



by Artist Yvette Michele Booth

**CREATING
COMMUNITY**

Arts & Culture

art  africa



Artist: Maximo Caminero

Miami, FL., Festivities and galleries are currently bustling in Miami for its famous week of art known as Art Basel. I have had many conversations with artist of their activities and their ultimate dreams. Basel is certainly one that is spoken for each of them. Inclusion and the seeking of how to be included is at the forefront of their minds.

So how does one get into a Basel experience? Neil Hall has created such an opportunity to artists of color with the fifth year of offering through The Urban Collective. Hall is a Miami-based Architect and Curator of the Art Basel satellite fairs Urban Collective, Art Africa Miami, and Soul Basel.

He went to Art Basel in Miami five years ago and made note of the absence of artists of color in one of North America's largest art exhibitions. He soon gathered over 25 artist of color and asked them how they would like to address the issue of not being represented in large forums such as Art Basel, & professionally in Major Galleries and Museums.

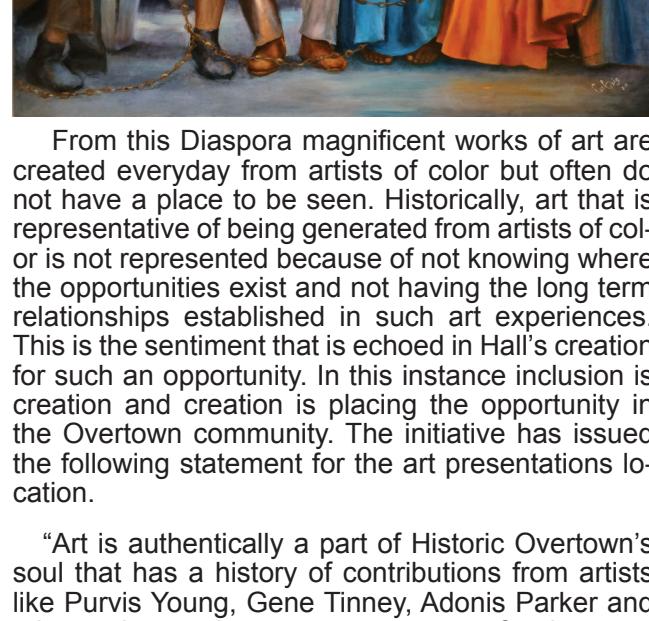
His conversation with these artists was around how art is sold from the backs of cars and vans going from city to city for fairs and festivals. He stated that art sold from the trunks of their cars severely undervalues the art and that the artists were paying a dis-service to themselves.

The Urban Collective pushes the boundaries once again, leading the way for innovation and creativity with the fifth installment of their Art Africa Miami Arts Fair, (AAMAF). This year AAMAF will be hosted by The Black Archives Historic Lyric Theatre Cultural Arts Complex. The Art Africa Miami Arts Fair is a juried multidisciplinary exhibition of fine contemporary art from the Global African Diaspora.

The formal definition of a Diaspora as defined by Merriam Webster dictionary and Wikipedia is:

Diaspora can also refer to the movement of the population from its original homeland. Diaspora has come to refer particularly to historical mass dispersions of an involuntary nature, a group of people who live outside the area in which they had lived for a long time or in which their ancestors lived.

Although slavery in the U.S. ended over 150 years ago, the displacement still lives with us today by not knowing our connection to the homeland in which our ancestors have come forth.



From this Diaspora magnificent works of art are created everyday from artists of color but often do not have a place to be seen. Historically, art that is representative of being generated from artists of color is not represented because of not knowing where the opportunities exist and not having the long term relationships established in such art experiences. This is the sentiment that is echoed in Hall's creation for such an opportunity. In this instance inclusion is creation and creation is placing the opportunity in the Overtown community. The initiative has issued the following statement for the art presentations location.

"Art is authentically a part of Historic Overtown's soul that has a history of contributions from artists like Purvis Young, Gene Tinney, Adonis Parker and others who continue to create energy for the community. Hall is the thought leader behind the AAMAF, continues to be at the forefront nurturing the narrative that art and culture is the vital resource to transform the Overtown community."

"The AAMAF is also part of the Soul Basel and Art of Black Miami marketing vehicle that brings awareness to Black art for all perspectives that include African-American, Latin, Afro Cuban, Caribbean and African artistic and cultural exhibition and programming. AAMAF is made possible through the generous support of District 5, Commissioner Keon Hardemon and Southeast Overtown Park West (SEOPW) Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)."

"We are excited about the return of Art Africa Miami to Historic Overtown and the appeal it brings to Art Basel Patrons," said Clarence Woods, SEOPW CRA Executive Director. "We believe this year's exhibit will be exceptionally strong at the Historic Lyric Theater and provide the SEOPW CRA with the opportunity to showcase the Redevelopment Area."

The Urban Collective (TUC) is also dedicated to inspiring the youth of Overtown to serve as agents of change within the arts arena. The Urban Collective Art Youth Insider workshop scheduled for Friday, Dec 4, 2015 with the students of the Overtown Youth and Children Coalition, will explore the areas of Art and Design, Street Art, Mural Art and Fine Art."

On Sunday, Dec 6, 2015 TUC's 2nd Soul Basel Brunch and Conversation: The Renaissance of Overtown's Cultural and Artistic Landscape will close out the Art Africa Miami Arts Fair.

For more information, please visit www.artafricamiamifair.com or call 954.283.7195. Follow on Twitter @ArtAfricaMiami #ArtAfricaMiami

ART on AIDS & HIV South Florida has Highest AIDS Rates in USA.

Artist of all ages have a message to share in helping this epidemic that is affecting our community.

In this season of Thanksgiving. Gratitude is expressed to the World AIDS Museum for its continued support and efforts to educate our community through its innovative programming in the awareness and prevention of HIV and AIDS diseases

To understand facts, impact and how you fit into this very important message for our community, Visit the museum.

World AIDS Museum and Education Center located at

1201 NE 26th Street Suite 111

Wilton Manors, FL 33305

<http://www.worldaidsmuseum.com>

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When you see this symbol with the plus sign it means that you can have a conversation with the person who is wearing it to learn more about AIDS and HIV. Remember 1 in 5 do not know their personal status.

