

Whitewall, December 2nd, 2013

Whitewall | Katy Donoghue | December 2, 2013

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NICHOLAS BAUME CURATES "SOCIAL ANIMALS" FOR ART PUBLIC

This year, the public art component of **Art Basel Miami Beach** is curated by **Nicholas Baume**, the director and chief curator of the **Public Art Fund**. Over 20 works will be on view by artists **Huma Bhabha, Aaron Curry, Mark Di Suvero, Loris Greaud, Alicja Kwade, Richard Long, Michelle Lopez, Charlotte Posenenske, Scott Reeder, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Pascale Marthine Tayou, Thomson Mungo, and Maarten Vanden Eynde**. It is the first time the public works on view in **Collins Park** will be selected for an exhibition theme, "Social Animals." We spoke with Baume a few weeks before the fair about the idea behind "Social Animals" and curating art for the public.

WHITEWALL: You've curated works within different cities like New York, Sydney, Boston, Hartford. What were you looking for in Miami as a city, and how did that influence what works you were choosing for the public exhibition there?

NICHOLAS BAUME: I've been going to Miami, I think for pretty much as long as I've lived in the US, because even before the art fair started, the exhibitions I curated travelled to the Miami Art Museum. I've gotten to know Miami over the years and really enjoy it. That title, "Social Animals" occurred to me between a combination of context of art fair and also a context of a public park. Men by nature are animals and thinking of how the contemporary art fair gives this sort of international convergence of artists and curators and gallerists and collectors and media people in an indirectly social form, just as a public park is an inherently social place.