

Basel Basics: The Real Miami Art Scene

By Rebecca Kleinman | December 1, 2014

David Castillo, 40, moved to Miami from Madrid as an infant and never looked back. He's left his adopted hometown only to study at Yale and at the prestigious Angelicum in Rome. "I never stayed here for lucrative business opportunities but to watch the city grow," he says. This fall, the Wynwood pioneer did the unexpected by relocating his decade-old gallery to the even-more commercial Lincoln Road in South Beach, where his neighbors are tourist traps like SushiSamba. Besides being closer to his clients, he swoons for his new Art Deco digs.



BASEL AGENDA: Tonight, his pop-up exhibit opens in Santo (430 Lincoln Road), a former nightclub downstairs from his gallery. Installed amid its bars and DJ booth are solo projects by several of his artists, including New York-based Sanford Biggers and young filmmaker Jillian Mayer, who directed a music video for the Miami band Jacuzzi Boys. Upstairs, the Puerto Rico-raised artist José Lerma puts a personal spin on Ponce de León's failed quest for the fountain of youth with a solo show of paintings that sometimes use unconventional materials, like children's clay.

CAREER COUPS: He counts as collectors Ann Gund, Agnes' sister-in-law; Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz. "Harvest," a 2010 installation of 231 hand-painted wood panels by his artist Xaviera Simmons, was purchased for \$50,000 by the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami.



FUTURE PLANS: Three-quarters of Castillo's 18 artists, including Shinique Smith and Simmons, have solo shows at museums in 2014 or 2015 — Kate Gilmore has a whopping eight, and the Museum of Modern Art's photography department visited Lyle Ashton Harris' studio this fall. In May, he'll be the only Florida gallery at Frieze New York.