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# CRAIN'S

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## Lefkofskys, Crowns, Fields among collectors heading to Art Basel



Today's snow isn't the only reason Chicago executives are bolting for Florida. Another is Art Basel Miami Beach, the annual fair showcasing modern, contemporary and emerging art. The event, which runs tomorrow through Dec. 6, is among the most prestigious in the world, a place where art meets creativity and money. Noted collectors attend every year.

Paula Crown in her studio.

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Photo by Shia Kapos

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Paula Crown, wife of Henry Crown Industries President Jim Crown, will be attending with the interest of a collector and artist. After a career in investment banking and with the Crown businesses, she returned to her first

love, painting. She has a studio on Michigan Avenue. A few of her pieces will be exhibited by the Marlborough Gallery during the art fair.

Billionaire philanthropist and Groupon co-founder Eric Lefkofsky and his wife, Liz, are in Miami for the show. They are major collectors, as are Larry and Marilyn Fields, who also are there.

Debra Hoag, president of Chicago-based Gentry Partners life insurance brokerage, and Chicago public-relations consultant Sugar Rautbord are in Miami, too. They're hosting a cocktail reception honoring artist Juan Garaizabal and famed art critic and filmmaker Barbara Rose. On the guest list from Chicago are former Chairman and CEO of Quaker Oats Bill Smithburg and his wife, Maria, and Chicago developer Gene Golub, whose Chicago real estate company is building a luxury condo tower in West Palm Beach.

"We're hoping to corral some of our party over to the Faena at midnight," Rautbord said. It's a high-end hotel and residential tower in Miami.

A big Chicago contingent is expected to drop by the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's party with outgoing SAIC President Walter Massey. That bash is poolside at the Sagamore Hotel.

Chicago gallery owner Alan Koppel and his interior designer wife, Sherry Koppel, also collectors, are in Miami too, along with Mesirow Financial exec Les Coney; Holly Hunt, who sold her namesake design firm last year for a cool \$95 million; and Quintin Primo, chairman of Capri Capital.

Tony Karman is there, too, of course. He heads the art fair Expo Chicago. Helyn Goldenberg, senior vice president and Midwest chair of Sotheby's in Chicago, also is on the scene.

I hear the Chicago Cubs' Anthony Rizzo is among the high-profile names on the guest list at Jason Binn's annual party. He'll be rubbing elbows with actor Adrien Brody (who's also showing off his artwork), BlackBerry COO Marty Beard, filmmaker Michael Bay and the Winklevi twins, also known as Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss. They're the brothers who claimed Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg stole their idea. They received \$65 million over the squabble—a nice start for building an art collection.

Laura Washington, Chicago Sun-Times columnist, and her husband, gallery owner Michael Richmond, are in Miami, too. They've attended every Art Basel since the first one in 2001 (which was officially canceled, though artists still displayed work), Washington told me before they left town.

Along with collectors, artists and gallerists from Chicago are represented. The street muralist known as Don't Fret, whose character art will be on display as part of the fair, is on the scene.

Chicago galleries participating in the show include Corbett vs. Dempsey, Kavi Gupta and Rhona Hoffman.

U.S. presidential candidates are taking advantage of the event to meet up with the money crowd. Hillary Clinton held two \$1,000-per-person fundraisers in Miami yesterday. I hear Jeb Bush and Martin O'Malley have similar events planned.

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