

Art | Basel

Miami Beach | Dec | 3-6 | 2015

PRESS RELEASE

MIAMI BEACH | NOVEMBER 12 | 2015

Public: 26 international artists will transform Collins Park with 27 site-specific installations and performances

For the 2015 edition of Art Basel's show in Miami Beach, Nicholas Baume, Director and Chief Curator of Public Art Fund, returns for his third year curating the show's Public sector. Under the theme 'Metaforms', 27 large-scale and site-specific installations and performances by leading and emerging artists from over 11 countries will turn Miami Beach's Collins Park into an outdoor exhibition space. Produced in collaboration with the Bass Museum of Art for the fifth consecutive year, the sector will include significant works by Olaf Breuning, James Capper, Tony Cragg, Melvin Edwards, Sam Falls, Sylvie Fleury, Katharina Grosse, Matt Johnson, Jacob Kassay, Kris Martin, Rubén Ortiz Torres, Athena Papadopoulos, Ishmael Randall-Weeks, Sterling Ruby, Michael Sailstorfer, Tomás Saraceno, Tony Tasset, Rirkrit Tiravanija, Francisco Ugarte, Timm Ulrichs, Marianne Vitale, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Hank Willis Thomas, Robert Wilson, Yan Xing and Xiao Yu.

The Public sector of Art Basel, whose Lead Partner is UBS, will open on Wednesday, December 2, with a special evening performance program featuring **Xavier Cha** (b. 1980, United States), **Ryan Gander** (b. 1975, United Kingdom), **Pope.L** (b. 1955, United States) and **Yan Xing** (b. 1986, China).

Nicholas Baume's curatorial premise, 'Metaforms', will consider how art making is, at its core, a process of transformation. The manners in which artists conceptually and physically reimagine objects or symbols will be explored, and in doing so add new layers of significance to what was once familiar in order to reveal unexpected truths.

Several of the works will be participatory. **Jacob Kassay's** (b. 1984, United States) 'Untitled' (2012-2015) is designed to provide a place for individuals to gather together in conversation. 'Healing Pavilion', a gemstone-encrusted sculpture by **Sam Falls** (b. 1984, United States), will similarly provide communal seating, in this case enhanced with metaphysical properties through minerals such as amethyst, orange calcite, jasper, lapis lazuli and rose quartz. Other work will convert inanimate objects into 'moving beings', as with 'Mountaineer Prototype' (2015) by **James Capper** (b. 1987, United Kingdom). Widely known for his large-scale, man-operated machines, Capper's brightly-colored kinetic sculpture will walk around on four telescopic legs, remotely operated via a control panel.

Power, manipulation and structures of oppression will be implied themes in several works. 'Ukpo.Edo' (1993/1996) is a stainless steel installation by **Melvin Edwards** (b. 1937, United States) comprised of large metal links, a poignant symbol of both the history of slavery and oppression, as well as the interrelation between people and cultures. **Matt Johnson's** (b. 1978, United States) 'Twisted Jersey Barrier' (2015), evocative of a warped concrete highway divider, and **Sterling Ruby's** (b. 1972, Germany) 'Big Yellow Mama' (2013), based on the notorious Alabama electric chair, both reference objects designed to exercise control. **Robert Wilson's** (b. 1941, United States) tall, slender chairs from the original 1976 production of 'Einstein on the Beach' will evoke a trio of elevated figures standing in judgment.

Reflections on identity and subjectivity are also embedded in **Olaf Breuning's** (b. 1970, Switzerland) polished steel series of oversized heads, **Athena Papadopoulos'** (b. 1988, Canada) 'Two Serious(ly) (Young) Women' (2015) and **Hank Willis Thomas'** (b. 1976, United States) single bench 'Ernest and Ruth' (2015), from his ongoing series 'The Truth is I See You' (2011). In **Yan Xing's** (b. 1986, China) playful performance, 'L'amour l'après midi' (2015), young men clad in Chinese silks and embroidery designed by the artist will flirt with passersby, projecting emotions like love, anxiety and lust through their eyes, body language and sparse dialogue.

