



ART BASEL DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Botero gets a conscience



Fernando Botero in front of his painting inspired by the Abu Ghraib scandal, currently on display at the Palazzo Venezia in Rome. For story, see p.4

New strategy for Art Basel

More theming, less serendipity

BASEL. As Art Basel's initial buying frenzy subsided and dealers settled into the steadier pace likely to dominate the rest of the fair, director Sam Keller was yesterday already looking forward to the next edition of Art Basel/Miami Beach, where visitors will discover the latest in Messe Schweiz's stream of new fair concepts. Art Cabinet, a programme aimed at encouraging galleries to go beyond merely hanging works up for sale and instead devote part of their booth to more curatorial endeavours, is to be unveiled at the fair in December.

"We have created Art Cabinet in order to do several things", explains Mr Keller. "It will help galleries get extraordinary works, both from artists and from estates, because of the special focus on these pieces. It will add a more cultural and educational aspect to the fair. And it will make the fair visually different—there will be greater variety between the stands."

Recent examples of Art Cabinet-style projects at Art Basel would include the entire room Manhattan dealer Per Skarstedt devoted to Richard Prince's photograph *Spiritual America* at last year's Art Basel and the dimly lit space created

at Thomas Ammann Fine Arts to display a set of Andy Warhol *Diamond Dust* paintings.

As with pieces in the Art Unlimited hall, Art Cabinet projects will be proposed by

will probably tend toward more historical art. And it could involve several artists, as long as there's a strong curatorial concept. The main issue is that with the market being so strong



Neugerriemschneider's drastically-themed stand this year which was simply walled up empty. By Rirkrit Tiravanija

accepted galleries to the selection committee, which will then choose as many as 20 concepts for a special section in the fair's catalogue.

"We don't want Art Cabinet to be like Statements here, with lots of mini shows for young artists", Mr Keller says. "It

right now, galleries tend to go for commercial approaches in building their booths. The committee felt we needed to give people a motivation to try something special, but without that incentive, many of them won't take the risk."

Marc Spiegler