



Goodman, Wendy. "Freaky Furniture," *Departures*. May/June 2013.

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# F

## Fairgrounds

Though Art Basel may be the most famous art fair, the jet-setting aesthete's answer to the G-20 summit, the June event is far from the only art-world tent-pole. Indeed, there's a growing circuit of international bashes attended by the artati throughout the year, from FIAC in Paris to America's PULSE and TEFAF Maastricht in the Netherlands. Four events, though, are the must-see stops on that global merry-go-round. For neophytes, a quick cheat sheet on that stand-out quartet. —M.E.



From the 2013 Armory Show, Jean-Michel Basquiat's *Después de un Puro*, 1987

## CULTURE A-Z

YEAR  
FOUNDED

IN A NUTSHELL

CONVERSATION STARTER

DON'T SAY

UNOFFICIAL  
CLUBHOUSE

DOWNTON  
ABBEY CHARACTER

### VENICE BIENNALE

June–November  
labiennale.org

1895

Eighty-eight countries each fields a contemporary artist to stage a **career-defining solo show** in a dedicated pavilion. Power collectors are able to bypass the rules against buying at this artfest.

Discuss the **Mexico Pavilion** of 2009, where artist Teresa Margolles's installation centered on blood collected from drug-cartel murder sites. She also gave out "Cards for Cutting Cocaine" with a gory image of a charred drug-trade victim on the front.

"I loved the paintings here last year." The Biennale alternates with an architecture event on odd-even years.

Head for the bar at the **Bauer Hotel** after dinner. Rooms, from \$400; S. Marco 1459; 39-041/520-7022; bauervenezia.com.

Part **Lady Mary**, part **Martha Levinson**, all superannuated glamour.

### FRIEZE LONDON

October  
friezelondon.com

2003

An offshoot of the name-sake art magazine, this is undeniably the **fair with the greatest momentum** right now. Last year it spun off a New York satellite on Randall's Island, which returns May 10 to 13.

Reminisce over Simon Fujiwara's **Frozen**, from 2010. This stunt was typical of the fair's prankish swagger: It depicted ancient ruins "found" under the tent in the park and excavated by the artist. As social commentary, the dig included hoax sites such as the tomb of the dead artist.

"Isn't it great how they keep the hoi polloi at bay?" Frieze is the most populist fair, hosting a free outdoor sculpture park nearby.

One of the many on-site restaurants. Undeniably, this is the art shindig with the best food. In 2012, it featured restaurants by **Mark Hix** and **Locanda Locatelli**.

**Matthew Crawley**, the dashing arriviste.

### ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

December  
artbasel.com

2002

Basel Miami is the **art world's answer to Us Weekly**. Gawp-worthy A-list celebrities prowl the fair, with recent attendees including Jay-Z and Beyoncé, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Will Ferrell.

Carp about the 2011 party for **Art.sy**, hosted by Wendi Murdoch and Dasha Zhukova. It's become legendary for its equal parts cachet and crushing crowds.

"Aren't all the parties a bit distracting from the real reason we're here?" Connoisseurs know they are the reason to come here.

After cocktails and dinner, festivities continue at the **Raleigh Hotel** pool bar. Rooms, from \$340; 1775 Collins Ave, Miami Beach; 305-534-6300; raleighhotel.com.

**Cousin Rose**, the posh party girl.

### ARMORY SHOW NEW YORK

March  
thearmoryshow.com

Taking its name from a legendary 1913 show, the current iteration dates back to 1994, when it started in a few hotel rooms.

Held on the piers along Manhattan's West Side, the Armory Show is unusual in that its **focus ranges beyond contemporary art**: One entire pier is dedicated to a secondary market of modern art.

Bring up the **free-for-all** in 2013, when Charles Lutz created a vast stack of Warhol-referencing, oversized Brillo boxes that visitors could take gratis. Hundreds then trudged through the fair hauling the unwieldy souvenirs.

"So when do the soldiers arrive?" The sobriquet is a nod to its namesake fair's first location, inside the 69th Regiment Armory.

As it's the least social of the fairs, the best place to bump into long-lost pals is the **on-site VIP room**.

**Lady Edith**, smart and a little earnest.

## Freaky Furniture

\* Like the best fairy tales, the sculptural furniture of **Fernando and Humberto Campana** is equal parts enchanting and unsettling—one doesn't know whether to sit or stare. The Brazilian brothers' whimsical upholstery

has ranged from cardboard to Mickey Mouse plush dolls. The most recent Banquete chair (right)—one of several new pieces in their show at Manhattan's Friedman Benda, from June 5 to July 3—is a continuation of that aesthetic. The

stuffed leather alligators piled atop a steel frame have been made at a Brazilian NGO that employs women in prison. "Campana Brothers" will take place at Friedman Benda, 515 W. 26th St.; friedmanbenda.com. —WENDY GOODMAN

