

Art|Basel

From Indigenous rights to Black representation, today's most pressing topics take center stage at Art Basel Miami Beach

This year's **Nova sector** at Art Basel Miami Beach is teeming with stories that need to be told. The artists on view shine a torch on diverse issues, ranging from generational trauma experienced by Indigenous Americans to energy poverty in resource-rich Africa. Featuring 26 galleries, the sector highlights works made within the last three years. Read on to discover six presentations that are not to be missed.

Em Rooney

Bodega, New York City

New York-based artist **Em Rooney** is fascinated by the representation of women – fictional or real – and their role as makers and subjects. For her solo presentation with **Bodega**, she explores their depiction in literature and film, honing in on escapist fantasies created by male directors. On view in Miami Beach will be a series of brand new flower-shaped sculptures, surrounded by photographs depicting women in movement. Both series prominently feature steel and pewter. Having spent time working as a fabricator in a metal workshop, Rooney's passion for metal is clear. Focusing her attention on the stark armatures and structures that act as containers of sorts for her work, she questions the power of framing and the restrictive devices that ensnare female characters.



Left: Em Rooney, Holding Umbra (XJ's rear view mirror charm 2/2) (detail), 2019. Right: Em Rooney, Seen as Swan and Serpent, 2020. Courtesy of the artist and Bodega, New York City.

Payal Uttam is an independent writer and editor who divides her time between Hong Kong and Singapore. She contributes to a range of publications including Artsy, The Art Newspaper, South China Morning Post and The Wall Street Journal.