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Just north of Miami Beach, TIYANA GRULOVIC finds Bal Harbour's quiet-luxe vibe and grassroots cultural scene a chillaxing alternative to party-hard Art Basel

BAL DU JOUR



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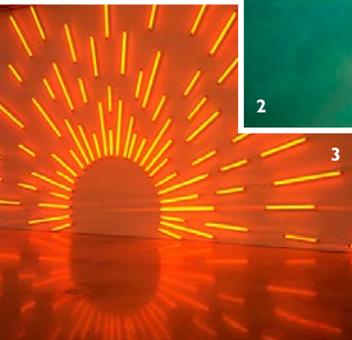
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1. A Jun Kaneko ceramic from the Ritz's contemporary art collection. 2. A bird's-eye view of the Ritz. 3. Bal Harbour's Unscripted pass gets you into Miami museums for free; don't miss this fluorescent-light installation by Mark Handforth at the Pérez Art Museum Miami

4. The Yabu Pushelberg-designed mirrored lobby at the St. Regis. 5. Play artist by customizing your own Jimmy Choo pumps at the stiletto maker's Bal Harbour outpost. 6. When you're not beach-bound, stock up on denim at the recently opened Rag & Bone. 7. An unobstructed view of the beach from a plush St. Regis lounge chair. 8. A Darren Waterston abstract presides over the Ritz lobby

Untitled (art-untitled.com), plus the latest Herzog and de Meuron beacon, the **Pérez Art Museum Miami** (pamm.org), and the **Rubell Family Collection** (rfc.museum).

For this year's Basel-adjacent program, Unscripted's curator, Claire Breukel, has set up a conversation between Guggenheim Museum curator Pablo León de La Barra and Cuban performance artist Tania Bruguera (Dec. 7). They'll discuss Bruguera's latest project: gathering signed postcards from a group of collaborators to be sent to Pope Francis.

THE ART OF SHOPPING

If you're more into applied arts (but maybe lack actual skills), play design virtuoso with **Jimmy Choo's** custom shoe service at the Shops. Choose your material (satin, leather, snake—or crocodile for the high rollers), heel height and style; they'll be ready in eight weeks. (Just in time for another visit.)

If you'd rather just *look* like an art star—all black!—get your uniform at **Rag & Bone**. Fancy yourself more of a patron? Grab some Chanel, Alaïa, Givenchy or Céline at Miami concept boutique **The Webster's** Bal Harbour outpost. (FYI, its men's shop just opened, making it the ideal place to send both bored and sartorially challenged boyfriends.) ♦

Just a lick away from Miami Beach's bulging bodies, vodka-fuelled super-clubs and blinged-out Art Basel fair (Dec. 4–7), you'll find the swank enclave of Bal Harbour. Once largely regarded as a shopping mecca thanks to **Bal Harbour Shops** (balharbourshops.com), the village's laid-back resorts and burgeoning community art scene now offer culture without the flash. Here, your curated stay.

SAY AHHHHHHH...

The Yabu Pushelberg-designed **St. Regis** (stregisbalharbour.com) has set the standard for epic R&R with its beachfront views (every room has 'em), private cabanas, butler service and serene Remède Spa. For a buzz, check out the nightly champagne sabering—and swigging—in the main-floor bar. If you're still jonesing for art, I found the sculptural crème brûlée with poached apple at the hotel's **J&G Grill** (jggrillmiami.com) a sufficient fix.

Down the street, the **Ritz-Carlton** (ritzcarlton.com, formerly the One

hotel)—equally moneyed but more discreet—has long, winding hallways that reveal \$4 million of contemporary art. The huge Darren Waterston abstract in the lobby and the Jay McCaffertys in every room (each painstakingly made by burning holes into parchment with a magnifying glass) are the cornerstones of its collection.

STICK TO THE (UN)SCRIPT

Unscripted, a public art project started in 2012, essentially picks up where Basel leaves off. By tapping Miami-Dade County artists who created public works for the village—as opposed to the megawatt names who come for the fair—or pairing community artists, collectors and critics with international contemporaries for its monthly chats, it serves to enlighten both locals and tourists. I swiped my Unscripted access pass (available to guests of any Bal Harbour hotel) for free entry to Miami's smaller art fairs and eight of its art institutions—including **Pulse** (pulse-art.com) and