

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2025

A CULTURE-DEFINING EVENT IN MIAMI BEACH: SWIZZ BEATZ HOSTS ART BASEL AWARDS NIGHT UNVEILING INAUGURAL CLASS OF GOLD AWARDEES

Presented in partnership with BOSS, the landmark gathering brought together global leaders in contemporary culture for a multisensory celebration at the New World Center



Art Basel Awards 2025 Gold Awardees and BOSS Award for Outstanding Achievement winner gather at the Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.

WHAT

Art Basel unveiled its first class of **Gold Awardees** with a captivating, high-impact event at the Frank Gehry-designed **New World Center**, marking the culmination of the inaugural Art Basel Awards cycle. Dedicated to advancing excellence and innovation across the contemporary art ecosystem, the Art Basel Awards recognize practitioners whose work is shaping the future of contemporary culture.

Hosted by Grammy Award-winning producer Kasseem "Swizz Beatz" Dean, the evening offered guests a richly layered experience – an interplay of music, architecture, performance, gastronomy, and cross-cultural exchange. Following the program's initial milestone in Basel,

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Switzerland, this June, the celebration in Miami Beach reflected the breadth and ambition of the Awards program itself.

Swizz Beatz reflected on the occasion, stating: 'Hosting the inaugural Art Basel Awards was truly an honor. For the first time, the entire arts ecosystem - from artists to cultural leaders and the many people working behind the scenes around the world - was recognized on a global stage. Through The Dean Collection, we've always believed in championing artists, and tonight embodied that energy in the most powerful way. Being invited to lead the first edition was deeply meaningful, and I'm proud to have helped set the tone for a night that will resonate for years to come. *'By the artist, For the artist, With the people!!'*'

Honorees, guests, partners, and Art Basel leadership also remarked on their experiences of the first Art Basel Awards Night. A selection of quotes for the media is available [HERE](#).

Guests entered an environment transformed through dynamic lighting, architectural projections and a live orchestral performance by musicians from the **New World Symphony**. A special performance by **Kelsey Lu** - bridging classical and experimental sound worlds - created the night's powerful emotional crescendo. The evening's red carpet and after-party were hosted by cultural commentator **Dylan Kelly**, setting the tone for a night centered on creative exchange and cross-disciplinary dialogue.

The atmosphere and program underscored the Awards' mission to spotlight visionary cultural voices, celebrate excellence across disciplines, and position Miami Beach as a global, cross-cultural stage for contemporary creativity.

Guided by a virtual appearance from **Emma D'Arcy**, the ceremony honored 11 individuals and organizations selected through a unique peer-driven voting process:

Cecilia Vicuña (Icon); Nairy Baghramian and Ibrahim Mahama (Established); Mohammad Alfaraj and Saodat Ismailova (Emerging); Formafantasma (Cross-Disciplinary); Joel Wachs (Patron); RAW Material Company (Institution); Candice Hopkins (Curator); Gasworks / Triangle Network (Allies); and Negar Azimi (Media & Storytelling).

Each recipient was honored with a handmade blown-glass trophy designed by Swiss architect Jacques Herzog of Herzog & de Meuron - each uniquely formed to evoke the shape of breath -, produced in collaboration with a Basel-based foundry. Gold Awards in the artist categories confer immediate, flexible support by distributing a total of nearly USD 300,000 annually in honorariums and philanthropic gifts.

The night also marked the debut of the **BOSS Award for Outstanding Achievement**, recognizing exceptional cultural impact across and beyond the art ecosystem. It celebrates innovative work that inspires change, and embodies the BOSS values of boldness, personal authenticity, ambition, and responsibility. This year's recipient is **Meriem Bennani**.

Following the ceremony, honorees, partners, and guests gathered for an intimate rooftop after-party featuring a DJ set by Puerto Rican-born, Miami-based DJ and producer **Natalia Roth**, who brought a fresh, contemporary pulse to the evening with her modern and minimal house and techno sound. Set against the Miami Beach skyline, the evening closed with guests mingling through music, conversation, and spontaneous creative exchanges, creating a vibrant, cross-disciplinary finale.

