



Art Basel in Miami Beach diary: fairgoers go bananas for 'The Banana' and Pope.L offers a message in a vessel

Plus basketball is slam dunk for art crowds and much more

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Fair visitors queued up to snap a photo of the ap-peeling piece

Split decisions

Miami has officially gone bananas. Since we broke the news that noted prankster Maurizio Cattelan is showing a banana duct-taped to a wall at Art Basel in Miami Beach the conceptual sculpture—priced at \$120,000—has become a viral phenomenon. Media outlets from CNN to the *New York Post* and local news stations have fixated on fruity offering and crowds gathered around Perrotin's stand eager to snap selfies with "The Banana". The artist Juan Gonzalez and his wife Ramona from California came to see the work on Friday after hearing about it on TV. "I thought: 'Oh my gosh, I have one of those in my refrigerator,'" Ramona said. "It's so dumb, but so perfect and I love it—and I want it," said Stephanie Rosa, a student from Miami's Ferguson High School. When informed of the six-figure price tag, her friend Elvys Alonso

yawped: “I could buy a *house* with a banana?!” But after learning that the editioned work had been bought by three different collectors, Rosa admitted that the piece gave her renewed confidence in her own work. “I’m always so worried about my art, thinking: ‘What if nobody likes it?’” she confided. “Now, I for sure know there’s something for everybody.”



Don't look down: Pope.L's *A Vessel in a Vessel in a Vessel and So On* (2007)

Pope.L offers a message in a vessel

A pirate wench with the head of Martin Luther King Jr hangs upside-down from the ceiling, her bosom partially exposed, on the stand of Mitchell-Innes & Nash at Art Basel in Miami Beach. The ghostly figure also leaks a chocolate substance mixed with the paint thinner Floetrol. Altogether, the statue *A Vessel in a Vessel in a Vessel and So On* (2007), by the artist Pope.L, is a comment on the toxicity of black stereotypes. The technician who installed the eye-popping creation says that the dangerous-if-consumed liquid seeps out for three seconds at a time. Best to seek refreshments elsewhere.