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Gerlis, Melanie. "Buoyant mood and million-dollar sales at Art Basel Miami Beach" *Financial Times*, Pearson. December 1, 2022.

## FINANCIAL TIMES Buoyant mood and million-dollar sales at Art Basel Miami Beach

Christie's poised to break Goya's auction record; Reuben family collection buys Bacon



'White Bronco' (2022) by Anthony Akinbola at Sean Kelly © Anthony Akinbola. Courtesy Sean Kelly

'White Bronco' (2022) by Anthony Akinbola at Sean Kelly © Anthony Akinbola. Courtesy Sean Kelly.

"This market is ridiculously resilient in the face of other realities," said the US-based gallerist Sean Kelly at Tuesday's VIP opening of Art Basel Miami Beach. Describing himself as "already very happy" with the pace of sales, these included work by his gallery's new signing, the Missouri-born Anthony Akinbola, whose "White Bronco" (2022), a large-scale wall work made from the durag hair cloths often worn by people in Africa and the diaspora, sold immediately for \$35,000.

Seven-figure sales were reported on opening day, including "We Mourn Our Loss #2" (1997) by Kerry James Marshall, which sold for \$2.8mn (Jack Shainman Gallery) and a 1998 Agnes Martin for \$7mn (Pace Gallery). Hauser & Wirth reported a sales total of more than \$18mn by midday. Visitors included the tennis legend Venus Williams and the musician Jon Bon Jovi.

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“I thought the optimism could be tempered because of the economy and the recent happenings in the crypto space, but people are still supporting the market,” said the London-based art adviser Janna Lang. “This is the week that American and Latin American collectors turn up for.” Her highlights included a solo booth by the Nigeria-born Ruth Ige at Stevenson gallery (priced from \$14,000), where sales were quickly made.

Art Basel Miami Beach runs until Saturday.