WHO

Notable attendees included leading figures from across art, design, fashion, and culture, as well as prominent voices from music and entertainment. Among them were **Kasseem “Swizz Beatz” Dean**, **Kelsey Lu**, **A\$AP Ferg**, **Khalid**, and **Fridayy**. Additional guests included **Malcolm Jenkins**, **Dylan Kelly**, **Kimberly Drew**, **Tyshawn Jones**, **LUNAY**, **Larsen Thompson**, **Paris Hilinski**, **Zarina Yeva**, **Ashley LaMarca**, **Angel McCoughtry**, **Jordan Rand**, **Francelys Infante**, **Nikki Kynard**, **Nasteha** and **Nuni Yusuf**, **Jimmy Akingoba**, **Edgar Berlanga**, **Maxi Peters**, and **Kennedy Yanko**.

The evening brought together many of the art world’s most influential curators and museum leaders, including **Erin Christovale**, **Es Devlin**, **Mike Winkelmann (“Beeple”)**, **Pablo León de la Barra**, **Pablo José Ramírez**, **Ruba Katrib**, **Sandra Jackson-Dumont**, **Stefanie Hessler**, **Susan Lacy**, **Yasmil Raymond**, **András Szántó**, and **Hans Ulrich Obrist**. They were joined by leading gallerists such as **Alan Cristea**, **David Maupin**, **François Ghebaly**, **Friedrich Petzel**, **Gordon VeneKlasen**, **José Kuri**, **Kamel Menhour**, **Lorenzo Fiaschi**, **Marc Payot**, **Marc Straus**, **Mónica Manzutto**, **Nicola Vassell**, **Peter Freeman**, **Hannah Traore**, **Wendy Olsoff**, **Xavier Hufkens**, **Glenn Scott Wright**, **Rachel Lehmann**, **Gabrielle Richardson**, and **Nicola Lees**.

Notable patrons and collectors in attendance included **Benny Gross**, **Catherine Petitgas**, **Don and Mera Rubell**, **Ellen von Unwerth**, **Karen Boros**, **Komal Shah**, **Larry Ossei-Mensah**, **Nicolai Frahm**, **Nicolas Berggruen**, **Pablo Rodriguez-Fraile**, **Susan Hort**, and **Gardy St. Fleur**.

Art Basel leadership was represented by **Noah Horowitz**, CEO, Art Basel, and **Vincenzo de Bellis**, Chief Artistic Officer and Global Director of Fairs, together with **Bridget Finn**, Director, Art Basel Miami Beach, **Maike Cruse**, Director of Art Basel in Basel, **Angelle Siyang-Le**, Director of Art Basel Hong Kong, **Karim Crippa**, Director of Art Basel Paris, and **Carly Murphy**, Global Head of Collector and Institutional Relations.

WHERE:

New World Center, Miami Beach

WHEN:

Thursday, December 4, 2025
6:00 PM – 11:30 PM

IMAGES:

Event photography available [HERE](#).

Courtesy of Getty, Photographed by Demetrios Kambouris.

Additional images, video, and assets available upon request.

The Art Basel Awards are presented in partnership with BOSS. The Art Basel Awards Night is supported by the City of Miami Beach and the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau and the after party is supported by our event partner Perro Verde Mezcal.



