

MARKET

Highlights From Art Basel in Miami Beach, aka the Billionaires' Black Friday

Brian Boucher, Thursday, December 3, 2015



Chris Martin, *Untitled* (2015).
Courtesy Anton Kern, New York.



Brian Calvin at Anton Kern.
Courtesy Anton Kern, New York.

People in the art world joke that if you want to sell works at an art fair, just bring your biggest, shiniest objects. They're attractive, and they're selfie bait to boot, so they circulate well on social media.

The big and shiny coexist with the socially and politically pointed at this year's Art Basel in Miami Beach, where 267 dealers converge with tens of thousands of art lovers each December.

Glitter was on the scene in more than one place, with Kim Gordon's paintings incorporating the stuff at 303, as well as Chris Martin's efforts nearby at Anton Kern.

"If you told me you knew a great painter who worked with glitter, I'd say forget about it," the gallery's Christoph Gerozissis told me. But Martin makes it work, with intense, dark colors in horizontal bands recalling an evening landscape overlaid with the shiny dust.

Kern also has a great Brian Calvin painting of an androgynous youth that I was sure was a girl and Gerozissis felt confident was a boy. Regardless of the subject's gender but in view of the work's sex appeal, he said, "You actually want to have sex with the painting."