meisel Gallery practically sold out, with total sales reaching nearly half a million dollars. With clients from Korea, Germany and South America, [Galerie von Vertes](#) had several major purchases, including a \$1.5 million Joan Miró piece, as well as a \$400,000 work from Damien Hirst.