

## ART BASEL PART 1:: THE EARLY DAYS STARTING AT WYNWOOD WALLS

Winter in Miami is the perfect place to be: 75 degrees and sunny. It's no wonder why Miami is home to the nation's most prestigious art fair during this time. For over a decade, people flock South to the Sunshine State to check out the fair and its surrounding events, accompanied by sandy beaches and the Latin flavor of the city. Over just few years, public attention of this busy week has rapidly grown. All eyes are on Miami. Art Basel is not just limited to affluent art collectors because public art graces the streets of our vibrant city. During the week leading up to Art Basel, heaps of talented artists arrive early to paint new murals and prepare for their gallery shows in their neighborhood of Wynwood. It's always a good time to cruise around via bicycle to check out new work and say hello to some international friends.

First stop: **Wynwood Walls**, a curated selection of commissioned artists who are invited each year to fill up the large outdoor gallery. Two murals from previous years remain, **Futura** (NYC) on the left, **Shepard Fairey** (Los Angeles) on the right.



I was stoked to see the talented **Seroun** (NYC) putting up her famous wheat pastes.



And saw the first layer of a piece by **Rivok** (Los Angeles) and **Pure** (Chicago).

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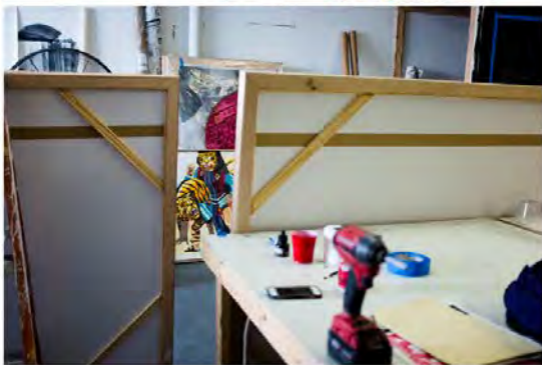
I bumped into my favorite Wynwood friend, **Marisha Cropper** (NYC).



On my route I paid a visit to the **ZALAS** studio. ZALas are a duo of Miami artists (**Andrew Antonaccio** and **Filo Galvez**) who opened their studio doors for other artists to prep for shows. I was happy to see **Pastel** (Argentina) painting live. I love his work!

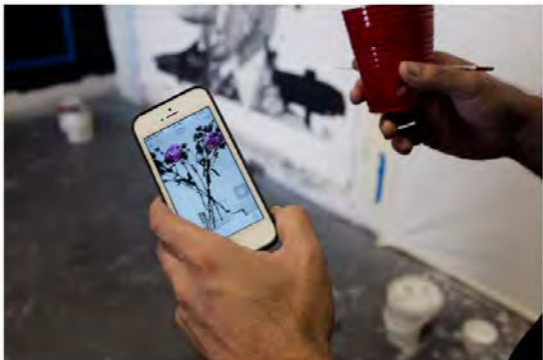


Amongst Pastel's works were freshly finished canvas pieces by other great artists: **Isa** (Argentina) and **Jufe** (Puerto Rico).

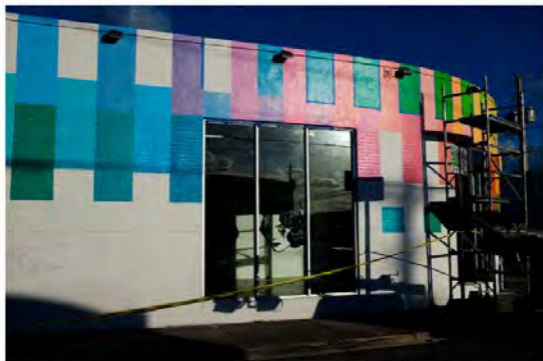


I caught Jule working on his delicate flower painting, with ZALAS to the right.





I jumped back on the bike and was excited to see the colorful mural by Dre Uthahn and Jaroen Koolhaas of *Fauna Painting* (I saw their work in *Brazil*), featuring gallery work by *Van Alpert*.



Next, I saw *Crynk* and *Dal East* (China) working on their collaborative piece outside of Wynwood Walls.



I finally ended my ride at Jose Diego Middle School, where I got to see [Rixal Pancho](#) (Italy) painting *Ive* for the RAW project. This huge non-profit project has brought over 50 of the best street artists to cover the Middle School's massive walls with epic murals over the last couple of weeks. (More on this project soon!)



Got to see [Txerry](#) (Spain) working on his wall for RAW right as the sun began to set.