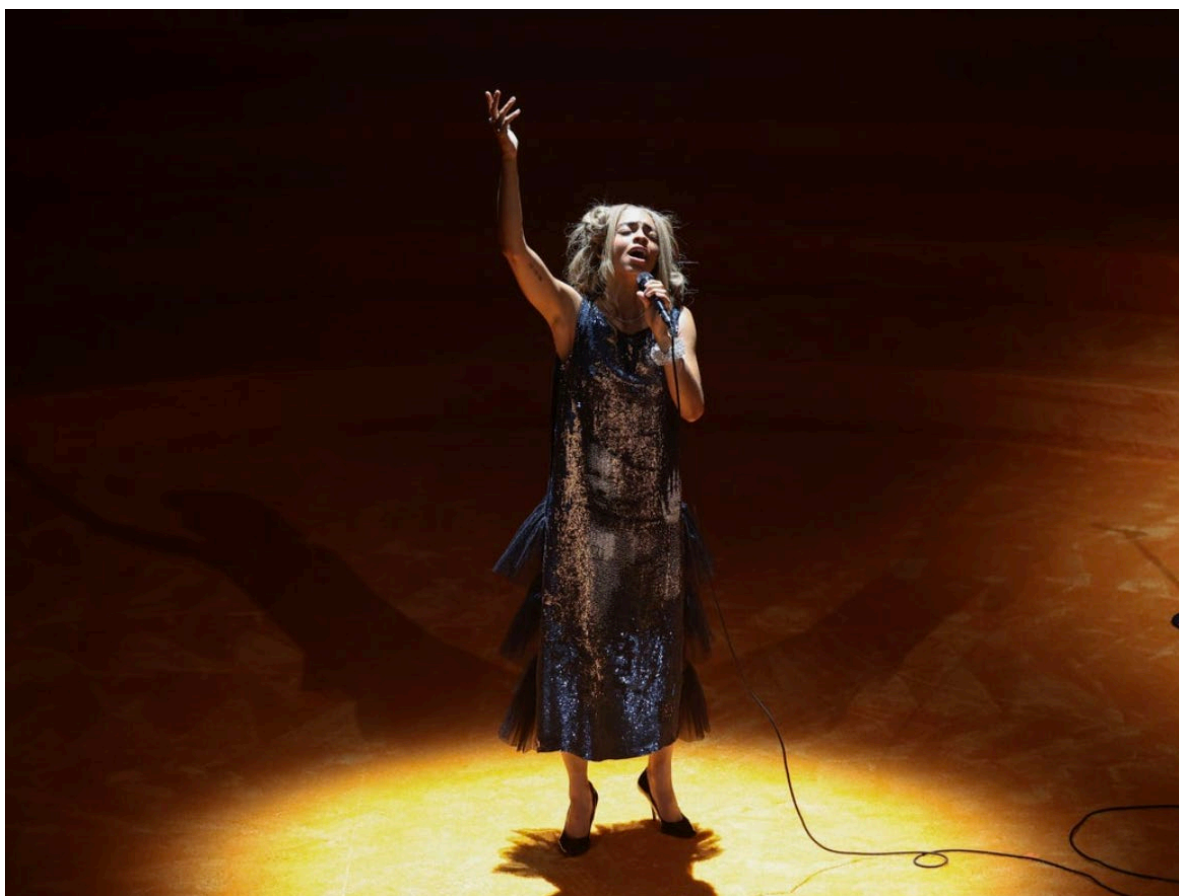
Swizz Beatz captured on the black carpet at the Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Luke Drake, Vincenzo de Bellis, Chief Artistic Officer and Global Director of Fairs, Swizz Beats, and Noah Horowitz, CEO, photographed on the step-and-repeat at the Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Swizz Beatz hosted the inaugural Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Kelsey Lu performs at the inaugural Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.

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Kelsey Lu performs at the inaugural Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Art Basel Awards 2025 Gold Awardees and BOSS Award for Outstanding Achievement winner pose with ceremony host, Swizz Beats at the Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



From left to right: Khalid and ASAP Ferg captured on the black carpet at the Art Basel Awards Night, December 4, 2025. Courtesy of Getty.



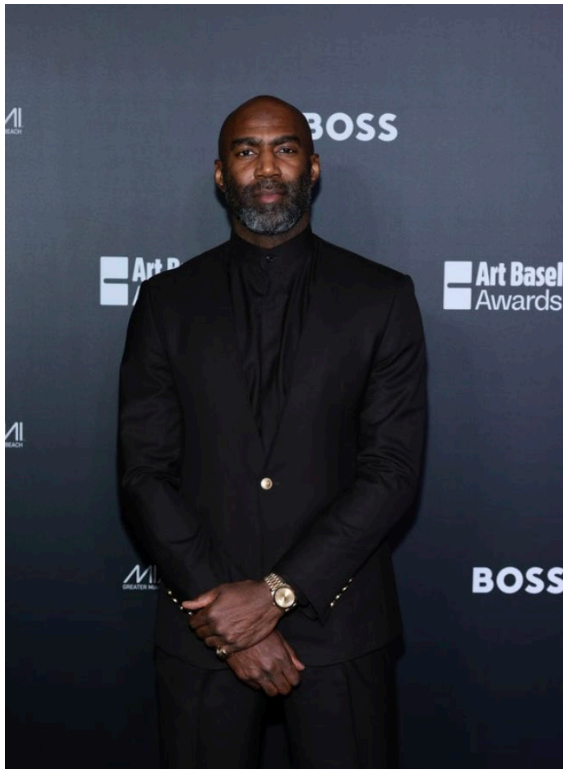
Vincenzo de Bellis, Chief Artistic Officer and Global Director of Fairs, and Noah Horowitz, CEO, ushered in the evening's proceedings with welcome remarks, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Friday aka Melody God and Kennedy Yanko arriving at the Art Basel Awards Night step-and-repeat, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Edgar Berlanga and Solange Franklin attend the Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Award presenters Malcolm Jenkins and Anne Pasternak walk the black carpet at the Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Vincenzo De Bellis and Nairy Baghramian, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Kimberly Drew and Everette Taylor arriving at the Art Basel Awards Night step-and-repeat, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Maxi Peters and Gabrielle Richardson walk the black carpet at the Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Hans Ulrich Obrist and Hannah Traore arriving at the Art Basel Awards Night step-and-repeat, December 4, 2025.
Courtesy Getty.



