

MIRROR IMAGE



Ron Arad's sculptural maze leads us on a reflective journey through Art Basel Miami

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What happens when you reflect a reflection? Hoping to answer this question, Ron Arad created "Paved With Good Intentions," his first site-specific installation in the U.S. This is a follow-up to his first-ever installation, which also made use of reflective elements and was part of the inaugural celebration for the Fondation Cartier in 1994. Exhibited as part of Art Basel Miami 2005, "Paved," a dazzling network of 69 unique, mirror-polished tables, floated across the floor and climbed up the walls of the Collins Building located in Miami's Design District.

Unlike the original – Arad's response to Jean Nouvel's glass-clad Fondation Cartier building – this new variation claims a somewhat indirect influence: the lawn of a Miami-based collector, which is overrun with large stone slabs. "The lawn was like a *Flintstones* version of my installation," Arad recalls.

Made of stainless steel that was handcrafted in Italy's best architectural metal workshops, the pond-like tables are obscenely heavy (close to 700 pounds each) and must be affixed to the walls with special bolts. Blurring negative and positive space, the carpet of undulating tables creates a mesmerizing labyrinth of distorted visual echoes – a modern-day version of Dante's *Inferno* with Arad acting as our guide. **LW**

