## CRISTIN TIERNEY



## The 10 Best Booths at Untitled Art, Miami Beach 2024

By Maxwell Rabb, Artsy



With sunlight streaming through its tent and the sound of waves crashing along South Beach, Untitled Art, Miami Beach is a much-beloved event in a packed Miami Art Week schedule. On December 3rd at 10 a.m., a VIP crowd poured into the fair's signature shoreline tent, greeted by champagne, coffee carts, and a beachside lounge that cut through any stuffiness between booths.

Indeed, the sunlit aisles also provided an ideal backdrop for art browsing. This year's edition of the fair—its 13th—is Untitled's largest yet, featuring 176 galleries (compared to 163 last year). This year, the participating galleries were curated under the theme "East Meets West," guided by Kathy Huang, an independent curator, and Jungmin Cho, founder of Seoul art space White Noise. As part of Untitled Art's aim to better represent the breadth of the contemporary art market, the fair invited a more diverse array of galleries from Asia, Eastern Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia Pacific. Several galleries focused on exploring individual artists' struggles with identity or assembled diverse rosters that reflect a broad geographic and cultural scope.

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Untitled Art's commitment to curator-driven presentation is clear across the board, but is particularly prominent in its special projects section of installations. Notable works, scattered across the three aisles, include Judy Pfaff's El Patio (1988)—a massive colorful artwork affixed to the East wall near the VIP lounge—and Brooklyn gallery Transmitter's "contain and mend" exhibition, a group show of textile work from artists from Asia and of the Asian diaspora.

Meanwhile, the fair's Nest sector continues with its aim of breaking down the financial barriers to art fair participation by offering subsidized booths. This forward-thinking initiative has drawn in fresh faces like Hong Kong's Mou Projects, Los Angeles's Rajiv Menon Contemporary, and New York's Latitude Gallery, all making their fair debuts.



"I've most enjoyed witnessing how galleries have really leaned into this year's curatorial theme, 'East Meets West,' intending to extend the geographical reach of the fair beyond traditional, Western understandings of contemporary art," said Clara Andrade, the fair's executive director. "These galleries are bringing more experiential and conceptual approaches, further broadening what this edition has to offer."

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Untitled Art is also poised for major change in 2025. Last month, the fair announced its expansion to Houston, scheduled for September 19th through 21st. The new fair—described as a "boutique invitational fair"—hopes to engage the local art community and Texas's rapidly growing collector base.

"Our role during Miami Art Week is to continue creating a space that is open, inclusive, and accessible while pushing boundaries and presenting cutting-edge ideas and work—which the market is positively responding to," said Andrade. "It signals the hunger for this type of offer within today's art fair landscape, which we are excited to bring to Houston when we launch there in September next year. We are concluding 2024 on a positive high, with confidence in the market and so much to look forward to in 2025."