

## ART COLLECTORS DON AND MERA RUBELL PUT ON A DAZZLING MIAMI SHOW

Text by Michael Slenske | Photography by Wei He | December 3, 2014



Opening party for "To Have and to Hold: 50 Years of Marriage and Collecting" at Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation in Miami.

For their 50th wedding anniversary, Miami mega-collectors Don and Mera Rubell decided to celebrate their passion—for art and each other—with a group show titled "To Have and to Hold: 50 Years of Marriage and Collecting," encompassing everything from a 1979 Cindy Sherman photo to a recent Oscar Murillo acquisition.

"[The show] was initially about reflecting on the past, but then we thought we needed to do something else that dramatically propelled us into the future," said Mera at last night's opening at the Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation, which featured the anniversary show and a series of solo efforts by six artists—Will Boone, Aaron Curry, Lucy Dodd, Mark Flood, David Ostrowski, and Kaari Upson—whose works are currently setting the galleries and fairs atwitter. "Artists are the real fountain of youth to us, so we gave them a budget and said, 'Do whatever you want,'" she added, noting that Upson had asked for their mattress, used it to paint an abstract "portrait" of the couple, and then hung it high on the wall opposite the stairwell.





Untitled (Chandelier), 2004, by Jason Rhoades.

Meanwhile Dodd, who was born 100 years after Picasso to the day, made a feminine version of his Spanish Civil War masterpiece, *Guernica* (hers is *Guernika*), over the course of a week on the patio outside the museum entrance. Elsewhere, Flood delivered a vibrant series of his white-hot lace paintings, Curry made another electric investigation into Day-Glo canvas and sculpture, and Ostrowski served up a room full of his minimalist spray-paint gestures that appeared to vibrate against a crowd of art-world heavies like Jeffrey Deitch and David Zwirner. The show opens to the public tomorrow, and not to be missed is *50 Cakes*, a performance piece by Don and Mera's daughter, Jennifer Rubell, whose work (which will include her parents feeding birthday cake to visitors) will debut between 9 A.M. and noon on Thursday.

Through May 29 at the Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation; 95 NW 29th St., Miami; [rhc.museum](http://rhc.museum)

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