



**THE BEST
ART EVENTS
WE SAW WHILE IN MIAMI**

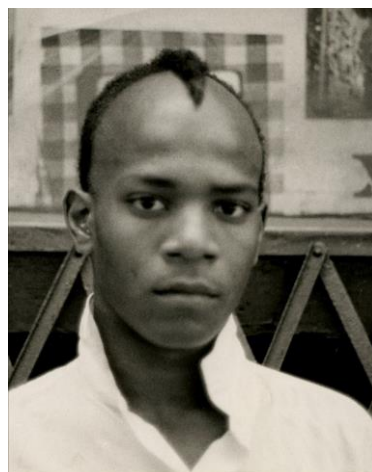
We round up ten of the best art exhibitions and events on view during Miami Art Week.

The 2017 edition of Miami Art Week was a smashing success with a bevy of fairs, parties, and events going around the clock. With so much to see and do, we made sure to keep tabs on the best of the best, from the artworks, the exhibitions, the films, talks, installations, and performances that were simply unforgettable.

BOOM FOR REAL

THE LATE TEENAGE YEARS OF JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

Earlier this year, Jean-Michel Basquiat made headlines with the \$110.5 million sale of his painting at auction, setting records that put him in the company of Pablo Picasso and Francis Bacon. In the 30 years that have passed since his untimely death at the age of 27, Basquiat's star has only continued to soar, as the enigmatic African-American artist's work has become a touchstone for generations both young and old.



Director Sara Driver delved into the mystery of the man behind the paintbrush, the legendary figure whose prolific output in a short period of time continues to be the subject of great fascination worldwide. Her film, *Boom for Real - The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat* (2017), screened at the Colony Theatre on Friday, December 8, as part of the Film sector of Art Basel in Miami Beach.

Here, Driver explores Basquiat during the years 1978 through 1981, as he was coming up in New York, transforming from street artist SAMO® into a fine artist who would soon take the art world by storm. The film looked at the city's environment had a tremendous impact, as near-bankrupt New York was on the cutting-edge, producing Hip Hop, punk, and disco, as well as dealing with major issues like political corruption, systemic oppression, and crime, as well as the oncoming specters of AIDS, Reaganism, drugs, and money that would change everything for the young artist during the 1980s.

KEHINDE WILEY

PORTRAIT OF NICK CAVE, NADEZHDA POLOVTSEVA

In October, African-American artist Kehinde Wiley was the talk of the town when it was announced he was commissioned to paint President Obama's official portrait. But this coup is just the latest feather in the cap of the California native, who has been at the top of the contemporary art scene for the past decade.

Best known for his large scale paintings recasting classic works of Western art to feature unknown African-American men and women, Wiley flipped things earlier this year with a new series titled *Trickster*, in which he painted portraits of his artistic contemporaries from the African diaspora, including Crave faves Kerry James Marshall, Glenn Ligon, Rashid Johnson, Carrie Mae Weems, Derrick Adams, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.



Using Francisco Goya's infamous Black Paintings as the departure point, Wiley explores the way the artist works as a trickster, taking on different shapes to change the way we see the world. Taken a step further, Wiley explores the link to code-switching, which allows Black folks to navigate different strata of society, and finding the space where previously hermetic worlds are destined to meet. In the hallowed halls of Art Basel in Miami Beach, Portrait of Nick Cave, Nadezhda Polovtseva (2017) stood tall Sean Kelly, graciously awaited a patron of the arts ready to recognize its worth.

PAULINA OLOWSKA

"THE SWAN" (AFTER NORMAN PARKINSON FOUNDATION)

Polish artist Paulina Olowaska transforms nostalgia into an art, tapping into our love of for the glories of the past as seen through the shiny patina of memory, where all strife and struggle is forgotten in favor of pure pleasure and sentimentality.

Whether working in painting or sculpture, film or photography, Olowaska's work embraces an unlikely mix of Pop art, fashion, graffiti, and Soviet propaganda to stunning effect. In her work we see the fundamental human desire for beauty as a thing to have and hold, to be and become, to gaze upon endlessly in whatever form it may take. That Olowaska focuses on styles of the past only makes us more wistful for a time that on longer exists.

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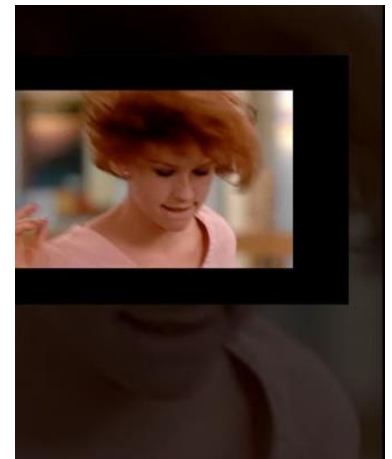
JIBADE-KHALIL HUFFMAN

GIF

There may be no greater unintentional artwork of the twenty-first century than the pure, unfettered genius that is the gif, the constant flow of anonymously made moving snapshots that perfectly encapsulate our feelings, emotions, and reactions. Whether drawing from famous sources are drawing upon a limitless well of cultural effluvia, the gif delights with its inimitable ability to sum everything up in a gesture or facial response.

In large part, that is due to the fact that most communication is non-verbal. While people can easily use words to lie and manipulate, the body is much harder to control, and it is more than likely to tell on itself with its immediate, intuitive response. To that end, is it any wonder that artists are following the public when it comes to reading the signs of the possibility gifs offer the visual arts?

Hailing from Detroit, artist and poet Jibade-Khalil Huffman embraces the possibilities of the digital realm. At Anat Ebgi in the Positions sector of Art Basel, Huffman has created GIF (2013), a 9-minute edit of Molly Ringwald's famous dance in The Breakfast Club, giving us the remix that is at once both repetitive and mind-numbingly good. The work evokes the sensation that the past never really end - that it is here for us to mine, to plunder, and to prune into fresh new shapes, feeding into our love of seeing favorite icons of yesteryear continue to speak to the present day.



ARTISTS' INFLUENCERS

The best part of creation is the process it takes, drawing from countless sources of inspiration. While it has a great many ingredients, it does not follow a linear path: it is more akin to alchemy than anything else. Perhaps, to those deeply versed in an artist's life and milieu, the sources, references, and influences might be apparent, but the best of us usually have no clue.

Enter Hans Ulrich Obrist, the Artistic Director of Serpentine Galleries, London, who conceived of the Artists' Influencers series for the Talks sector of Art Basel in Miami Beach. On Saturday, December 9, he sat as moderator