Red carpet and after-party host Dylan Kelly joined by Ellen von Unwerth at the after-party for the Art Basel Awards Night in Miami Beach, December 04, 2025. Courtesy of Huy Luong.



Hank Willis Thomas and Larsen Thompson arriving at the Art Basel Awards Night step-and-repeat, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.



Mike Winkelmann ("Beeple") with two components of his work *Regular Animals* (2025) arriving at the step-and-repeat, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Huy Luong.



Hank Willis Thomas, David Maupin and Stefano Tonchi arriving at the Art Basel Awards Night step-and-repeat, December 4, 2025. Courtesy Getty.

*In loving memory of Koyo Kouoh,
December 24, 1967 — May 10, 2025*

Art Basel Awards is deeply grateful for Koyo's spirited participation as a Juror of this year's edition and her unwavering commitment to the Awards' mission to uplift the next generation of cultural changemakers, of which she was emblematic.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Art Basel Awards

Launched by Art Basel in 2025, Art Basel Awards is the world's first global honors dedicated to recognizing excellence across the contemporary art world. Each year, an International Jury of experts awards Medals to individuals and organizations spanning the industry whose practices and contributions are shaping the future of art. Medalists are selected against four key pillars: vision and innovation, skill and execution, engagement, and broader impact. Art Basel Awards confers both immediate, flexible support in the form of honorariums alongside global networking, philanthropic initiatives, tailored partnerships, and high-profile commissions designed to propel Medalists' work onto new platforms. Medalists are recognized globally by Art Basel through year-round campaigns and initiatives, including the Art Basel Awards Summit, the annual thought leadership conference for the most influential figures in the global art world and neighboring creative industries, held in Basel, Switzerland. Art Basel Awards is presented in partnership with BOSS. For more information, visit artbaselawards.com.

For the latest updates, follow @artbaselawards on Instagram and WeChat.

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About BOSS and HUGO BOSS

BOSS is made for bold, self-determined individuals who live life on their own terms, with passion, style, and purpose. Collections offer dynamic, modern designs for those that embrace who they are fully and unapologetically: as their own BOSS. The brand's heritage tailoring, performance suiting, casualwear, denim, athleisure, and accessories cater to the style needs of the

discerning consumer. Licensed fragrances, eyewear, watches, and kidswear complete the brand. The world of BOSS can be experienced in around 500 own stores worldwide. BOSS is the core brand of HUGO BOSS, one of the leading companies positioned in the premium segment of the global apparel market. The group offers collections in 129 countries at more than 8,000 points of sale and online in 74 countries via hugoboss.com. With more than 18,500 employees worldwide, the company, based in Metzingen (Germany), posted sales of EUR 4.3 billion in the fiscal year 2024.

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, Hong Kong, and Paris. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms including the Art Basel App and initiatives such as the *Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report*, Art Basel Awards, and Art Basel Shop. Art Basel's Global Lead Partner is UBS. For more information, visit artbasel.com.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/artbasel, or follow @artbasel on Instagram and WeChat.

Media Information and Images

Press releases and high-resolution images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press.

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Upcoming Art Basel shows

Paris, October 24-26, 2025

Miami Beach, December 5-7, 2025

Qatar, February 2026

Hong Kong, March 27-29, 2026

Basel, June 18-21, 2026

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