



BASEL TOV

ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH 2008

Twas the season to soak up the art, sip the champagne and spend thriftily...
Ho Ho Ho... Happy New Year!

Basel did not receive a bailout, but collectors came, art was awed, while celebs and scenesters were spotted. The highest numbers were not the sales figures, but the official **Art Basel Fair** (www.artbasel.com) did count 250 galleries from 33 countries exhibiting 2000 artists with 40,000 attendees and 1800 journalists from around the world.

The **New York Times** summed it up this way:

"Attending Art Basel Miami Beach, the Lollapalooza of international art fairs, is a lot like going to college. You can party nonstop and still manage to get an amazing education. And the real action happens off campus."

Mary Billard

As usual, the parties were endless and admission priceless! My inbox was full on a daily basis and my AOL account has room for 1000 emails. Well, not sure if I am popular or just allow spammers to slam me.

As I tried to punch away at my keyboard and alert my "A List" of my VIP parties, AOL, told me I had too many "friends" and kicked me off. So, sorry to my "friends" who did not hear from me.



Jorge Fernandez Sculpture



ROCK THE BOAT VERNISSAGE

My Basel Week started over Thanksgiving weekend on the first ever megayacht venue, **SeaFair** (a 228 foot, \$30 million vessel – www.expoships.com) where I hosted the **“Rock the Boat”** launch party for the week long exhibition of bling bling on a big boat! My designer friend, **Lumari for Marina McAninch** dressed us up like dolls glittering over the intercoastal waters. Her couture **Swarovski** studded jackets replicating works by renowned artists caught everyone’s attention. We were truly the belles of the ball or rather the boat.



Models - Donna & Agnes - Wearing Lumari by Marina McAninch Couture

SeaFair Captain & Hope



BURNING MAN PARTY

Moving right along to Monday of Basel Week, I produced and curated an event on **Star Island** called **“Art Inspired by Burning Man”** (www.burningman.com) benefiting **Black Rock Arts Foundation** (www.blackrockarts.org) whose goal is to facilitate art thriving outside the walls of museums and galleries, in public places. (<http://ehopeinternational.com/ArtBaselBurningManEvent.pdf>)

The official **Burning Man** website describes this indescribable event as follows:



Thomas Kramer & Hope



Antalk Stitt Drummer

Once a year, tens of thousands of participants gather to create Black Rock City in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert, dedicated to the community, art, self-expression, and self-reliance. They depart one week later, having left no trace whatsoever.”

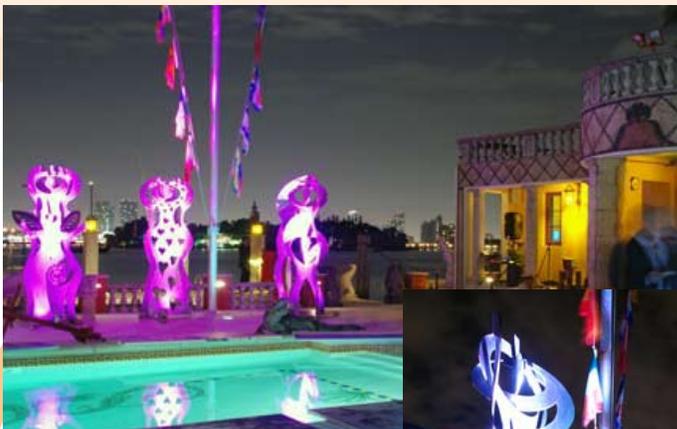
“Hurling down the road to the Black Rock Desert...The two-lane highway turns off onto a new road. You drive slowly onto the playa, the 400 square mile expanse known as the Black Rock Desert. And there you’ve touched the terrain of what feels like another planet. You’re at the end — and the beginning — of your journey to Burning Man...You’re there to breathe art...You belong here and you participate...You’re here to build a community that needs you and relies on you...You’re here to create. Since nobody at Burning Man is a spectator, you’re here to build your own new world...You’re here to experience...You’re here to celebrate...You’ll leave as you came. When you depart from Burning Man, you leave no trace... But you’ll take the world you built with you...At the end, though your journey to and from Burning Man are finished, you embark on a different journey — forever. ●●

Burning Man veteran, Molly Steeson



Left to Right:
 Agnes Latt
 Lumari
 Thomas Kramer
 Hope
 Claudine Smurfitt
 Donna Preudhomme

I chose colorful character, **Thomas Kramer** (www.thomaskramer.com) as our host at his palatial waterfront estate on **Star Island**. The event was moved from **Fisher Island** where I was asked to make the presentation “PG” to Kramer’s where “XXX” became the rating of favor. I had a cool cast of creatives participating starting with **Tomas Loewy** who debuted his five year Burning Man photo retrospective bound ‘book’ and slide show (www.burningmanpix.info & www.artbaseldaily.com) along with his floating images in the pool (now a trademark we



Jorge Fernandez Sculptures



first tried at **Casa Blanca** last Basel). I selected several sculptors to showcase their work. Cuban born artist, **Jorge Fernandez** (www.jorgefernandezart.com) presented his “Welcome” series which celebrates love and the mystery of women.

