

Wet Paint

Rick Rubin May Have Burned Down Donald Judd's Former Home, a Conceptual Art Thief Hits Miami, and More Juicy Art World Gossip

Plus, how did Frieze threaten a collector? Which well-known dealer was impersonated at sea? Read on for answers.

Annie Armstrong, September 15, 2022

GODFATHER OF MINIMALISM'S HOME DESTROYED BY LOUDNESS KING

It really holds up that sometimes, truth is stranger than fiction. A few months ago, news broke that a home in **Marfa, Texas** that used to belong to seminal minimalist sculptor **Donald Judd** had been destroyed in fire, reducing it to a pile of rubble (no one was hurt). According to property records, Judd, who is known for making the small West Texan town an art-world destination, bought the house in 1990. And according to **Wet Paint's** sources in town, the owner when it was set ablaze was none other than... **Rick Rubin**.

Yeah, co-founder of **Def Jam Records** and ostensibly the most prolific producer in American music history Rick Rubin. That Rick Rubin.

Just let that sink in.

The town's local paper, ***The Big Bend Sentinel***, reported at the time that a family of three was in the house when the fire occurred, but did not name names (Rubin is married to the actress/model **Mourielle Hurtado Herrera**, and the couple had their first child in 2017). A local sheriff who was on the scene, **Danny Dominguez**, told the paper that he found a man struggling to breathe on the house's second-floor: "He said, 'I'm ok.' I said, 'No, you're not.'"

According to a source based in Marfa, the house has now been completely leveled, and Rubin plans to rebuild on the plot. The **Judd Foundation** declined to comment, and Rubin could not be reached directly by the time of publishing.

GRAND THEFT ARTO

In a previous Wet Paint, I made the joke that my ears perk up whenever I hear about an art heist. And it is true, the **Thomas Crown** narrative will always be a seductive one to me. However, it brings me absolutely *no* satisfaction when a piece of art is stolen before it can be cherished, consumed, or otherwise experienced. Sadly, this happened this past week in **Miami** to conceptual artist **Jillian Mayer**.

"It's funny because it crosses the line of storage theft, art theft, and grand theft auto," she told me over the phone, before clarifying that it's not really *ha-ha* funny, but more-so ironic. Mayer had been working for the past four years on a piece titled **Low Res**, which was a sort of *gesamtkunstwerk* created in a revamped trailer. "When you open the trailer, you're thrown into this immersive, abstract tiny home that takes cues from survivalist and prepper culture that I've been researching," she said.

Mayer funded the piece through local grants, and estimates that at least \$20,000 worth of materials were put into it. After its debut, the piece was going to operate as a sort of mini-residency program. It was snatched from where it was parked in **Islamorada**, which is next to **Key Largo** and about an hour and a half outside of Miami.



"Hopefully it comes back. I wonder if they stole it knowing what was inside, or was that just a very weird surprise."

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WE HEAR...

Hong Kong—based collector **Divide By Zero** apparently got into some trouble with **Frieze Seoul** for calling the fair “repetitive,” and, according to him, the fair threatened to retaliate by banning him ... **Night Gallery** has taken on Los Angeles-based painter **Elaine Stocki** ... **Miles McEnery Gallery** is now representing **Jacob Hashimoto** ... **Jordan Wolfson**’s notorious, polarizing *Female Figure* is headed to the **Brant Foundation** in East Village next month, cementing the perfect date-spot in New York City from Wet Paint’s point of view ... A new gallery with a solely BIPOC, femme roster, **Cierra Britton Gallery**, has opened its doors on **Broome Street** with its inaugural show “keep it cute” by **Jewel Ham** ... According to **Samuel Hine**’s “Show Notes,” an imposter **Emmanuel Perrotin** swam to a party he was not invited to in Miami, only to be stopped at the door because he was not, in fact, Emmanuel Perrotin ...