



December 6, 2012

Art Basel Week: From Dog Furniture to Audi Chairs

Dec 6, 2012 3:11pm

ABC News' Seni Tienabeso reports from Miami:

Its 10:55 a.m. in [South Beach](#), and the world's well-heeled and well-to-do wait in line, pressed against one another. But they are not waiting to get into the hot new club. It's not even night-time.

Within minutes the doors will open, allowing VIPs entry to preview the signature event of [Art Week](#), seven days filled with glitz, glamour, debauchery and art so uniquely [Miami](#) that to outsiders it might all seem like a joke. But it's far from a joke. This is the most important art fair in the Americas, and by the time it's over, tens of millions of dollars will have changed hands.

Once inside, celebs like [P. Diddy](#) and his entourage quickly meander down a dizzying array of contemporary art — both beautiful and bizarre — as his counterparts in the 1 percent speak with gallery coordinators. Many of these VIPs have a plan — perhaps a favorite artist — and a seemingly unlimited bank account to grab the latest hot item from the galleries.

But what about the rest of us? The art novice in Miami through the weekend looking to see a bit of the spectacle that's [Art Basel](#), and its sister art fairs, will find an interactive, weird, beautiful and bizarre mish-mash of colors and everyday design that can be either useful — or useless.



Art in 2012 at Basel can be a canvas, a chair or a hotel.

After scouring the city and its 2,000-plus temporary galleries and art installations, these are the quirkiest displays around:

“Black Lords”: Back in the heart of South Beach's famous [Collins Avenue](#), [Desi Santiago](#) took architecture and dogs to an entirely different level, somehow convincing the [Lords South Beach](#) hotel to allow him to paint the entire historical building black while placing large balloons resembling a God-zilla size dog on its roof. The “Black Lords” installation, commissioned by Perrier, is best seen in its totality from across the

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/entertainment/2012/12/art-basel-week-from-dog-furniture-to-audi-chairs/>



December 6, 2012

street, poolside at the [Dream Hotel](#), where those with nothing to do but hang out sip on cocktails and bake themselves in the Miami winter sun.

In the hotel, Santiago, the New York Times anointed "artist of the moment," famed for mixing fashion and art, asks before he heads off for tea with [Stella McCartney](#), "Do you want your future read?"

In the middle of the hotel's open outdoor space lies a box where you put in a card with a wish, press your fingers inside an opening on top and wait for your future to be read as the menacing dog-like face at the top of the hotel, seemingly peering at onlookers below in what looks like approval and disapproval, begins to smoke ...

Santiago calls this interactive work, which envelops the entire hotel and took eight days to build, a "vision for the future." His fascination with fortune-telling dates back to college, where he tried to perfect mind-reading experiments, some of which he believes proved effective. The black symbolizes the deaths in his family. All of it is interactive. He says "Black Lords" is its official name, but he calls the dog Gypsy, after his actual dog. It glimmers at night, especially when the exclusive and invite-only Basel party crowd stops by to play.

