

FOUR OF A KIND

ARTISTS TO WATCH



1. Puerto Rican-born **Carlos Betancourt** will open his Miami home and workspace – including a display of gilded items in his pool – for an intimate breakfast on Saturday as part of Basel's Artist Studio Visits program (ArtistStudio2017@gmail.com). 2. Twins **Doug and Mike Starn** are employing bamboo and bright cords to expand their Met Museum-famous series Big Bambú at Design Miami (via Cristina Grajales Gallery). 3. Street-art prodigy **Skylar Grey**, who's just 17, will show off his pop-culture mashups at Scope via local Avant Gallery. 4. Activist collective **Guerrilla Girls** exhibits in Miami for the first time at Fair, an all-female confab at Brickell City Centre that's free to the public (FairMarket.art). – Hana R. Alberts

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS.

TOR'S LETTER

alexa



ALEXA



Versace's Miami

By MARK ELLWOOD

FASHION visionary Gianni Versace was only 37 when he was murdered in the upstairs bedroom of the opulent mansion he built on the shores of his Miami Beach home in 1995. That tragic story will be retold on the second season of Bryan Murphy's *Versace: The Crime Story*, which premieres on HBO's Crime Channel on Sept. 17. The show follows Versace's move to Versace's Miami from his gritty neighborhood in New York City, the murder of his brother — led made the newly busy, modestly crammed hub of South Beach his home for several years — and the family's rise to the top of the local scene. Here are a few of his favorite haunts.



THEN: THE VERSACE MANSION

NOW: THE VILLA CASUARINA

1995 Versace's mansion was the most expensive in the city at the time. He bought it in 1992, lavishly rehabbing the 1930 interiors and even demolishing the hotel next door (and outdoor) to make room for an outdoor pool and garden. After his death, the mansion was sold to a developer who converted it to a hotel — it was renamed as a fashion museum at one point — before landing as an ultra-lux, 10-suite hotel. You can even book Versace's old bedroom from Springfielda.com.



THEN: NEWS CAFE

NOW: NEWS CAFE MIAMI BEACH

1970s Versace frequented the News Cafe, a 19th-century building that was a hub of activity for the city's elite during South Beach's '80s boom. Versace first discovered the house while on a trip to Cuba — after talking to the owner, he decided to buy his own building. He converted it into a restaurant, also dropping by most mornings to pick up a newspaper.



THEN: WARSAW BALL ROOM

NOW: 1450 Collins Ave.

1970s Versace frequented the Warsaw Ball Room, the 1939 Art Deco venue turned into Warsaw — the hottest gay club on the beach, notorious for its wild parties. Versace frequented the club, and it was here that he met his future partner, Susanna Barbach, while negotiating hotel rights. Today, unfortunately, its raucousness comes with a side of franchised queers.



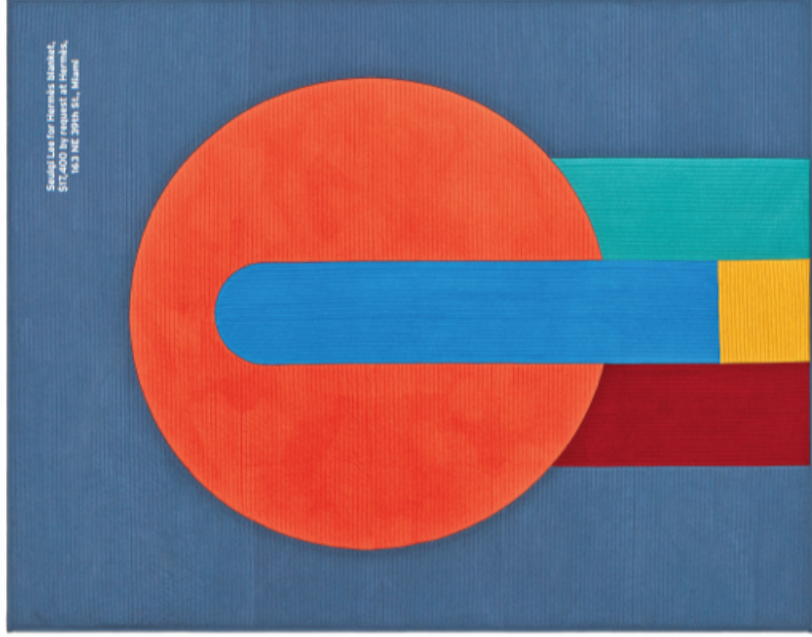
Madonna's BFF Ingrid Casares (left) and Versace at Liquid.

THEN: LIQUID NIGHTCLUB

NOW: TRADE NIGHTCLUB

1979 Washington Ave. Versace and his sister, Donatella, frequented the club. The room was 23,000 square feet, and it was here that Versace met Madonna. In 1995, under the ownership of Ingrid Casares (Madonna's BFF) and Chris Piccollo (who dated the singer only to end up in prison for a unrelated crime), the club was converted into a lounge for the night-crawling and cranking before murdering Gianni.

PHOTOS: (TOP) MICHAEL O'NEILL; (BOTTOM) JEFFREY MAYER



Swag! Lee for Hermes blanket, \$75,400 by request at Hermes, 843 NE 39th St., Miami

THE GET

DREAM WEAVER

By GARRIE SEIN

WHY rebadge your precious art to a frame when you could snuggle under it? Korean-French artist Seung Lee has created three striking cashmere blankets for Hermes, each portraying a Korean proverb in vivid primary colors and abstract geometrics. Quilted using the traditional Korean rubric technique — featuring long rows of topstitching nestled close together — these limited-edition works of art are captivating whether displayed on your wall or tucked under your chin. As Lee told Architectural Digest: "I like to imagine that these proverbs can influence the dreams of people who use the blanket."

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER W. WATKINS

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Peter Casella's artwork will open his Miami home and participate — including a display of gifted items in his pool — for an intimate fundraiser to benefit the Miami Children's Hospital. The artist's work will be on display at the Miami Children's Hospital, which just 17, will show off his pop-culture mashups at Sope via local Avant Gallery. Avant collective Guerrilla Girls exhibits in Miami for the first time at Flag, an all-female curatorial at Brickell City Centre that's free to the public. (@artcuratorial) — Hulu.com

EDITOR'S LETTER

A place in the sun

ONCE again, global creatives are descending upon South Florida for Art Basel Miami Beach, which has evolved into the most prestigious — and certainly exciting — cultural event in the Americas. Alexa salutes the Magic City's spirit of resilience as it debuts major new museums and restaurants just months after a devastating hurricane season. We toast its artists, developers, designers, chefs and collectors — as well as its next generation of brilliant young things.

Fronting this issue is Karolina Kurkova, the Czech-born supermodel who personifies the city's sophisticated new crew: citizens of the world for whom Miami has become the only place to call home. — *David Kaufman*



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