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What not to miss at Art Basel Miami Beach and beyond

While the UK shivers as the temperature plummets, the art world skips off in search of sunshine and sales to Art Basel Miami Beach. Now in its 16th edition, ABMB has established itself as America’s leading art fair, with its savvy harnessing of Swiss efficiency to South Beach hedonism effectively combining business and pleasure. Here are some of the highlights to be found at the fair (which is open from 6-10th December) and beyond.

ICA Miami designed by Aranguren + Gallegos

Museums and collections

The major cultural event of the week is the re-opening of Miami’s Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA Miami) in a dramatic new three-story building situated in the city’s design district and designed by Spanish architects Aranguren + Gallegos.

The inaugural show, "The Everywhere Studio", is an ambitious historical exhibition exploring the importance and evolution of the artist’s studio from post war to the present day. It tracks significant shifts in more than 50 artist’s studio practice including Picasso, Roy Lichenstein, Martin Kippenberger and Bruce Nauman, up to Elaine Sturtvant, Matthew Barney and Andrea Zittel.
There are also a number of significant new commissions in the ICA’s ground floor gallery and surrounding sculpture garden, including a new installation of paintings by Chris Ofili, a large scale sculpture including a defunct crane by Puerto Rico-based duo Allora and Calzadilla and a bent telephone pole-star by local Miami artist Mark Handforth.

The Perez Art Museum Miami, (PAMM) which opened in 2013 in a spectacular new building designed by Herzog de Meuron, is also devoted to Modern and contemporary art, with a particular emphasis on Miami’s cultural diversity and its position at the crossroads of the Americas.

As well as contemporary Cuban art from the Jorge M Perez collection, it is mounting the first mid career survey of German filmmaker Dara Friedman along with major installations by Haroun Mirza, Hew Locke and Steve McQueen.

PAMM is the latest and largest of a plethora of quasi institutional private initiatives by the Miami collector community which, since the inauguration of ABMB, have contributed to the city’s cultural regeneration. All make a point of opening special exhibitions in ABMB week.

—Louisa Buck