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The Asia Pivot

The Big Picture

West (Finally) Meets East

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Last year, we reported that **Miami Art Week**, which centers on **Art Basel Miami Beach**, was gaining traction among art world players from **Asia**, with more dealers, advisors, and collectors making long-haul trips to explore American markets. This year, the presence of Asia in Miami has risen to a new level, thanks in large part to the initiative of U.S. outfits, and members of the Asian diaspora are receiving unprecedented exposure.

“Asian diasporic artists have been showing more and more in recent years but certainly not to the same level as other artists groups in the U.S. market,” Miami dealer **David Castillo** told me. There has “never been a survey of Asian art in Miami, in a museum or gallery,” Castillo said, and so he was in the process of installing one. Titled “**Alien**,” it has been curated by artist **Yesiyu Zhao** and opens on December 3 at his gallery with more than 40 artists from the Asian diaspora working across the U.S., Europe, and Asia.

Castillo said that, when Zhao approached him two years ago with the concept for the exhibition, he thought it would be a great fit with his gallery’s foundational interest in ideas like cultural alienation. “The term ‘alien’ here transcends the realm of science fiction, capturing the real and often harsh realities of displacement, immigration, and the pervasive sense of being an outsider in any environment,” he said.