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THE ART NEWSPAPER

Art Basel in Miami Beach: 30 Nov-4 Dec 2016

➔ Casa Vizcaya

The Venetian-style pleasure palazzo in Coral Gables is celebrating its 100th birthday with contemporary art commissions

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➔ Julio Le Parc

Feeling blue about 2016? Head to the Pérez Art Museum Miami, where a pioneer of kinetic art will put you in an optimistic mood

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➔ Faena fiesta

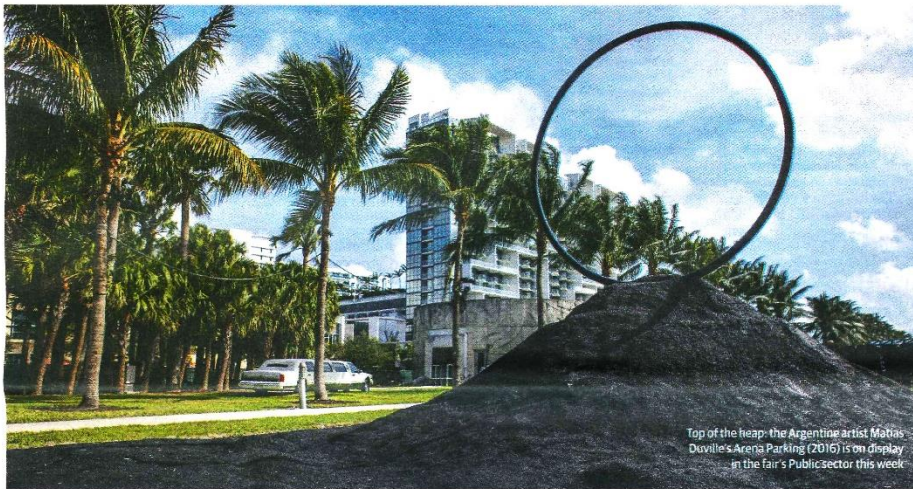
Cue a Cuban conga line and let the feast begin – the Faena District's new cultural centre launches in style

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➔ This week in Miami

Our pick of the must-see shows, satellite fairs and events this week, starting with the Rubell Family Collection

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Top of the heap: the Argentine artist Matias Duville's *Arena Parking* (2016) is on display in the fair's Public Sector this week

Argentina's day in the sun

Conditions are ripe for the country's rich but isolated art scene to come to the fore

VIPs on the hunt for the next big thing at Art Basel in Miami Beach would do well to train their eyes on Argentina. As the Pérez Art Museum Miami presents the first US survey of the Mendoza-born Modernist Julio Le Parc and the Buenos Aires-born developer Alan Faena unveils his new cultural centre in Miami Beach, the country seems poised for a breakthrough.

It is not all down to luck. Argentina's newfound presence in Miami is part of a concerted effort by galleries, government officials and philanthropists to carve out a place for the country in the international art scene.

Until now, Argentina's artists and galleries have been a comparatively minor presence in Miami. Although international

dealers bring biennial regulars such as Tomás Saraceno to the fair, the weak peso has been a barrier for many homegrown dealers. "Mexico and Brazil are so present in the contemporary art conversation, but that's not the case for Argentina," says the collector Federico Castro Debernardi, who created the Fundación Arte in 2014 to address this imbalance.

Taking its turn – at last

Judging by the historical offerings at Art Basel, the ongoing reappraisal of regional Modernisms is finally turning to Argentina. Jorge Mara, of Galería Jorge Mara-La Ruche in Buenos Aires, says that during his seven years participating in the fair, "we have seen changes in perspective and

appreciation" of Modern Argentine artists. In the past, most of Mara's sales in Miami were to institutions; this year, US collectors placed reserves on paintings by Sarah Grilo (\$50,000-\$150,000) before the opening, a development he calls "unprecedented".

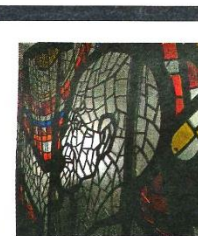
Several international galleries are presenting work by Argentine artists. Espaivisor of Valencia is showing Graciela Carnevale's *El encierro* (Confinement) (1968). Forty photographs document a performance in which the artist locked an audience inside an empty gallery to protest against repression by the government. Espaivisor's co-director, Mira Bernabeu, calls it "one of the most important works in the history of Latin American art" and is offering the final two

full editions (priced from €125,000).

London's Stephen Friedman Gallery is showing work by Manuel Espinosa, a pioneer of Concrete art who, unlike his contemporary Le Parc, was not shown widely outside Argentina during his lifetime. At Art Miami, Cecilia de Torres of New York is exhibiting paintings by the abstract artist Inés Bancalari.

Contemporary dealers have had a harder time breaking through. Nora Fisch, one of seven Argentine dealers at Untitled, is bringing paintings by Juan Tessi, who showed at the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires this year. "He has this amazingly complex, mature approach, yet he costs about the same as a recent

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Richard Otrried Wilhelm's 1980s work was commissioned for the Stasi

Yours for \$21.4m:
a 65ft-wide glass mural of Lenin

Talk about a heavy subject: a 6,500-pound East German stained glass mural depicting the Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin has been unveiled in Miami. Richard Otrried Wilhelm's *Peace Around Our World* (1982-83) was commissioned for the offices of the Stasi (the East German secret police). The 10ft-tall, 65ft-wide piece, which is decorated with 55 pounds of gold, now belongs to the German dealer Thilo Holzmann, who hopes to sell it this week for an equally monumental asking price: \$21.4m. P.P.

• The work is on show at 313 NE 59th Street, Miami, until 4 December

Miami to import video biennial

In a bid to make Miami a destination for contemporary art all year round – not just during Art Basel in Miami Beach – the Argentine property developer Alan Faena wants to bring a biennial to the city. Faena's cultural programming arm, Faena Art, hopes to present the Biennale of Moving Images in the new Faena Forum cultural centre in spring 2017. The show, which is currently at the Centre d'Art Contemporain in Geneva (until 29 January 2017), is due to include works by 27 emerging artists, such as Hicham Berrada of Morocco. The biennial is also expected to travel to Faena's development in Buenos Aires later next year. G.H.

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