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TME's editor-at-large **Lynne Scalo**

Scalo considers Warhol's Nicola Weymouth silkscreen on canvas in the Van de Weghe Fine Art space.

goes out in search of Warhols and other treasures at **Art Basel Miami Beach.**



Skarstedt Gallery's 1964 *Jackie* silk screen by Andy Warhol.

WHEN OUR EDITOR-AT-LARGE, interior designer/decorator Lynne Scalo, told us she was heading south in pursuit of a prizeworthy Warhol (and a few other assorted objets d'art) for her client-collectors, we seized on the opportunity to get a glimpse of all the Art Basel action.

Now in its seventh year, Art Basel Miami Beach is a sister event to Switzerland's Art Basel, which, for 39 years, has reigned as the world's most prestigious art show. Launched in 2002, this hipper little sister quickly earned her place on the international art scene, combining access to a highly selected group of galleries from around the world with a program of special exhibitions, visits to private art collections, parties, and events linking art with music, film, and architecture. The events go on nearly around the clock.

For galleries, entry into Art Basel Miami Beach is no easy task. This year, some 800 galleries applied; a selection committee

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narrowed the field to just over 250 of the art world's heavyweights. This top-tier group, comprising the most renowned and respected art galleries in the United States, Canada, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia, showcased the works of more than 2,000 acclaimed and emerging artists.

Though Scalo had been to Art Basel before, its reputation as the premier art show in the Americas has continued to grow—as has her own standing as one of the area's more art-appreciative interior designers. It was time for a return trip. “I had two clients in mind; my goals were to source both an original Warhol print and a rather unconventional dining table that could pass as a piece of sculpture,” she notes.

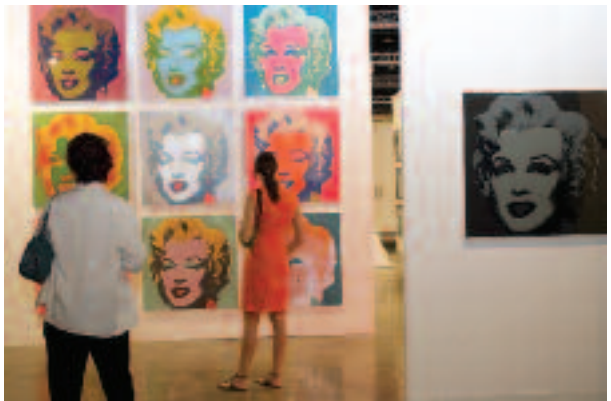
On the eve of Art Basel's opening, Scalo and hundreds of invited guests from around the world gathered for the exclusive Vernissage, a celebrity-studded, by-invitation-only party and the first opportunity to meander through the international art show's prominent galleries. “Even before the show opened to the public, collectors had already had an opportunity to view and even purchase the exhibited works,” says Scalo, whose acquisition objectives became the source of interview banter on Plum TV. Incredibly, virtually every significant work Scalo viewed that evening was sold or placed “on hold” by opening day—a fact that attests to her intuitive sense of art as an investment. >>



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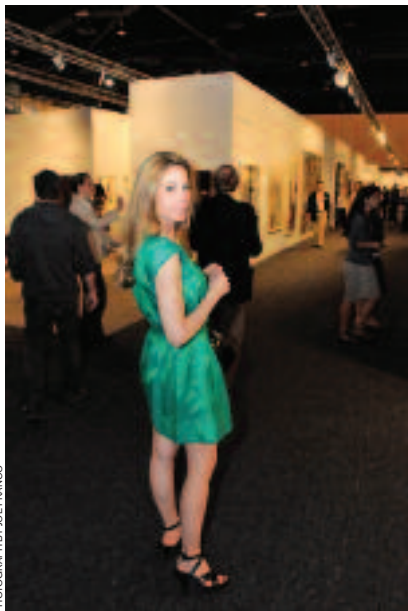
This year, 800 galleries applied—just 250 made the cut.



ABOVE, TOP: Scalo discusses the Claude Lorraine table she admires with gallery owner Paul Kasmin.



“Art must stir the soul and, when it does, it



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BOTTOM LEFT: Scalo at Vernissage, Art Basel Miami Beach's exclusive, glamorous private-opening event.

Of course, in its seductive Miami setting, Art Basel offered much more than art. Tequila-fueled private parties sponsored by collectors, museums (such as the Guggenheim) and magazines (*Rolling Stone* among them) infused the show with a see-and-be-seen glamour that its big-sister bash in Switzerland can't touch.

First stop: Skarstedt Gallery, where a 1964 Warhol silkscreen titled *Jackie* met Lynne's well-defined parameters for value and visual appeal. The 20-by-16-inch work, a black silkscreen ink and blue synthetic polymer paint on canvas, was priced at \$950,000. Founded in 1994 by the well-known (and equally well-connected) art adviser Per Skarstedt, the New York gallery is known for its historical exhibitions of contemporary American and European artists. In addition to Warhol, the gallery's portfolio of artists includes the late Martin Kippenberger (Skarstedt will mount a major retrospective of his work in spring 2009), Barbara Kruger, and Cindy Sherman. At Vernissage, *Jackie* created a flurry of interest and will likely be sold by the time this magazine is published.

will always be a great investment," says Scalo.

Next stop: Jan Krugier Gallery, where a Franz Kline abstract oil-on-canvas caught Lynne's eye. Though she was not considering the Kline for a specific client, she found the work "mesmerizing." The colors make sense; it's very formal yet spontaneous," she says. Measuring 87 ¼ inches by 67 ¾ inches, the 1961 work, *Untitled*, will sell for "between \$1.5 and \$2 million," says gallery spokesperson Sara Kay. Located in New York, Jan Krugier Gallery is one of the world's leading modern art galleries; it specializes in 19th- and 20th-century and contemporary fine art and original prints.

Last stop: Paul Kasmin Gallery, where a Claude Lalanne dining table fulfilled Scalo's requirement for a table that could double as sculpture. "The botanically inspired bronze table, *Ginkgo*, is an edition of eight designed by Lalanne in 1996; it really confirms her preeminence as one of the world's most original designer-sculptors," says Scalo. "Another in the edition of eight sold at Christie's in December 2008, with a set of six chairs, for \$314,500—which exceeded the auction house's estimate of \$200,000 to \$300,000 and was a world auction record for Lalanne."

While Scalo is still searching for just the right Warhol and the ever-elusive sculptural dining table, she did manage to find a Picasso and a Chagall for two other client-collectors. "Art must stir the soul, and, when it does, it will always be a great investment," she reasons.

—Brooke Perry

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Jan Krugier Gallery's Franz Kline abstract oil on canvas.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE JAN KRUGIER GALLERY

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