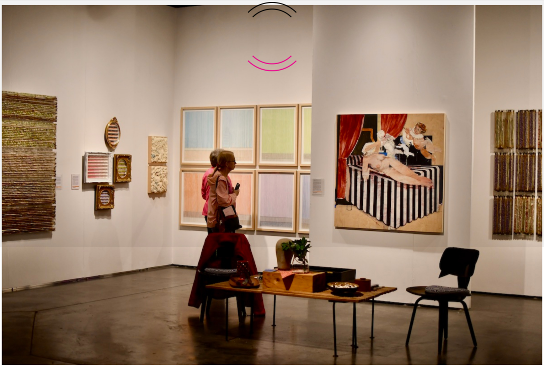
Into the Light: 7 Artists that Shone at Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary 2024

Top Lists



March 27, 2024

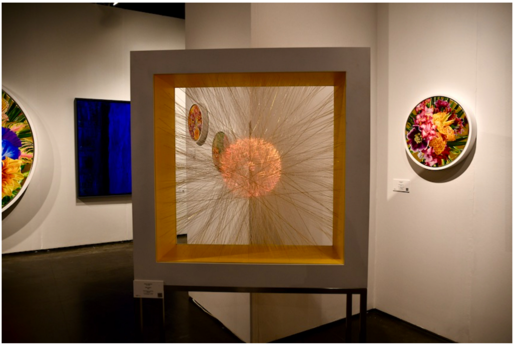
Lisa Morales

Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary, presented by Art Miami, concluded its seventh edition on March 23rd, featuring 70 international galleries. Held at the Palm Beach Convention Center, the fair attracted seasoned art collectors and 'Next Gen' enthusiasts to the exclusive enclave of Palm Beach. With Palm Beach experiencing a remarkable 93% increase in millionaire residents over the past decade, the city solidifies its reputation as a haven for the affluent elite. Against this backdrop of prosperity, attendees indulged in investment-grade artworks from renowned contemporary, post-war, and modern masters, reaffirming the event's significance in the realm of art and wealth.

However, beyond the transactional side of the art market, the fundamental principle of why we collect art and place it in our most treasured personal spaces always shines through. Art transports us through a colorful dimension of time and place. From first glance, we travel to deep introspection and from darkness into light. After all, humans are phototrophic by nature.

While walking through the aisles of a spectacular exhibition of art in all mediums, the journey to different places is felt everywhere. However, today, we focused on light as a medium. These seven artists offered us, as the viewer, a chance to turn away from our natural perspective and get lost in the light.

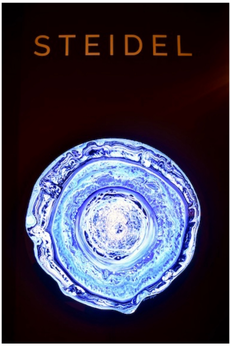
Featured Image: Installation view. Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary 2024 © Lisa Morales



Pablo Armesto, Maison d’Art (Monaco)

Pablo Armesto's work is framed within an experimental space in which sculpture and painting coexist with the immaterial character of light and shadow, together with technology and science. The luminescence of his pieces is achieved through systems of LEDs, neons, cathodes, and fiber optics combined with wood and lacquered metals.

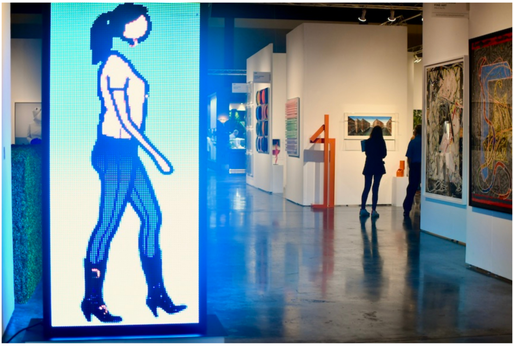
Featured image: Pablo Armesto - Yellow Sphere, 2023. Wood lacquer, optic fiber, and LEDs; Dimensions: 53.15 x 23.62 x 53.15"/135 x 60 depth x 135 cm. Maison d'Art © Lisa Morales



Emre Namyeter, Steidel Contemporary (Palm Beach)

Emre Namyeter uses the paint he creates on his own to make multiple layered abstract sculptures. Repetitive linear movement and the harmony between the colors are the most outstanding features in his works. Even though his patterns look as if they are randomly made at first glance, they are created after a very controlled process. Steidel Contemporary exhibited three of Namyeter's new works, with the stunning Oceanic 2024 taking center stage. The two other smaller works were equally compelling.

Featured image: Emre Namyeter - Gateway Series - Oceanic 2024. Mixed media on tempered glass, stainless steel, and LED; Dimensions: 48 x 48 x 2.5". Steidel Contemporary © Lisa Morales



Julian Opie, Lisson Gallery (London, New York, Los Angeles, Shanghai, Beijing)

"*Everything you see is a trick of light*," says British artist Julian Opie. "*Light bouncing into your eye, light casting shadows, creating depth, shapes, colors... awareness allows us to look at looking and, by extension, look at ourselves and be aware of our presence*." His LED works complement and give movement to his reductive style that evokes both a visual and spatial experience of the world around us.

