

KATE WERBLE GALLERY

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BEYOND THE WHITE CUBE: THE BEST OF THE NEW AT ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

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Each December, the art world heads to Miami for the international art fair Art Basel Miami Beach. The goal of this 4-day extravaganza is ostensibly to buy, look, talk and think about art. This year, the fair turned ten and cemented its reputation as the raucous and slightly inebriated younger sibling of the staid Art Basel in Switzerland. All week, fashion designers, glossy magazines and liquor companies sponsor events hosted by celebrities. When Friday hits, consumption of all kinds crescendos into a jet set feeding frenzy. But, the real fun comes before the champagne-soaked hangovers. And that's actually looking at the art. Mid-week VIP openings and previews allow collectors, curators and art world professionals to catch a glimpse of what's being offered this year. There are always the big-time artists like Matthew Barney, Tracey Emin and Yoshimoto Nara, creating impossibly expensive but nonetheless covetable work. But, there's also a wide selection of art by lesser-known names with work priced between \$3000 to \$40,000. Many are known among the arty circles but are still in the upward trajectory of their careers, with work available for purchase by burgeoning and seasoned collectors. These artists are creating strong work and, for those who have the budget, these are the ones to snap up before they command Barney, Emin or Nara price tags. Art Basel is not typically known for displaying emerging artists, but there are a few if you keep an eye out. Emerging art is mostly the domain of satellite fairs, such as NADA (New Art Dealer's Alliance) and PULSE. Here's a selection of work I found particularly compelling. Let me know if you agree, comments welcome!

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Sarah E. Wood, *Untitled (Memorial Balloon Chime)*, 2011. Courtesy of Kate Werble Gallery

At this year's NADA, Werble displayed a haunting sculpture of black balloons made of steel, foam, rubber and brass suspended mid-air, by New York-based artist Sarah E. Wood.

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