Art and parties in the winter sun

Art Basel, Europe's most important art fair, has just taken place in Miami for the 5th time in a row. Further cementing its place as a December fixture on the international art scene. The organizers of the contemporary art fair estimate that 75,000 people turned up this year: contributing some $13 billion to the local economy.

The fair attracts most of the top international galleries and more than a smattering of serious art investors, but its impact has grown so much on the back of its parties as on its art works. Unlike its sibling fairs in Basel and Hong Kong, Art Basel Miami has cultivated a reputation as a glamorous social event where the creative elite from New York, Hollywood, and the art world come together for extravagant parties and exclusive events. (Vera Klinkhamer and Milly von Gloeden were among those attending this year.)

The Miami branch of the art scene has always been a little more relaxed than its counterparts in London and New York, which prefer to come here to get away from it all, on a single visit. It is more of an art event, a platform for artists to showcase their work and for collectors to purchase it. The organizers of Art Basel Miami have created a design exhibition close to the Convention Center, which is the young galleries showcase at the New York Design Center (NADCA) and the events at the Miami Design District.

One of the most popular events of this year was "Sensations", a curated exhibition of American mechanical sculptures made of paper, wood, and metal. Artists were to showcase their work in a series of pop-up exhibitions. The event was held in a warehouse next to the Convention Center, and the sculptures were displayed in an unusual setting, on a table with doilies and flowers. The event was a success, with many visitors taking photos and leaving comments on social media. People described the sculptures as "beautiful" and "amazing".

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