

Astroturf and Nostalgia Are on Display at the 20th Edition of NADA Miami

To mark its 20th year, the boundary-breaking New Art Dealers Alliance art fair takes on themes of family, heritage, and myth.

This year, visitors returned to Miami's Ice Palace studios for the 20th edition of [NADA Miami](#). Two decades into the boundary-breaking fair's tenure, it's hard not to marvel at the numbers: 146 exhibitors (up from barely 50 in its founding year) from more than 40 cities fill the Miami film studio, each with a distinctive approach to overhauling the outdated standards of art selling and exhibition. But it's even more striking to reflect on what the [New Art Dealers Alliance](#), a nonprofit founded in resistance to this antagonistic paradigm, has managed to accomplish. With top-notch contemporary programming and a bent for ethical art-dealing practices, NADA has established a powerful network of independent for- and not-for-profit galleries that has attracted the attention of an ever-growing number of influential international collectors. Here, [CULTURED](#) breaks down the highlights from the fair's momentous and cutting-edge anniversary offering.



Sarah Tortora, *Excalibur (Double Helix)*, 2022. Image courtesy of the artist and Ulterior Gallery.

Sarah Tortora
Ulterior Gallery, New York City

A monumental plywood-and-cement sculpture by [Sarah Tortora](#) towers over viewers that venture into Ulterior Gallery's booth. Her *Excalibur (Double Helix)*, 2022, a towering monolith that reaches nearly 7-feet tall and 6-feet wide, depicts an epic gypsum concrete-and-cement-fabricated rock formation spiraling around the silhouette of an arm. While the work began as an allegory to the ubiquitous "sword in the stone" myth, it took on a life of its own in a way that surprised the New York-based artist: "The 'stone' itself began to resemble a second spiral. Interlocking spirals made me think of the double helix of DNA," she says, nodding to the piece's two-part title. "For me, all materials—whether gypsum cement...[or] human DNA—are inextricable from one another. I prefer to consider consciousness itself another 'material,' a spirit that is inextricable from the body."