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Palm Beach Daily News

the shiny sheet

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ArtPalmBeach adds link to local arts districts for international showcase

Fair's 17th edition opens Thursday, runs through Monday.

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By Jan Sjostrom

Daily News Arts Editor

ArtPalmBeach prides itself on being international. This year's edition will feature more than 80 galleries from France, Argentina, Chile, Italy, Portugal, Israel, Britain, South Korea, Switzerland, Belgium, Japan, China and the United States showing modern, contemporary and emerging art and design in all mediums. Exhibitions will highlight contemporary Korean, Latin American and Middle Eastern art.

But there's a new emphasis on the local art scene, with the debut of Art Synergy, a showcase of gallery walks, live performances, art demonstrations, fashion shows and more in Palm Beach, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Boynton Beach during the fair. In Palm Beach, 14 galleries will be open until 7 p.m. Friday.

"We took a static event that happens once a year and opened up galleries and studios and created a link between the community at large and ArtPalmBeach," fair organizer Lee Ann Lester said.

The 17th ArtPalmBeach ushers in the Palm Beach fair season with a preview Thursday and runs through Monday at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in West Palm Beach.

Conceived by Lester, Lake Worth artist Craig McInnis and Boynton Beach gallery director Rolando Chang Barrero, Art Synergy is the first countywide gallery walk.

"I was scratching my head to figure out why West Palm Beach didn't use ArtPalmBeach to increase its presence the way Miami has with Art Basel," said McInnis, referring to the myriad of events occurring during Art Basel Miami Beach fair week in December.

Within the fair, sculpture will be a particular emphasis. That's proclaimed at the entrance to the fair, where visitors will walk through a site-specific light sculpture by Romanian-born artist Adela Andea. The artist works with LED lights, flex neon, computer parts and even sliced pool noodles to create "immersive environments," said gallery owner Anya Tish. "When you walk in you feel like you're in a high-tech fairy tale."

Albert Paley, whose many public art projects include the recently concluded display of 13 monumental metal sculptures on Park Avenue in New York, will be honored with the fair's Visionary Lifetime Achievement Award.

Ruth Lawrence Fine Art will exhibit seven maquettes (small models of artwork) from the series, along with Paley's smaller sculptures, furniture and drawings.

"He's a master of metal," gallery owner Nan Miller said. "Because of his nearly 50 years of experience, he has tested and used the medium to its maximum potential."

Paley will give a lecture and participate in a book signing Saturday. Two PBS shows about Paley will be screened: *Forge*, from the series *Craft in America*, on Friday and the special *Paley: On Park Avenue, New York City* on Monday.

Newcomers to the fair include Wexler Gallery, which will exhibit ceramics by Hideaki Miyamura, abstract paintings by Chiyomi Longo and furniture by Timothy Schreiber and Vivian Beer. She was recently featured in 40 Under 40: Craft Futures at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

Overall, fairs such as ArtPalmBeach are a boon to the community, said David Ginn, director of Tagliatella Galleries in Palm Beach, who coordinated the Palm Beach gallery walk for Art Synergy.

"I go to all the fairs," he said. "They're a nice cultural thing down here, one of the distinctions of our area."

If You Go

What: ArtPalmBeach

When: By-invitation preview 6-10 p.m. Thursday

Public Hours: Noon-7 p.m. Friday-Sunday, noon-6 p.m. Monday

Where: Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach

For information: Call (239) 495-9834 or visit artpalmbeach.com

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