Featured image: Julian Opie - Tina Walking 2009. LED double-sided monolith; Dimensions: 84 x 40 x 14". Lisson Gallery © Lisa Morales

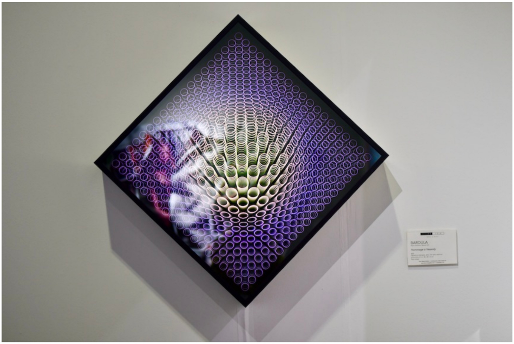
Amarist Studio and David Dessens, Priveekollektie Gallery (The Netherlands)

Amarist Studio's *Aqua Fossil Chandelier IV* transports the viewer to a landscape of unknown nature, where water has become fossilized. Alabaster is only composed of two molecules, H20 and CaSO4, but the artists aim to describe a fluid organic composition presenting Alabaster Stone as a liquid element.

In an Instagram post, they remarked, "*We sculpted in stone streams of water in translucent stone, imagining a future where water is in a fossil state. Aqua Fossil is reflecting on the scarcity of our natural resources and the need to protect them.*"

Inspired by the great French impressionist painter Claude Monet and his *Nymphéas* series, **David Dessens**' *Eternity Pond* presents a cross-section of the impressions that nature has left in him. *Eternity Pond* is a generative artwork in which programming and algorithms are used as artistic tools for the creation of every element and pattern. Viewers experience an interactive moving landscape where water lilies and leaves float on the water while fish swim, frogs jump from one leaf to the other, and dragonflies pass over the pond.

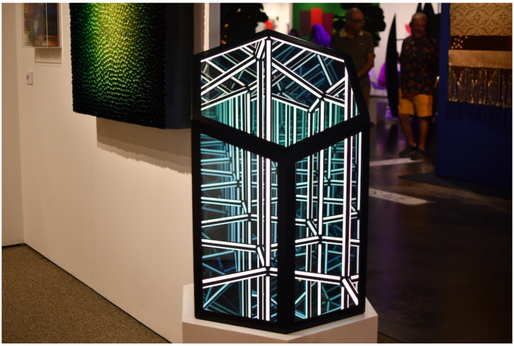
Featured image: David Dessens - Eternity Pond 2021. Screen, software, hardware; Dimensions: 58 17/100 × 33 63/100 × 3 91/100 in | 147.8 × 85.4 × 9.9 cm Edition of 8 + 2AP. © Lisa Morales



Bardula, Oliver Cole Gallery (Miami)

Bardula is an artist whose lumino-kinetic work is created by a couple, a Belgian silversmith and a French architect, in their studio south of Paris. Drawing on light, transparency, reflection, and virtual volume, they investigate optical effects on a geometrical basis and explore mathematical figures extracted from 3D digital models, and movements inspired by vortex phenomena. For *Hommage à Vasarely*, the duo uses laser and LED technologies to pay tribute to Victor Vasarely, recognized as the father of optical art.

Featured image: Bardula - Hommage à Vasarely, 2023. Pigments on plexiglass, glass, LED lights, aluminum; Dimensions: 33.5 x 33.5 x 4.7", 85 x 85 x 12 cm. Oliver Cole Gallery © Lisa Morales



Jason Sims, HOFA Gallery (London, Greece, California)

Jason Sims primarily works with light and reflection to create simple illusions of space in the form of contemporary sculpture, large-scale installation, and public art. Blurring the lines between reality and illusion, Sims' work defies notions of physical possibility.

He says, "*We need physical space in order to sort out our internal space.*"

In conclusion, Palm Beach Modern + Contemporary illuminated the artistic landscape with a captivating exploration of light as a medium, featuring works by talented artists from around the globe. From Pablo Armesto's innovative use of LEDs to Emre Namyeter's layered abstract sculptures, each piece offered a unique journey into the interplay of light and perception. As attendees wandered through the aisles of the fair, they were transported to new realms of introspection and wonder.

Looking ahead, anticipation mounts for the next installment of the Art Miami, set to take place from **December 3 to 8, 2024**. With each edition, the fairs continue to push the boundaries of artistic expression, promising yet another unforgettable celebration of creativity and innovation.

Featured image: Jason Sims - Structural Nature 2023. Reflective glass, mirror, powder-coated steel, aluminum, LED lighting, and painted plinth; Dimensions: 140 x 78 x 68 cm/55 1/8 x 30 3/4 x 26 ¾". HOFA Gallery © Lisa Morales

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