

EVENTS /

Art Miami: 15 years of success

Art Basel Miami Beach

ARTISTS /

FeCuOp - Ferguson, Curiel, Opalka

Annie Wharton's pixie

Jiae Hwang's planet

GALLERIES /

ArtSpace / Virginia Miller Galleries

SCREENSHOT /

Gabriel Delponte

# MAG

## MIAMI ART GUIDE

THE ABSOLUTE GUIDE FOR ART RESOURCES IN MIAMI



### Damien B Art Center

Is it inflated?

November 27-December 31 2004

Damien B Contemporary Art Center, located at the intersection of Miami's Design District and Wynwood Art District, is a non-profit organization that opened its doors in September of 2000. This art center is a cultural meeting space dedicated to organizing cultural events, promoting European and local emerging artists. The three-story building hosts 7 artist studios and a gallery with a large outdoor space in a "nurturing atmosphere of art exchange."

The gallery's concept, which hosts contemporary artists from Miami and Europe, has also developed an educational program called "Art In The Street," a workshop that involves the artistic development of the Wynwood youth. Established as a not-for-profit corporation, the center actively collaborates with the community.

This December, Damien B Contemporary Art Center is proud to announce the opening of an exhibition with the theme of inflated sculptures entitled "Is it inflated?"

"We seldom note the true significance of those things that are granted by nature and consequently permanent. We rather invest in perpetuating the ephemeral as an artistic practice. The tradition of sculpture grew from the importance of the formal object, its beauty, and its imperative artistic value. The release of Andy Warhol's silver clouds (1966), a collection of helium filled Mylar pillows, appears as one of the turning points to the idea that a sculpture should be heavy and permanent. Today more than ever, artists are experimenting and using different media to create new forms of expression."

The group of artists showing this December chose 'Air' as their motif for several works and interventions. They explore the potential of the frivolous, playful and disposable inflated plastic to create monumental art structures. Inflated PVC is rarely taken seriously as an art material. Its cheapness, fragility and the mass dissemination of a "made in china" production into the dollar stores, re-en-

force the notion of the non value of those objects. Spread all around us like air, inflated PVC has also played major rolls in life saving products, or in outer-space technology and military operations. Hiding beneath the playful realm of space hoppers and rubber-rings is a diverse range of further applications for air filled forms, some of which are challenging and deceptive.

In the same way many abstract concepts, dreams, and thoughts are often represented inside a bubble as a way to give physical form to the intangible, the inflated sculptures presented by these artists attempt to embody utopia by appropriating the notion of continuous flux, mobility and displacement inherent to the materials.

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