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Collectors Unwind at a Sotheby's-Gagosian Botanic Garden Party Before ABMB's Onslaught

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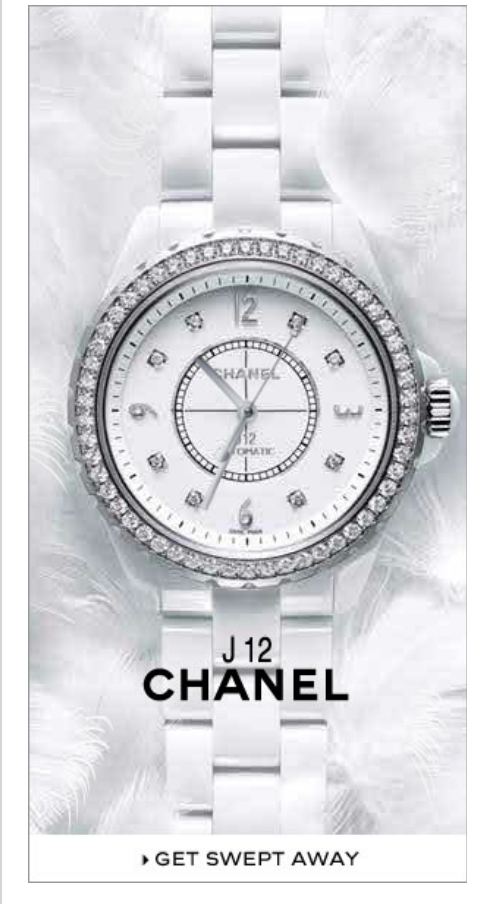


A sunny luncheon amid an historic palm garden planted with outdoor sculpture helped ease a handpicked group of international clients of **Sotheby's** and **Gagosian** into the swing of things on Tuesday before the week of **Art Basel Miami Beach** began in earnest. Dotting the grounds of the 83-acre **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden** in Coral Gardens were three monumental **John Chamberlain** pieces, courtesy of the gallery, which appeared to be forged out of crumpled tinfoil; alongside **Jorge Pardo** lanterns bedecking the trees, as well as eight benches for "Sitting Naturally" (pictured), an exhibition curated by New York design maven **Cristina Grajales**.

Guests included the auction house's CEO **Lisa Dennison** and contemporary specialist **Alexander Rotter**; **Virginia Coleman** and **Kara Vander Weg**, of Gagosian; **Janet Chamberlain**; **Bruce Greer**, president of the Fairchild's board of trustees; collectors **Anita and Poju Zabudowicz**, and **Joel and Sherry Mallin**; bench artists **Sebastian Errazuriz** and **Michele Oka Doner**; the **Art Production Fund's Yvonne Force Villareal** and **Doreen Remen**; **Jason Busch**, curator of decorative arts at the **Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**; private dealer **Irena Hochman**; and Miami philanthropist **Jeri Waxenberg Wolfson**.

Before tucking into watermelon and feta salad and polenta with shrimp, guests boarded a trolley that evoked a "Jurassic Park" theme ride — an impression borne out by the prehistoric-looking

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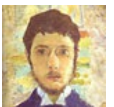
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cycads and baobabs along the trail. Michele Oka Doner's wood seats, made from two types of tree species that are invasive to Florida, fit right in. The exhibition, on view May 31, 2013, is part of an art program that has featured sculptures by **Roy Lichtenstein**, **Yayoi Kusama**, and **Les Lalannes**, curated by the garden's **Nannette Zapata**.

To see more images from the Sotheby's-Gagosian party at the Fairchild Garden, [click here](#).

— Sarah Hanson

(Photo: Bill Thacker.)

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