“In my sculptures the head represents the Sun, Moon and the collective consciousness. The neck represents the channel connecting the mind to the mechanical. The heart represents the universal love, peace and harmony. The leaves symbolize nourishment both organic as in the food chain and the spiritual plane. The hips represent a woman’s ability to receive a man and bear children. The central gateway is the birth canal and the passage into other dimensions...they are here, as they vibrate to a positive life force and as they welcome the spectator to love, to nature, to happiness and to life!”

Jorge Fernandez

Facundo Poj Sculpture



Glen Mayo Sculpture



Model Agnes Latt in Lumari



Designer Lumari & Claudine Smurfit



Complimenting Fernandez spiritual presence was rhythmic eco-industrial artist, **Carson Case** (www.carsoncase.com) who always surprises her spectators with a multi-dimensional performance. Carson paints live with elements from nature while dancing and interpreting music. She invited her musical friends of **Phisonica** (www.phisonica.com) to accompany her. The musicians include a shaman (maybe that helped keep the rain that was predicted from raining on our “parade” that night) and his musical partner, **Eric Dez** who share interests in metaphysics, healing and social awareness.

Argentine sculptor, **Facundo Poj** who visits junk yards to gather raw materials he reinterprets into artful pieces, displayed his “**Bubble Ladies**” amongst the rose garden. **Glen Mayo** (www.artweld.com) brought us “**Grace**” and his “**Dancing Spirals**”. Metal mobiles by Thomas Brewitz adorned the Martini & Rossi Prosecco libations offered by Bacardi (www.bacardi.com). Artist **Stefan Von Fouts** provided an interactive art experience for guests to participate in painting their own t-shirts. Next to him a bohemian behind-the-scenes fashion show with tie-dyed garments was in the making.

Upon entering the Kramer compound, guests were awed with glistening gear of **Lumari by Marina McAninch** adorned by models **Donna Preudhomme** and **Agnes Latt** around the courtyard fountain. Lumari and I also showed off her fashions.

Renowned electronic musician and composer, **Galaxy Girl** (www.galaxygirl.com), aka **Jeannette Claudine Romeu** (www.jeannetteromeu.com) and her DJ 7 provided the tunes for the night.

Artist: Carson



Martini + Rossi Prosecco



Photographer, Tomas Loewy



Emeshel crystal sculptures



Esmeralda Collection



Designer **Emeshel** (www.emeshel.com) flew in from **Budapest, Hungary** to present her collections of fine art and jewelry made from crystal and glass and cut with diamonds plus debut her new fragrances for all to experience. **Marcella Acosta** (www.marcellaacosta.com) showcased her new **Esmeralda** Collection of pendants made of authentic unpolished emeralds emitting positive energy to the beholder.

Krieger Watch Display



To keep track of the time, **Krieger Watch** (www.kriegerwatch.com) was on hand along with **Marquis Jet** (www.marquisjet.com) to fly you to **One&Only Resorts** (www.oneandonlyresorts.com) like **Ocean Club** (www.oneandonlyoceanclub.com) in the Bahamas or buy a trip in the silent auction presented by www.indulgentescapes.com. And **Quintessentially** (www.quintessentially.com), the ultimate concierge service was there to meet all your VIP needs. While **Haute Living** (www.hauteliving.com) helps you live the haute life vicariously thru its pages.

Of course, **Bacardi** continued to keep everyone happy with **42 Below** vodka flowing while **Montecchio Wine** (www.montecchiowines.com), **Peroni Beer** (www.peroniitaly.com) and **Fiji Water** (www.fijiwater.com) met everyone else's thirsts. And for those in need of caffeine, **Café Bustelo** (www.rowlandcoffee.com) was on hand along with their resident artist, **Stephen Gamson** (www.gamsonart.com). And to tempt your taste buds, was the French chef of **660 Mediterranean Kitchen** from the **Angler's Boutique Resort** (www.theanglersresort.com) with mouth-watering delectables while **Gourmet Food & Services** (www.gourmetfoodandservices.com) cooked up a significant seafood paella to feed the arty crowd. Also, I want to say a special 'thank you' to a few friends who helped with the event: **Donna, Leanne, Mia, Alan** of **Urban Icons** and **Stefan & Agnes Latt**.

