Five to Watch

Keep your eye on these up-and-coming artists, showcased at this season’s Art Basel in Miami Beach.

by Ted Loos

With the beach just a few blocks away and parties galore, Art Basel in Miami Beach is where the art world comes to work and play. That makes it one of the most fun and high-spirited of all art fairs. But the real reason this internationally acclaimed event—enjoying its 16th year this December at the Miami Beach Convention Center—draws some 70,000 visitors is the cutting-edge quality of the works on view. It has a well-earned reputation as a place to discover important work by artists young and old, famous and unknown. Finding new favorites and discovering tomorrow’s stars is half the fun. To help you get a head start, here are five noteworthy talents to check out at this year’s fair.

DAWN KASPER
AT DAVID LEWIS GALLERY
(NEW YORK)

The Virginia-born, 40-year-old Kasper is an on-the-moment artist in that her quirky installations don’t always scream “Is this art?” You have to take a breath and experience it. At the Whitney Biennial in 2012, she set up her studio inside the museum’s galleries and worked there as she normally would, chatting with visitors along the way—“the nomadic studio,” she called it. David Lewis Gallery will present Lyrn (2017), a musical instrument in Greek mythology—in its booth at the fair. The installation features a series of bugles, ropes, and lightbulbs, among other items, messily hanging from a wire. What does it all mean? If you take the time to ask the question, Kasper will feel she’s succeeded.

DARA FRIEDMAN
AT SUPPORTICO LOPEZ GALLERY (BERLIN)

Although born in Germany, Friedman is based in Miami, so checking out this booth will give you a sense of what’s happening outside the convention center walls. Among her talents, Friedman is an expert manipulator of film and video works. The Supportico Lopez presentation Kukaloria (2017) gets its name from a specialized film term: It’s the shadow cast by an object to break up a blank wall space. Friedman will suspend a series of objects, including a big red feather, and light them so they cast interesting moving shadows, calling into question the way film represents the world and how we interpret it.