Marianne Vitale's (b. 1973, United States) nine meter long sculpture 'Ace of Spades' (2015) is comprised of relics of the industrial age, created from 60 tons of steel scrap material sourced from a Pennsylvania track yard facility. As Vitale brings the past into dialogue with the present, so too does **Ishmael Randall-Weeks'** (b. 1976, Peru) simulated archaeology and **Kris Martin's** (b. 1972, Belgium) bare bones interpretation of the 15th-century Ghent Altarpiece by Hubert and Jan van Eyck. Objects and images from popular culture and daily life animate works by **Sylvie Fleury** (b. 1961, Switzerland), who will broadcast the name of a supposed new fragrance in neon, **Sterling Ruby** (b. 1972, Germany), with a giant tubular set of red lips, and **Michael Sailstorfer** (b. 1979, Germany), in the form of potted beer garden lights. Additionally, **Rubén Ortiz Torres'** (b. 1964, Mexico) 'Collector's Backyard Boogie' (2015), will set customized shopping carts into motion with a hydraulic lift. **Tony Tasset** (b. 1960, United States) will play with our sense of perception through a monumental deer lawn ornament, while **Rirkrit Tiravanija** (b. 1961, Argentina) will bend the meaning of language through a solar powered LED-lit sign, similar to directional signs found on highways.

For many artists, the forms, processes and systems of nature are evoked in more or less explicit ways and with varying degrees of abstraction. **Francisco Ugarte's** (b. 1973, Mexico) site-specific sculpture, 'Sunlight I' (2015), responds to the sun's trajectory and position during the days of the exhibition. The installation's eleven wooden pyramids will each correspond with a specific time from sunrise to sunset, tracking the sun's movement, elevation and azimuth, through the shifting projective geometry of the work. Additional examples include **Tony Cragg's** (b. 1949, Britain) twinned, spiraling bronze sculpture 'Mixed Feelings' (2012), **Katharina Grosse's** (b. 1961, Germany) colossal, painterly abstract forms, **Tomás Saraceno's** (b. 1973, Argentina) delicate 'One Module Cloud with Interior Net' (2015), **Timm Ulrichs'** (b. 1940, Germany) kinetic sculpture 'Von null bis unendlich (from here to eternity)' (1986) and **Ursula Von Rydingsvard's** (b. 1942, Germany) large-scale bronze sculpture, 'Bent Lace' (2014). Inside the Rotunda, **Xiao Yu's** (b. 1980, China) 'Elevation No. 2' (2013), a series of double-sided abstract canvases, invites viewers to look differently at both the traditional display and subject matter of painting.

As in the past three years, a selection of artworks will remain installed in Collins Park until February 1, 2016 as part of 'tc: temporary contemporary', a city-wide temporary public art program which is present by the Bass Museum of Art in partnership with the City of Miami Beach.

A series of live performances will be presented on **Public's Opening Night** on Wednesday, December 2. **Xavier Cha's** 'supreme ultimate exercise' (2015) will be comprised of parallel performances contrasting manipulations of the athletic form, including both the slow, controlled and fluid movements of a female tai chi master adjacent to a choreographed tractor tire routine enacted by male bodybuilders. Controlled physical exertion also marks **Pope.L's** elaborate and sorrowful production; four large men speed through the park on skateboards, while lying prone, before crawling laboriously onto a small wooden stage to sing 'America The Beautiful'. Channeling the Wildean pun of 'the earnest Ernest', **Ryan Gander's** work features a dandy hobo who will engage the audiences in scripted conversations that reveal iterations of the artist's fancied and

conflicted selves. The work, 'Ernest Hawker' (2015), was a Performa Commission curated by Mark Beasley for Performa 15. Public's opening night will also feature a special evening rendition of **Yan Xing's** flirtatious performance.