By the way, **Kramer's Star Island estate** is for sale for a mere \$35 mil reduced from \$60 mil...so catch the post Burning Man fire sale! Your bucks will buy you a one in a billion, 2-acre masterpiece of 28,000 square feet of living space, with 13 bedrooms, 12 baths, plus plenty of amenities like a 10,000 bottle wine cellar, tiled pool with cabana and sauna, boat dock, 10 car garage and a gorgeous sunset view of downtown Miami. My email is just a click a way so you can "shop" online for this 5 Star property!



Star Island Estate



ART BASEL DAY 2

The “Official” Fair had not started yet, yet I was exhausted. Day 2 marks the VIP opening reception and a **MOCA Museum** (www.mocanomi.org) field trip. However, this year I opted for some other diversions. First to the opening launch party for **660 Mediterranean Kitchen** at the **Angler’s Boutique Resort** in South Beach where I toured the kitchen and got spoon fed by the chef, **Didier Ballais**. Then off to the **Design District** for the **Emeshel** showroom party and to check out a few of the galleries. Missed **Miss Naomi Campbell** at her retrospective at the “**In Fashion Photo**” exhibit. I heard she showed up on time, 2 hours ‘fashionably’ late to her own vernissage.

660 Chef & Hope



ART BASEL DAY 3

Day 3 is really day 1 for the official fair, but more happens unofficially during **Baseltime** in **Miami**. I showed up on time for the Mayor’s speech at the press conference kicking off the fair. Then took a quick twirl around the pre-pre viewing of the “real art” at the convention center. Real meaning real prices versus emerging art prices. Not a lot of red dots like past years when most fine pieces were sold before the fair even officially opened.

Went home, did a run on the beach and saw my first sand sculpture art of the fair by Swiss artist, **Olaf Breuning**. It was a 150-ton sphinx-like big-boobed babe on the beach!

“Miami has something, not sleazy or cheesy about it, but you see people walking around in very tight bathing suits, big breasts, plastic surgery so I thought I’d make something about the relationship between sexuality and art history...I’m really proud to be making an art piece you cannot buy. In our time, it’s actually really perfect.”

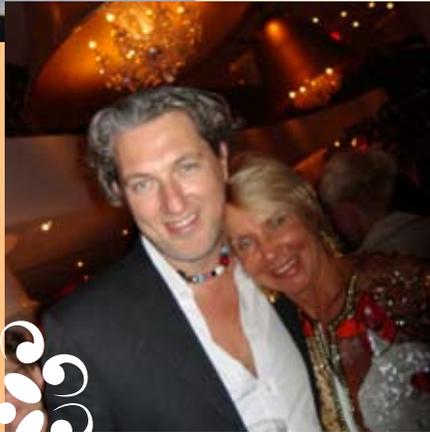
Olaf Breuning



Olaf Breuning Sand Sculpture



Hope & Veuve Clicquot



Marcel Wanders & Hope



Asia de Cuba @ the Mondrian



Casa Casuarina



I showered, changed and rushed back to the **Miami Beach Convention Center** for the evening vernissage...where champagne sipping and air kissing is more the scene than buying art. After breaking open the first bottle of bubbles in the VIP lounge with **Gary Nader** of **Gary Nader Fine Art** (www.garynader.com), the largest gallery in the world it was off to the races...to see the art! On a side note, my artist friend, **Stephen Gamson** found a new dinner bell at Basel, the popping of a champagne cork seems to ring in all the troops. Like magic, if you want to attract a crowd, just pop open a bottle of bubbly.

I missed the usual parade to the **Bass Museum** (www.bassmuseum.org) and headed instead to the launch party for the **Mondrian Hotel** (www.mondriansouthbeach.com) designed by my buddy, **Marcel Wanders** (www.marcelwanders.com). It is like stepping into the world of Alice and Wonderland, but reverse...where you are midget-sized compared to all the oversized bells and whistles adorning the property. **Veuve** flowed from magnums endlessly... and I wasn't sure if I was in a fantasy or the real world with **Wanders** wonders everywhere.

Next I hit our local **'Cozy'** spot below Fifth Street where the likes of **Jorge Perez** showed up and enjoyed the live tunes of the **Gypsy Kings**. Well, no time to collect dust on our toes, since we were long overdue at the **UBS** VIP dinner in the tent on the beach. Oh, we did make a pitstop at **Casa Casuarina/Versace Mansion** (www.casacasuarina.com) for His Royal Highness, **Prince Dimitri of Yugoslavia** to view his crown jewels. I missed **David LaChapelle** (www.davidlachapelle.com) hosting at **The Forge** (www.theforge.com) who was in town for his **"Jesus is My Homeboy"** exhibition.

