

ARTSY

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THE ARTISTS EVERYONE TALKED ABOUT DURING ART BASEL IN MIAMI BEACH

by Alina Cohen



Installation view of Woody De Othello, *Cool Composition*, 2019, in Jessica Silverman and Karma's booth, at Art Basel Miami Beach, 2019.

If every edition of Art Basel in Miami Beach was titled like a *Friends* episode, the 2019 edition was indisputably “The One with the Banana.” Maurizio Cattelan taped the fruit to Perrotin’s booth, creating a truly bonkers frenzy. The work, titled *Comedian* (2019), landed a front-page *New York Post* story and spurred so many selfies that the gallery eventually had to put up stanchions to control the queue of people who wanted a picture with the banana. Perrotin started a meme account on Instagram. Three editions, priced between \$120,000 and \$150,000 sold. On Saturday, performance artist David Datuna tore the banana off the wall and ate it. Perrotin replaced the banana, then announced on Sunday morning that it was removing the artwork from its booth because it was disrupting the fair environment. Gallerist Emmanuel Perrotin himself then ate the banana. And in the empty space, a man vandalized the booth with lipstick, writing “Epstien [sic] didn’t kill himself.” Police arrested him on charges of criminal mischief.

But enough about the banana. Here’s a list of the other artists everyone was talking about during Art Basel in Miami Beach.

Woody De Othello

Woody De Othello’s eight-foot-tall, eight-foot-wide bronze-and-enamel sculpture of a distorted fan thrilled Meridians visitors. Presented by Jessica Silverman Gallery and Karma, the work sold in three editions in dark blue, orange, and yellow, to

private U.S. collections, for \$175,000 each. De Othello is best known for his colorfully glazed ceramics, which often resemble tweaked domestic objects—a melting remote control or a strangely proportioned telephone, for example. Jessica Silverman Gallery did its best Art Basel in Miami Beach business ever, selling 48 works total within the first three days.