

FRAME

Frame #51
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54
Ron Arad
Installation
Miami

Holiday in Hades: Ron Arad's *Paved with Good Intentions* is a labyrinth of mirror-polished stainless-steel tabletops floating across the floor and scaling the walls of a Miami gallery.

Ron Arad is a designer of grand vision rather than tiny details, and nowhere is this so engrossingly apparent as in his first site-specific American installation, mischievously entitled *Paved with Good Intentions*. Last December, *Paved* presented the proverbial 'road to hell' as a maze of 69 mirror-polished stainless-steel tables ranged across the floor and cleverly climbing the walls of the Barry Friedman Gallery in the Miami Design District. Available for purchase by collectors – this was an *art* installation, not simply a roomful of designer items – each coffee-table-height object had a unique organic shape. Walking through the bulging network of paths after a couple of glasses of champagne, visitors to last December's Art Basel fair (in Miami, not in Switzerland) found themselves captured, seamed and distorted in a labyrinth of reflections. Arad described his installation, created in collaboration with Claudia Costa and Paul Gibbons, as 'an upside-down world' whose centre was located in a corner of the loft-like space and not literally in the middle of the gallery. 'Why is it so fascinating to walk in an upside-down world?' Arad asked, before supplying the answer himself: 'To discover that all the pictures on the paving slabs are part of one whole picture, a picture that is constantly changing with our movement in space. We can't even guess what we are going to see – we know everything about the hardware – but the full image can only exist when it does.'

Shonquis Moreno
Photography by Ron Arad

The
Road
to Hell