ART BASEL DAY 4

There are collector breakfasts, art talks and gallery tours during the day, but I never seem to have time for these ala carte items. Let alone, the 20 satellite fairs or **Design Miami** (www.designmiami.com). I tried to check out **Sculpt Miami** (www.sculptmiami.com) to see my newfound sculptor friends, but unfortunately never made it. I also missed shock rocker, **Marilyn Manson's** debut of "Mansynthe". There was also performance art about town, with my favorite local stars being **Animate Objects** (www.animateobjects.org – go to the **Animate Objects Physical Theater** section and view the Ricochet video – amazing!) who rappelled the Bass Museum walls last year.



Cartier Jewels

This year, I did less crossing of the causeway to **Wynwood & Design District**. You just can't do it all. I did check out the **Cartier Dome** at the **Miami Beach Botanical Garden** for the installation of "Diamonds, Gold and Dreams". Waiters in white gloves graciously served me more champagne... just what a girl needs mid afternoon, yet another glass of bubbly. That took the edge off and made the price tags seem tolerable. I shopped at the **Taschen** book store (www.taschen.com), more in line with my budget. I like their

tagline, "Publishers of Art, Anthropology and Aphrodesia". What immediately caught my eye this year were the companion books titled "The Big Book of Breasts" and "The Big Penis Book"...just what everyone needs on their coffee table!





TK Basel Bash

At night I headed to Watson Island for the public art on display compliments of the **Island Gardens** megayacht project (www.islandgardens.com). Here I met architect, **Piero Lissoni** and chatted with sculptor, **David Stoltz** (www.davidstoltz.com) whose piece at the **Sagamore Hotel** (www.sagamorehotel.com) pool I have always admired. Then it was off to the “**Art For Life**” charity benefiting **Rush Philanthropic** (www.rushphilanthropic.org) hosted by **Russell Simmons** back at the new **Mondrian** terrace. I decided to conduct my own spontaneous photo shoot in the surreal outdoor setting in my black sequence slacks and Botero bolero.

ART BASEL DAY 5

The days started to blur together, with hangover headaches. How much champagne can one really consume? Well, not one to miss a party...I had some tough choices to make on Friday. There was the “**TK Basel Bash**” I had to make an appearance at which **Thomas Kramer** claimed would have the biggest fireworks ever. Guests were required to come dressed as their favorite piece of art. I was **Frida Kahlo** for the night, but kept my eyebrows separated. First stop was the **Elite Traveler** (www.elitetraveler.com) magazine party at **The Setai** (www.setai.com), a very highbrow, low key event where I met some nice new folks. The **Vanity Fair** fete at **The Raleigh** (www.raleighhotel.com) hosted by **Simon de Pury** and **Tommy Hilfiger**, was on my itinerary, but I never made it. I also wanted to check out the fetish burlesque stars, The **Porcelain Twinz** at Set nightclub, but had a date with my pillow instead. I did manage to spot and snap a photo of the ‘bald babes’ that walk around each Basel in matching outfits.



Model, Donna Preudhomme in Lumari



ART BASEL DAY 6

I headed back to the **Miami Beach Convention Center** to really see the art with a clear head, sans champagne. Instead, who do I see trailed by paparazzi - **Pamela Anderson** and her entourage, displaying a major fashion faux pas. She came dressed 'art inappropriate', wearing nothing but a ski hat, tight t-shirt top/ no bottom, chubby cellulite legs and oversized silicone breasts. Her artificial creation seemed to cause a stir getting more attention than the real art on the walls that afternoon.

Saturday eve, I gussied up for my designer friend, **Lei Marco's** (www.LeiMarco.com) black-tie fashion extravaganza at the **Versace Mansion**. His muse was **Malinka** who strutted the catwalk classily. Then, off to the newfound fountain of youth, **Fontainebleau** (www.fontainebleau.com) coming off its spectacular grand opening weekend with both new & old Hollywood in attendance – gotta love that forever tan, **George Hamilton**, **Mariah Carey** private concert and oh yeah, the Supermodel studded **Victoria Secret Show** with its subway slammed **LIV** nightclub...I avoided the lines and found the secret passageway through the kitchens to the club...shhhhhhh! Don't let my secret out!

Paris Hilton & Pamela Anderson



Lei Marco & Malinka

Victoria Secret Model





ART BASEL DAY 7

Sunday is supposedly a day of rest...so I took it easy and headed to **La Piaggia** (www.lapiaggiabeach.com), our **South Beach, St. Tropez** style beach club for an afternoon of drinking glasses upon glasses of rose. At dusk, I 'happily' headed to the **Art Basel** closing party at **The Fontainebleau**, but stopped home on my way and stayed there instead...Home sweet home, finally after a week of **Baselmania**, a bit of rest!

Happy New Year to All & to All a Good Night!

P.S.

Montage look back in time

Art & Style Soiree

Casa Blanca, Hibiscus, Island

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