

Billionaire, *What to See at Miami Art Basel 2016*, Text/ Lisa Schiff, November 25th, 2016



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What to See at Miami Art Basel 2016

BY LISA SCHIFF

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This year's Miami Beach Art Basel, taking place on 1-4 December, sees 269 galleries gather to show modern and contemporary masterpieces, sculpture, installations, photographs and films.



New York-based Miami-born art advisor Lisa Schiff, gives her top picks on the artists to hunt down at this year's edition of Miami Beach Art Basel.



Haim Steinbach is an Israeli-American artist living and working in New York. His ready-made sculptures follow Duchamp's exploration of recontextualising ordinary objects and Warhol's interest in mass-produced objects. I have always loved his work but this one caught my attention because I have a young son obsessed with *Star Wars*; I have two dogs who love the Kong toys; and I am obsessed with solar power. I think Steinbach is undervalued.

Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist has a spectacular show up now at the New Museum in New York where I live. It's been a great treat to have this show to explore. She is one of the pioneers of installation and multi-media art and her exploration of both feminism and the technological sublime are timely for many reasons. As for this work, it's a very domestic consumable example that can remind us of her larger installations in miniature.



SLIDESHOW: Highlights of Miami Beach Art Basel, picked by Lisa Schiff.

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African-American artist **Kerry James Marshall** is exhibiting a stunning work with Zwirner in Miami. Born in Alabama, raised in South Central, and currently living in Chicago, Marshall reinserts the black figure into the Western canon by re-examining and revising stereotypes of black people in society. Like Rist, Marshall has a show up in New York now at the Met Breuer and like Rist, the political backdrop could not be more relevant.

For me, **Peter Halley** had really disappeared from commercial view for a while but he didn't disappear from history. With two galleries newly representing him, he is back and looking fresher than ever. His 1980s use of DayGlo paint evokes the post-industrial society he aptly began exploring back then. Suddenly these works feel more relevant than ever.

Doris Salcedo is a Columbian sculptor who lives and works in Bogota. She first came into my purview when I visited Bernardo Paz's Inhotim. Her installation there was mind-blowing and I understood her importance. There is a lot of gravitas in her work that does not come across in an art fair. Growing up in a politically unstable country with a violent history led to personal trauma; she transferred that into her art, which addresses the act of collective mourning. Her monuments to loss are poetic and stoic.

Brazilian painter and sculptor **Paulo Monteiro** is an artist that I have only been introduced to recently but who has been active since the 1980s when he founded the group Casa 7. Influenced by Philip Guston and Mira Schendel, among others, his paintings explore the limits of shape and are characterised by a sense of humour. As someone drawn to abstraction, I am always looking for new artists who aren't just remixing what has already been done.

I wrote my master's thesis on California-based US artist **John Baldessari**'s composite photo works from the 1980s so I am always happy to find one out in the world for sale. Like Steinbach, Baldessari explores the use of ready-made images instead of objects, arranging them in various random juxtapositions. Unlike Steinbach though, he plays with the effects of blotting out a face or other parts of the picture and how that might alter the meaning. As our dependence on visual imagery became more and more prevalent in mass society, the exploration of the often inadvertent (and sometimes deliberate) ideological coding of photographs as explored by Roland Barthes is important to reveal and decode. Baldessari was one of many artists exploring this back in the 1980s but he did it from a very specifically southern Californian viewpoint — a place where Hollywood films dominate the psyche.

Mary Corse has been on my mind lately. Another undervalued and under-recognised female artist, Corse is one of the few female members of the Light and Space movement in California: a West Coast version of minimalism. She is best known for her experimentation with radiant surfaces and incorporates materials that reflect light, such as glass microspheres. The resulting paintings are subtle and beautiful.

Belgian artist **Francis Aijts** has been living and working in Mexico City for a very long time. This work, depicting miniature boats made of shoes, symbolises a larger performance where children from Europe and Africa formed a symbolic bridge connecting the two continents and representing an easy migration point between them.

On a recent trip to Shanghai, I had the pleasure of encountering **Cui Jie**'s work at the K11 art space where Hans-Ulrich Obrist's exhibition is currently on view. I think her paintings are beautiful and capture the city in an interesting way. You notice a different element each time you look.

For more information about Miami Beach Art Basel click [here](#).

To contact Lisa Schiff click [here](#).



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