

Wynwood Art Walk: Forgotten Florida to "Violets Violence"

By Carlos Suarez De Jesus Thursday, Jul. 11 2013

What a difference a decade makes. In 2003, when the first Second Saturday Art Walk was launched by a small group of artists, dealers, and indie curators, no one could have predicted that a blighted Wynwood neighborhood would grow to rival SoHo and become the epicenter of South Florida's booming art scene.

Now, 3,652 days later, Wynwood has become a world-class cultural destination that includes dozens of galleries and studios, private museums, and a collection of street murals that regularly attract thousands of art lovers each month to what is arguably the Magic City's biggest social scene.

For proof, just look at the lineup of shows, some new and others extended from last month, on view this weekend during the searing dog days of summer. There's plenty on tap for everyone, from first time revelers to those with the most discriminating eyes.

Lost Boys

Think of forgotten Florida, and those old mementos discovered in grandma's attic -- like a Weeki Wachee mermaid photo or a carved coconut head -- likely come to mind. But in this two-person exhibit featuring the work of Miami artists Dogan Arslanoglu and Johnny Laderer, fading memories of the Sunshine State are the thematic engine fueling the show. Don't expect



Dogan Arslanoglu, *Untitled*, at David Castillo Gallery



Johnny Laderer, *Personal Best 1*

to find a flamingo figurine or an alligator ashtray here. Instead, Arslanoglu's photography and Laderer's sculpture function as conceptual souvenirs, marking a personal experience while articulating a nostalgia for Florida as it once was, as it can be, and as it is for the outsider.

David Castillo Gallery, 2234 NW Second Ave., Miami; 305-573-8110; davidcastillogallery.com. Opening reception 7 to 11 p.m.