Public Opening Night, which is free and open to the public, will take place in Collins Park on Wednesday, December 2, from 7pm to 9pm. The Public sector is free of charge and will be open to the public from Wednesday, December 2 to Sunday, December 6, 2015. Tours will be offered daily at 2pm starting from the On-site Info Point (no reservation required). Private, group and school-group tours will be offered by reservation.

Collins Park is located between 21st and 22nd Street, in close proximity to the exhibition halls within the Miami Beach Convention Center and adjacent to The Bass Museum of Art.

As part of Art Basel's Salon series, on Friday, December 4 from 4pm to 5pm, Nicholas Baume will join in conversation with the artists Ishmael Randall-Weeks, Hank Willis Thomas, and Xavier Cha. Art Basel entry tickets include admission to Salon.

2015 Public artworks:

Olaf Breuning, *I Can Not Take It Anymore*, 2015, **Metro Pictures**
James Capper, *Mountaineer Prototype*, 2015, **Paul Kasmin Gallery**
Tony Cragg, *Mixed Feelings*, 2012, **Marian Goodman Gallery**
Melvin Edwards, *Ukpo.Edo*, 1993/1996, **Alexander Gray Associates, Stephen Friedman Gallery**
Sam Falls, *Untitled (Healing pavilion...)*, 2015, **Galerie Eva Presenhuber**
Sylvie Fleury, *Eternity Now*, 2015, **Bass Museum of Art**
Katharina Grosse, *Untitled*, 2012, **Galerie König, Galerie nächst St. Stephan**
Rosemarie Schwarzwälder
Matt Johnson, *Twisted Jersey Barrier*, 2015, **303 Gallery, Blum & Poe**
Jacob Kassay, *Untitled*, 2012-2015, **303 Gallery**
Kris Martin, *Altar*, 2014, **Sies + Höke**
Rubén Ortiz Torres, *Collector's Backyard Boogie*, 2015, **OMR**
Athena Papadopoulos, *Two Serious(ly) (young) Women, (Hubba Hubba Trouba and Ouchy Waa Waa Mama')*, 2015, **Supportico Lopez**
Ishmael Randall-Weeks, *Paraíso*, 2015, **Revolver Galería**
Sterling Ruby, *Big Yellow Mama*, 2013, and *Lips*, 2014, **Gagosian Gallery**
Michael Sailstorfer, *Voilà (Dubai) 1*, 2011, and *Voilà (Dubai) 3*, 2011, **Galerie König**
Tomás Saraceno, *One Module Cloud with Interior Net*, 2015, **Tanya Bonakdar Gallery**
Tony Tasset, *Deer*, 2015, **Kavi Gupta**
Rirkrit Tiravanija, *untitled 2015 (don't shoot the messenger)*, 2015, **Gavin Brown's enterprise**
Francisco Ugarte, *Sunlight I*, 2015, **Arredondo \ Arozarena**
Timm Ulrichs, *Von null bis unendlich (from here to eternity)*, 1986, **Wentrup**
Marianne Vitale, *Ace of Spades*, 2015, **Contemporary Fine Arts**
Ursula von Rydingsvard, *Bent Lace*, 2014, **Galerie Lelong**
Hank Willis Thomas, *Ernest and Ruth*, 2015, **Jack Shainman Gallery**
Robert Wilson, *Einstein Chair, from Einstein on the Beach*, 1976 (produced 2002), **Paula Cooper Gallery**
Yan Xing, *L'amour l'après-midi*, 2015, **Galerie Urs Meile**
Xiao Yu, *Elevation No.2*, 2013, **Beijing Art Now Gallery**

Public opening night performances:

Xavier Cha, *supreme ultimate exercise*, 2015, **47 Canal**
Ryan Gander, *Ernest Hawker*, 2015, **Lisson Gallery (A Performa Commission curated by Mark Beasley for Performa 15)**

Pope.L, *The Beautiful*, 2015, **Mitchell-Innes & Nash**
Yan Xing, *L'amour l'après-midi*, 2015, **Galerie Urs Meile**

