



Art Basel Miami Beach

by AMA staff

The 13th edition of Art Basel Miami Beach took place from 4 until 7 December 2014, bringing together 267 galleries from 31 countries who presented works of a combined total value of approximately \$3 billion. Over the course of five days, the fair saw around 73,000 visitors, and was widely recognised as a success for galleries involved.

Van de Weghe gallery sold a Jean-Michel Basquiat painting for \$5.5 million, and a Keith Haring self-portrait for \$550,000. Skarstedt gallery sold a Sigmar Polke and a resin-and-mirror work by Juan Munoz, both for \$1 million each, and Mnuchin sold a large-scale collage by Mark Bradford entitled *White Girl* for for approximately \$1.8 million. Mnuchin also sold *Miss Remember Ford* (1964) by John Chamberlain for around \$5 million and a “Mao” portrait by Andy Warhol for \$4.5 million. A spokesperson for the gallery told artnet News that it was, “the best Art Basel in Miami Beach”. Tornabuoni Art sold two works by Paolo Scheggi, one of which broke the world record for the artist (608,000 €) . Paula Cooper gallery sold Christian Marclay’s *Actions: Floppp Silurp Spaloosh Whoomph (No.5)* for around \$400,000 range.

Sean Kelly also noted to artnet the presence of works and collectors from Latin America, commenting that they had had an “extraordinary start to the fair”. This sentiment was echoed by Alison Jacques of Alison Jacques Gallery, who said that “as always, the Latin American collectors were a strong presence, buying work by our European as well as Brazilian artists”. Larry Gagosian declined to tell Bloomberg which pieces were sold, instead saying that: “We don’t brag, we don’t talk [...] We just want the quiet thud of a check on our desk.”

There was a notable celebrity presence at the event, with decadent dinners, lunches, receptions and parties hosting guests including Leonardo Di Caprio, Kim Kardashian, P Diddy and Miley Cyrus. Di Caprio bought a Frank Stella painting from 1973 from Marianne Boesky gallery.

According to *The Guardian*’s coverage, a 2007 piece entitled *Love Remembered* by Damien Hirst sold for \$4 million at White Cube. At the Baz Luhrmann-designed booth at Galerie Gmurzynska a 1918 Picasso fresco *Venus et Amour* sold for \$1 million to an American collection. Gallery Dominique Levy reported that they had sold a work by David Hammons for \$1.5 million and a composition by Kazuo Shiraga for more than \$2 million.

It was not only Art Basel Miami Beach which drew collectors attention, but several of the satellite fairs including NADA, Art Miami, Scope and Untitled. At Untitled fair, Johannes Vogt Gallery and Ranching Gallery sold out their booths on the second day, and Fredericks & Freiser sold a Cary Smith painting to Steven and Ann Ames. NADA fair presented 80 galleries including Marlborough Chelsea, London; Christian Berst, Paris and Tomorrow Gallery, New York.

The New York Post has reported that it was at Art Miami fair that a \$90,000 Picasso plate entitled *Visage aux Mains* was stolen. The piece was last seen on camera at 10:30 pm on the Thursday evening; the theft is currently being investigated by police.

Finally, it has been revealed that the next edition of the Art Basel Miami Beach, set from December 3 to December 6, 2015, will take place during the \$500 million renovation of the Miami Beach Convention Center.