

# 16 Artists Who Made Sure Black Lives Mattered at Art Basel Miami Beach

These black artists created work that spoke volumes at the annual art show.

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The beauty of art is that it starts with one person's dreams and ideas, which are then realized in a painting, sculpture or other art medium. From there it lives on forever, hopefully for all the world to see. That's one reason it's so important that the artwork of black artists, who often document the good and bad of our lives, flourish in this new, emerging worldview.

From police violence to black love, from the Black Panthers to the Jackson Five, it's all reflected in this selection of artwork from the largest and most important art fair in America, **Art Basel Miami Beach**, as well as some of the many satellite fairs and shows, which took place in Miami from Dec. 1-4.

Although some big-name celebrities made appearances, it's the artists who are always the real standouts. **Kehinde Wiley** presided over his annual fish fry, where a prompt Lauryn Hill performed; **Jacolby Satterwhite** was feted by Artsy and Faena; and the New York-based street artist **Bradley Theodore** was celebrated by the Ivy. Additionally, this year the **Art of Black Miami** expanded its programming to include even more artists of African descent.



*Granny \$, 2016, by Aaron Fowler; mixed media, 72 by 25 by 6 inches*

COURTESY OF DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

## 15. Aaron Fowler

**Aaron Fowler's** assemblage artworks are made from found materials, including objects like church chairs, hair weaves and CDs. *Granny \$* shows his grandmother on a \$1,000 bill. Fowler believes that his family is the real currency, not just in his life but in the world. The work also represents his American story: born to a 14-year-old mother in St. Louis, where he has deep roots.