

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

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ARTslant

NADA ART FAIR
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Returning to Miami Beach for its eighth edition, the NADA Art Fair has stayed mostly true to its vision of presenting quality emerging galleries as a contrast to the blue-chip Art Basel Miami event. This year, 89 galleries are dispersed in two sections within the Deauville Beach Resort – the Richelieu Ballroom houses booths showcasing a single artist, and the Napoleon Ballroom accommodates galleries exhibiting several artists. In comparison to other satellite fairs like Pulse and Scope, the NADA event maintains a relatively quiet aesthetic. While this fair has included in the past more adventurous galleries that showcase installations and video—this year the works on view are more conservative, and thus seemingly in tune with the general cautious attitude towards economic matters.

There are several notable works that stand out amongst the customary formulaic art fair style. San Francisco's Baer Ridgeway Gallery is showcasing the work of Matthew Palladino – colorful acrylic ink drawings of characters enclosed in rigid and skewed mazes. Jeff Bailey Gallery of New York is highlighting the paintings of Jackie Gendel—small and intriguing portraits with a bright palette and impenetrable narratives. Paul Petro Contemporary Art of Toronto is exhibiting four black and white photographs of a woman by pioneer feminist artist Suzy Lake. Like much of Lake's oeuvre, these works from the *Co-Ed Magazine* series (1973) speak to the fashioning of female identity via physical means (in this case, elaborate hairdos). Addressing femininity from a very different perspective, On Stellar Rays from New York exhibits the amusing photographs of Maria Petschnig from the series *Only the Perverse Fantasy Can Still Save Us* (2008): each of the eight small black and white photographs present simple facial features shaped out of clothing items, upon a naked female torso. Galeria Marta Cervera of Madrid is screening one of the few videos in the fair. *Dubai, Citytellers* (2010) by the Italian artist Francesco Jodice is an hour-long social survey of city life in Dubai, as perceived by various workers. **Kate Werble Gallery** – winner of the 2010 NADA Best Booth Award – displays a work-in-progress by Ryan Reggiani in the form of the black wooden floor of the booth. *Untitled (Art Fair Floor)* (2010) has been installed at NADA to be completed—it will later be hung on the walls of the New York gallery with the footprints and scuffs resulting from its usage at the fair...

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