



## Edgy art by the sea

December 4, 2012  
by: George Leposky

If your Art Week Miami 2012 agenda includes more than just Art Basel Miami Beach, be sure to include two exceptional exhibits of edgy contemporary art at convenient beachside locations.

One is the inaugural edition of UNTITLED., an untraditional fair in which galleries display groupings of art that form a contextual whole to enhance the quality of the viewer's experience. It occupies a huge temporary pavilion erected on the beach at 12th Street and Ocean Drive, with semi-transparent material that allows South Florida's natural light to seep into the interior and bathe the art in a warm, diffuse glow.

Seven tenths of a mile to the north, you can view a display of high dynamic range photographic images of Miami Marine Stadium in the National Hotel at 1677 Collins Ave.

### Serpents, gladiators, and sand

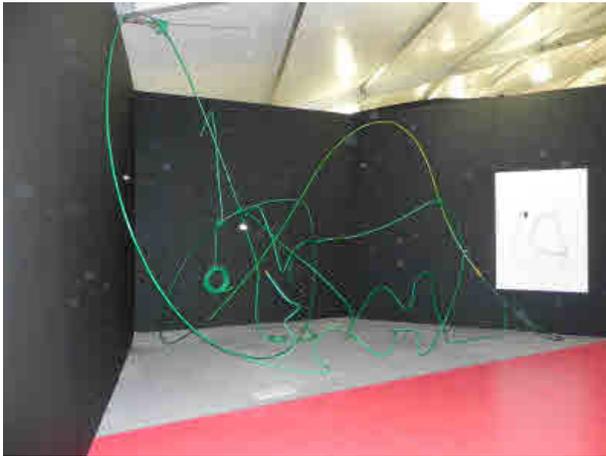
UNTITLED. is the creation of Omar Lopez-Chahoud, a professional independent curator who earned Master of Fine Arts degrees from Yale University School of Art in New Haven, Connecticut, and the Royal Academy of Art in London. Participating are 50 international galleries whose exhibiting artists and the works themselves were chosen in conversation with Lopez-Chahoud.

They include Justin Cooper, who creates "drawings in space" using everyday materials, including garden hose. For the average homeowner, a garden hose is an intractable serpent to be wrestled into submission. For Cooper, it's a source of totemic inspiration. He bends and twists them into an infinite variety of shapes. "They don't stand up by themselves," he explains. "They are filled with metal armatures – long rods to hold their shape."

His hose sculptures come in all sizes, including six large-scale installations. One of them greets UNTITLED. visitors at the entrance to the pavilion. Another extends across 6,000 square feet of space and contains a half-mile of hose.



Justin Cooper with one of his garden hose sculptures, exhibited by the moniquemeloche gallery in Chicago.  
*Credit: © 2012 George Leposky*



A large-scale Justin Cooper garden hose sculpture at the entrance to UNTITLED.  
Credit: © 2012 George Leposky

Cooper earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Colorado Boulder, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Art Institute of Chicago. His art at UNTITLED. is exhibited by a Chicago gallery, moniquemeloche.

Des Pacio gallery in San José, Costa Rica, displays three colorful busts of gladiators in football helmets, entitled *Glitter Thunder Belly*, *Ruby Red Shining*, and *Lollipop Racer Arrow*, by Andrés Carranza.

Carranza shaped each bust from an unconventional witches' brew consisting of a computed axial tomography scan of himself, skull replica stereolithography molded in bone ash, blood and water-rich secretion of the eccrine (sweat) and lacrimal (tear) glands, fiberglass, resin, leather, and automotive paint.

Georgia Scherman Projects in Toronto, Ontario, is showing works by Jennifer Marman and Daniel Borins, a Toronto-based collaborative duo of artists who have been working together since 1999. Their display includes a selection of paintings and a sculpture, *Sandy Moore*, an obvious allusion to the bronzes of Henry Moore expressed in what appears to be a sand sculpture.

## A relic awaiting rebirth

Hurricane Andrew in 1992 trashed but did not destroy the Miami Marine Stadium, an architectural marvel on Virginia Key designed by Hilario Candela, a now-legendary architect who was just 26 years old when the stadium was built. It opened in 1963, with a brash modernist form featuring a 326-foot roof that once was the world's longest cantilevered concrete span.

Alone and forlorn after the storm, the stadium became an impromptu venue for graffiti artists who broke into it with such frequency and persistence that the authorities finally gave up and allowed them free access. Now the stadium and its constantly changing graffiti images have been designated for historic preservation. Plans are being developed to restore and reopen it, and a support group – Friends of Miami Marine Stadium – is working to raise funds for the restoration.

The National Hotel exhibit consists of high dynamic range photographic images by Jay Koenigsberg, a lawyer whose avocational interest in photography has taken him to the leading edge of digital technology. The images on view there are remarkable in their crispness, clarity, and contrast. Each took about a week to print and involved adding successive layers to a metallic substrate.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/edgy-art-by-the-sea>