

# WELCOME TO THE SHOW

*There is no doubt the past few years have been a journey—so we are thrilled you have joined us for Art Basel Miami Beach to celebrate the wealth of talent gathered from around the globe. After 20 years of redefining the cultural scene in South Florida, our 2021 edition heralds the beginning of a bright future for our show. Community and conversation are at the heart of what we do.*

ESTEEMED ARTIST XAVIERA SIMMONS GUEST EDITED THE ISSUE, engaging artists, collectors, gallerists and museum leaders in a variety of conversations throughout the issue. Our Conversations section is more robust than ever, with artists offering thoughts in their own words.

We have learned many important lessons over the past two years, and as a result, this year offers perhaps our most diverse and wide-reaching gathering of galleries and artists to date. An important decision we took was to loosen our rules regarding which galleries can participate, bringing in those operating outside of the traditional bricks-and-mortar spaces and younger voices. This paved the way for newcomers such as Nicola Vassell. She will be showing Alteronce Gumby's abstract works, which combine shards of stained glass, uncut gems and acrylic, alongside luminous sculptures by 80-year-old artist Fred Eversley in the Nova sector. Also in Nova, itinerant Kendra Jayne Patrick gallery will also make its first Art Basel showing in Miami Beach this year, debuting with a solo show on artist Qualeasha Wood. Wood explores the relationship between the avatar and the self, and what it means to be a Black femme on the internet. Blending the digital and the analog, Wood expresses her work through tufted wool and acrylic tapestries as woven iterations of her digital designs realized through an AI-powered loom. Welancora Gallery, another important voice, will be showing in the Survey sector, with a solo presentation by sculptor Helen Evans Ramsaran.

A wealth of talent abounds at galleries showing for the first time, ranging from Derek Eller Gallery in New York to Gallery Hyundai from Seoul, South Korea. Or First Floor Gallery Harare that fosters the best of emerging contemporary art in Zimbabwe. Look for the gallery in the Nova sector with a solo show highlighting the work of Troy Makaza, who merges his love of painting and sculpture through surreal and brightly pigmented silicone wall works. Also making its Art Basel Miami Beach debut, Detroit-based contemporary art gallery Reyes | Finn will illuminate the Positions sector with a solo show featuring Maya Stovall's neon sculpture and research project, '1526 NASDAQ FAANG,' and her concurrent series, 'A \_\_\_\_ that defies gravity.' Based on her anthropological research into archival documents, '1526' references a successful rebellion by African American enslaved people and questions what data is brought to light and what tends to be obscured.

After so much time viewing art virtually, it feels wonderful to be together in person. We are here to do what we do best: create community centered on purposeful art. Enjoy the show!

—Marc Spiegler  
Global Director