

OCEAN DRIVE

5 Exhibits You Have to See at Art Basel Miami Beach

By: [Hunter Braithwaite](#)

South Florida museums save their best exhibits for Basel. Here, a look at several shows not to be missed.



It's no secret that the South Florida art scene grows exponentially every year. And this year is no different. From Fort Lauderdale to Coral Gables, NSU Art Museum to the Lowe, these exhibitions are some of the best mounted all year. After a trip to the Art Basel in Miami Beach fair tents, check out the following museum exhibition highlights.

“The Indestructible Lee Miller”

Lee Miller's career started when the publisher Condé Nast saved her from being hit by a car in 1926, and only got more outrageous from there. A model for Edward Steichen, she fell in with the Surrealists via her lover Man Ray. Blossoming into one of the most iconic photographers of her age, she moved from fine art to reportage. In 1942, she became a war photographer, documenting the devastation of World War II alongside the Allied troops as they reclaimed Europe. Look for the photograph of herself in Hitler's bathtub. Through February 14, 2016. *NSU Art Museum, 1 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, 954-525- 5500*

“Dürer to Rubens: Northern European Art From the Bass Museum”

The Bass is sadly out of commission for renovations this Basel. Still, this collaboration is a fantastic opportunity to see the Lowe Art Museum, one of Miami's lesser-visited museums. This winter, the two institutions partnered to display the Bass's unique collection of Renaissance and Baroque pieces—canvases, panels, porcelain, and textiles—while the lending institution gets a fresh lick of paint. Through July 17, 2016. *Lowe Art Museum, University of Miami, 1301 Stanford Dr., Coral Gables, 305-284-3535*

“Firelei Báez: Bloodlines”

Firelei Báez grew up in Miami. After living in New York for years, the young artist moved her studio back down to South Florida to prepare for this exhibition, which looks at the hidden histories of the Caribbean. Known for her exuberant, brightly colored works, Báez presents a series of paintings and drawings that blend textiles, hairstyles, and body ornaments to create a lyrical portrait of the Caribbean diaspora. The result is gorgeous and unsettling. Through March 6, 2016. *Pérez Art Museum Miami, 1103 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, 305-375-3000*

“Shannon Ebner: A Public Character”

The LA artist’s first museum outing begins with a grid of her large-scale photographs. Each depicts the letter A and is culled from a different part of the world—be it urban or verbal. The show offers more than semiotics; also on display is part of Ebner’s “Auto Body Collision” project—close-up depictions of the graceful and garish folds of crashed cars. Taken together, the exhibition updates 20th-century projects as varied as those of Ed Ruscha and Walker Evans. Through January 17, 2016. *Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, 4040 NE Second Ave., Miami, 305-901-5272*

“Steven and William Ladd: Mary Queen of the Universe”

The two brothers have been collaborating for 16 years, creating art that reflects their shared experiences. For this exhibition, Steven and William Ladd turn their retrospective gaze toward their Catholic schooling in St. Louis. Four years in the making, the show contains meticulously hand-sewn boxes that rise into nostalgic tower blocks. The exhibition, which blurs the line between art, craft, and fashion, gets at how the present is constructed of the past, piece by piece. December 2–March 27, 2016. *Miami Dade College’s Museum of Art + Design, 600 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, 305-237-7700*