

ART

The Miami Warm Up: 6 Art Advisors Share Art Basel Secrets and Strategies

It requires months of research, planning, and strategy to fully navigate Art Basel Miami Beach, the annual art event that anchors Miami Art Week. No one knows this better than art advisors, who are tasked with leading their clients through throngs of gallery shows, pop-up events, and a jam-packed convention center over the course of one frenzied week. Ahead of this year's event, *CULTURED* speaks to Lara A. Björk, Sharón Zoldan, Molly Epstein, Ashley Carr, Suzanne Modica, and Benjamin Godsill for their insider tips on surviving the fair.

WORDS

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Image courtesy of Molly Epstein.

Molly Epstein

Molly Epstein joined [Goodman Taft](#) as a Principal in 2016 and, together with Abigail Ross Goodman and Ellen Langan, oversees the curatorial efforts of the firm. Before her tenure at the modern and contemporary art advisory firm, she spent a decade as a gallerist in New York and London, and served as director of New York's Gladstone Gallery. And if that isn't enough, Epstein is also the co-editor of the *Art for Rollins* publication series, and currently sits on the Grant Advisory Committee of the VIA Art Fund. Here, she takes *CULTURED* through her most treasured ABMB memories—from poolside Miley Cyrus concerts to landing a Nicole Eisenman sculpture for a Boston public park.

CULTURED: What are your tricks for making it through ABMB?

ME: Comfortable sneakers, multiple phone chargers, and the energizing boost of seeing friends and colleagues from around the world. Oh, and a late-night falafel from that spot on Collins...

CULTURED: What do you do to prepare for the fair?

ME: With 238 participating galleries to visit, it's definitely an endurance event. Before we travel to [Miami](#), we do a great deal of preparation with our collectors to ensure our time is well-spent. There are always discoveries to be made, too. Even the best-prepared collector will have an encounter with a maker or object that is novel as they walk through the convention center.

CULTURED: Who are the artists you have your eye on this year?

ME: [Nikita Gale](#). Following the artist's first European institutional solo show at London's Chisenhale Gallery and a recent project at 52 Walker in New York, [Gale](#) will be showing new work at a debut ABMB solo presentation with the Detroit-based gallery Reyes-Finn. Painter Leslie Martinez will have a solo booth with the Dallas-based gallery And Now, as well as new paintings on view with Commonwealth and Council from LA in the fair's main section. And the 95-year-old painter Lois Dodd, whose practice has recently attracted a great deal of attention (and who had a stellar survey show at the [Hall Art Foundation](#) in Vermont last summer), will show paintings from the late 70s to the present day with Alexandre Gallery.

CULTURED: Which of your ABMB acquisitions means the most to you?

ME: One of our most meaningful acquisitions to date was [Nicole Eisenman's](#) *Sun In My Eye On The Beach*, which we acquired in 2019 from Hauser & Wirth for the Alford Collection of Contemporary Art at Rollins College. We worked with the artist earlier that year to site a version of her *Fountain* sculpture from Skulptur Projekte Münster in a public park in [Boston](#). (Happy to tell you about this one because it is in a public collection at the Rollins Museum of Art, but we usually stay mum—discretion is at the core of our practice!)

CULTURED: What are you most looking forward to?

ME: Having dinner at Nina Johnson's beautiful home to celebrate the fantastic painter Rochelle Feinstein, a Christopher Myers performance hosted by James Cohan Gallery, and dinners with friends in the garden at Mandolin. Visiting the wonderful Susan Bell Richard at her home is always a highlight of the week for me. We met through the artist Jim Hodges and have been dear friends ever since. Her home and collection offer a moment of calm and beauty in the midst of the hubbub and frenzy.

CULTURED: How do you unwind at the fair?

ME: An early morning walk on the beach is a rare art fair experience.

CULTURED: What's are some ABMB highlights you'll never forget?

ME: The party Jeffrey Deitch threw at The Raleigh in 2014—Miley Cyrus performed by the pool. Also, the party at the Delano in 2012, where A\$AP Rocky did a set.