

# M+B

## THE ROOT

### 17 Brilliant Black Artists Featured at Art Basel in Miami

By Julie Walker  
December 6, 2015

Black art matters here at Art Basel Miami Beach, Dec. 3-6, 2015, the premier art show in the United States. During a time when “Black lives matter” has become a rallying cry for people across the country, it is important to remember that black artists have been contributing to social-justice movements from the beginning of time. They chronicle the challenges we face and the inequality we deal with, while also celebrating the lives we live. It has been said that art is colorblind; whether true or not, here at ABMB, black and brown artists enjoy healthy sales and enormous adoration.

Many of the works at the Jack Shainman Gallery, which represents a roster full of black artists, sold out. While the biggest names in the art world show at ABMB, several other black artists are on view at the more than two-dozen satellite art fairs that revolve around the big show. A viewer would be hard-pressed to walk into any show here in Miami and not spot artwork from someone of color—or, for that matter, not spot someone of color walking the show. One such show, the Prizm Art Fair, is completely devoted to black artists.

#### Nathaniel Mary Quinn

Nathaniel Mary Quinn’s work was shown at the Rhona Hoffman Gallery at ABMB. Quinn told The Root that he is proud of what he has accomplished, given his hard life growing up in a broken family in public housing on the South Side of Chicago. He told Artsy, “I hope to convey a sense of how our experiences, both good and bad, operate to construct our identities. I also want to portray a mutual relationship between the acceptable and the unacceptable, the grotesque and what is aesthetically pleasing.”



Nathaniel Mary Quinn with two of his works:  
*Big Bertha*, 2015, and *Class Photo*, 2015