More information on the sector is available at artbasel.com/miamibeach/public.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Nicholas Baume

Nicholas Baume joined Public Art Fund as Director and Chief Curator in 2009. A native of Australia, his curatorial career began there with Kaldor Public Art Projects and later the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney. He was Contemporary Curator at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, Connecticut, before moving to Boston to join the Institute of Contemporary Art as Chief Curator. Baume has curated more than fifty exhibitions with a wide range of significant international artists at different stages of their careers. Author of several major exhibition catalogs, he is a frequent public speaker on contemporary art, and has contributed essays and interviews to numerous publications.

About the Bass Museum of Art

The Bass Museum of Art is closed for renovation. During the year-long interior expansion, the museum is presenting a series of artist projects as bassX, in a pop-up gallery in the Miami Beach Library and other locations off-site. With over 4,500 additional square feet of exhibition space in its new facility, the Bass will double its commitment to contemporary exhibitions by leading international artists. The museum's IDEA@thebass art and literacy curriculum serves over 10,000 annually through classes, workshops, Family Days and its outreach program, Creativity in the Community.

About Art Basel

Art Basel stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary works, sited in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. In addition to ambitious stands featuring leading galleries from around the world, each show's exhibition sectors spotlight the latest developments in the visual arts, offering visitors new ideas, new inspiration and new contacts in the art world.

Partners

UBS, global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for more than 20 years. As Art Basel's global network has expanded, so too has UBS's commitment and lead partnership, which includes all three shows in Basel, Miami Beach and Hong Kong. In addition to its support of Art Basel, UBS has a long and substantial record of engagement in contemporary art: as a holder of one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections, as an active partner in global contemporary art projects such as the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, and as a source of information and insights through the UBS Art Competence Center, UBS Arts Forum and its new contemporary art news-focused app, 'Planet Art'.

Associate Partners Davidoff, the prestigious Swiss cigar brand, Audemars Piguet, the independent high-end watch manufacturer, and NetJets, the world leader in private aviation, support Art Basel across its three shows. Art Basel's Media Partners are The Financial Times and the Miami Herald, and the VIP car service at the show is by BMW. Long-standing partner AXA ART, the international art insurance specialist, provides VIP guided tours at all shows. For further information on Art Basel's partners, please visit artbasel.com/partners.

Important Dates for Media

Art Basel in Miami Beach Private View

Wednesday, December 2, 2015, 11am to 8pm (by invitation only)

Art Basel in Miami Beach Vernissage

Thursday, December 3, 2015, 11am to 3pm (by invitation only)

Art Basel in Miami Beach Public Days

Thursday, December 3, 2015, 3pm to 8pm

Friday, December 4, 2015, 12noon to 8pm

Saturday, December 5, 2015, 12noon to 8pm

Sunday, December 6, 2015, 12noon to 6pm

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Hong Kong, March 24 – 26, 2016

Basel, June 16 – 19, 2016

Press accreditation

Online registration for press accreditation is now open and will close on November 13, 2015. Please visit artbasel.com/accreditation.

Media information online

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press.

For the latest updates on Art Basel, visit artbasel.com, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/artbasel or follow @artbasel on Instagram, Google+, Twitter, Weibo and Wechat.

Press Contacts

Art Basel, Dorothee Dines

Tel. +41 58 206 27 06, press@artbasel.com

PR Representatives for North and South America and the Middle East

Fitz & Co., Katrina Weber Ashour

Tel. +1 212 627 1653, katrina@fitzandco.com

PR Representatives for Florida

Garber & Goodman, Robert Goodman

Tel. +1 305 674 12 92, FLrepresentative@artbasel.com

PR Representatives for Europe

Sutton, Sarah Norton

Tel. +44 20 7183 3577, sarah@suttonpr.com

PR Representatives for Asia

Sutton, Erica Siu

Tel. +852 2528 0792, erica@suttonprasia.com