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PUBLIC ART REVEAL | ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH 2023

DANISH ARTIST METTE TOMMERUP'S LARGE-SCALE COMMISION 'OCEAN CONTOUR' FEATURED AS OFFICIAL ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH EVENT



Mette Tommerup in front of her large-scale installation, "Ocean Contour," at the Port of Miami. The work, commissioned by Miami-Dade Art in Public Places is part of an exclusive invite-only experience for international visitors to Art Basel Miami Beach 2023. (Photo credit Zachary Balber)

For immediate release

MIAMI, Fla. (Dec. 4, 2023) – A large-scale installation by artist Mette Tommerup (born Denmark 1969) will be featured as an exclusive VIP invite-only experience for international visitors to this year's edition of Art Basel Miami Beach, the only United States edition of the global fair.

"Public Art Reveal | Art in Public Places" features Tommerup's 56 meter (185 feet) wide acrylic paint on canvas mural made up of 12 paintings that cover the expanse of a long wall.

The project was a commission from the Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places, a program of the county's Department of Cultural Affairs. Tommerup was awarded after being short-listed from an open call for artists to create a work for a new terminal at PortMiami, the most visited cruise port in the world.

Each year, Art Basel organizers invite Art in Public Places to present through Art Basel's official event program, according to Amanda Sanfilippo Long, curator and artist manager for Art in Public Places. The official event, an invitation only public reveal, is on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., the first day of the fair only open to First Choice VIP and Preview VIP Guests.

Tommerup, who has an MFA from School of Visual Arts New York City, has her studios in Miami, where she has worked as a professional artist for over two decades. During Miami Art Week 2020, Miami's longest-running alternative art space, Locust Projects, featured Tommerup's solo installation exhibition, "Made by Dusk."

Sanfilippo Long comments that Tommerup's work for the Art Basel Miami Beach Public Reveal is indicative of what Art in Public Places wants to showcase to the international art world who converge on Miami for Miami Art Week.

"We specialize in what I like to call Super Projects, which is making artwork larger in scale and ambition than an artist has ever dreamt of making in their career," comments Sanfilippo Long.

Not a usual occurrence, Tommerup was selected for two commissions in the same year from Art in Public Places in 2022. The other, titled "Sky of the First Water," an 11 meter (36 feet) high x 45 meter (147 feet) wide outdoor mural made up of 376 engraved aluminum plates with Kynar metal coating, is the largest work she has created in her three-decade career.

Tommerup recalls growing up in Copenhagen, Denmark, and how she responded to public art in her environs. "There were these breathing space moments where you came across these art pieces that just existed and it intrigued me and made me curious." She says that as a girl she remembers thinking to herself, "One day, if at all possible, I would like to be someone who provides these moments."

PHOTOS SELECTION OF PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS AND ARTIST PHOTOS HERE.









