

Artsy, *Art World Insiders Select Art Basel in Miami Beach's Must-See Works*, Text/ Molly Gottschalk, December 2nd 2016

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Art-World Insiders Select Art Basel in Miami Beach's Must-See Works

ARTSY EDITORIAL
BY MOLLY GOTTSCHALK
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Few have better insight into the most dynamic artists emerging on the market than the collectors, curators, and museum directors who traverse the globe to seek them out. This week, despite fears of lowered attendance tied to economic uncertainty following the U.S. election, or to the spread of the Zika virus, this committed set showed up in droves in Miami, dividing their time across ambitious museum and gallery openings, public art installations, more than 20 satellite fairs, and the just-opened Faena arts district. But on opening day of the 15th edition of [Art Basel in Miami Beach](#), they filled the convention center—looking for artists to discover and works to acquire.

And for the rest of us, whether in town or watching at a distance, we look to these individuals—the tireless curiosity of Hans Ulrich Obrist or the sharp eye of Mera Rubell—as our guides. We caught up with a number of them below, some hailing directly from Miami Beach and others from afar, to bring you their takes on the most compelling artists and works at Art Basel in Miami Beach.

<https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-art-world-insiders-select-art-basel-in-miami-beach-s-must-see-works>

LEO XU PROJECTS

Hans Ulrich Obrist

CURATOR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF THE SERPENTINE GALLERIES



Installation view of work by aaajiao at Leo Xu Projects's booth at Art Basel in Miami Beach, 2016. Photo by Alain Almiñana for Artsy.

Curator and Serpentine Galleries artistic director Hans Ulrich Obrist, who this week launched a new conversation series with Art Basel geared toward connecting artists with their influencers, named an installation by young Shanghai artist aaajiao (the virtual persona of Xu Wenkai) at Leo Xu Projects as a favorite of the fair thus far. The piece, *Gfwlist* (2010–2013), explores the strict arm of China's firewall, through which the state limits the online experience. According to Obrist, the installation is "based on Stanley Kubrick's black monolith from *2001: A Space Odyssey*," he said. "In the middle of the monolith the artist inserted a small printer, which prints out nonstop papers with a list of encrypted domains of websites blocked by China's Firewall (such as Google, Facebook, YouTube, the *New York Times*, Twitter, BBC, etc.)." Ultimately, he said, it "creates a junction of distribution and censorship, translation and encoding." The artist's work is currently on view in "HACK SPACE," a group exhibition co-curated by Obrist at Shanghai's chi K11 art museum.



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