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## Art Basel Cancels Bellwether Miami Beach Fair Following Pandemic Concerns

BY **MAXIMILIANO DURÓN**

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The Miami Beach Convention Center, home to Art Basel Miami Beach.

CASEY KELBAUGH/ARTNEWS

The organizers of Art Basel Miami Beach (<https://www.artnews.com/art-basel-miami-beach/>) announced today that they had been forced to cancel the scheduled 2020 edition of the fair, which was set to take place during the first week of December in Florida. The

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[action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage](#)) by the New York Times.

The fair, which is considered the most prestigious event of its kind staged in the United States, also cited international and domestic travel restrictions, including quarantine periods, and the uncertainty related to whether or not a large event like Art Basel Miami Beach, which takes place each year in the city's convention center, could be staged or not.

Art Basel Miami Beach had previously stated that it would not charge fees for the 2020 fair and that all application expenses used for 2020 would be rolled over for 2021. (Because the fair is so late in the year, most galleries had not yet paid exhibitor fees.) The next edition of the fair will take place December 2-5, with a preview day on December 1.

In lieu of the canceled in-person fair, Art Basel said it would host an iteration of its Online Viewing Rooms this coming December that would be open to all galleries who had been accepted to the 2020 edition. Art Basel, like other art fairs, had already hosted online versions of the fairs when it canceled its Hong Kong and Basel, Switzerland, editions. The fair has also planned two thematic online fairs (<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/art-basel-online-viewing-rooms-fall-2020-1202697639/>) for September and October.



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