

# MIAMI

ARTS &

ART BASEL **BONANZA!**

10 YEARS OF CREATIVE CACHET



THE BAZOOKA | ART



## Finishing Touches

Artist Will Ryan at work on one of his massive rose sculptures.

## In Full Bloom

Ryan's *Roses* installation on Park Avenue in New York (left) & sculpture from *Doubtless of the Rose* on view at Funchia.

## Big Basel Blowout!

Parties! Fashion! Manicures? It's amazing how much of "Basel" has nothing to do with the art fair at the Convention Center. Instead, the moniker has become an umbrella term for the multitude of events taking place during that mad week. From exhibits to nightlife and just about everything in between, here are Basel's best bets.

| By Leah N. Sigal with contributions by Rob Alvarez |

### Larger Than Life

Unlike its counterpart at museums and galleries, public art is charged with the double task of enhancing cities through concepts while also inspiring, and at times enhancing, the citizens it finds itself in. Will Ryan understands this all too well. For his *Rose*

installations in New York City this past winter, the artist peppered 30 blades of Park Avenue with 40 blooms ranging from 5 to 10 feet in diameter and reaching as high as 25 feet. Ryan's plans for Miami are just as monumental. Taking over the head front of

the Seguros in Miami Beach, 40th Street will consist of four colossal rose sculptures made of stainless steel, fiberglass resin and lacquer coated with red and pink automotive paint. Seguros co-owner Cristian Tapia (who's been hosting single-artist exhibitions at the hotel since Basel's debut 10 years ago) calls them "larger-than-life," a fitting description that also applies to the sculptor's other local contribution. The highlight of *Doubtless of the Rose*, Ryan's largest outdoor exhibition to date, are three monochromatic rose sculptures, the tallest of which is a fire-engine red bloom that reaches 30 feet into the air. Adding to the whimsical tone of the installation at Funchia Tropical Botanic Garden will be a number of pink blooms on the ponds of the garden

in building as lounge chairs at various lawn areas, as well as some 21 "trees" and "bushes" made of brass, perched on the branches of the park's trees. An overarching impetus of Ryan and Tapia's work is, like Ryan's more gut-beyond-creating work that's merely decorative. "It's a comment on the commodification of a natural object for consumption, which is something I want to explore with this new series," he says. "I wanted to take an organic object and change it into something that was obviously man-made." 65th Street, Suite 27 (Nov. 4 at Seguros, 3677 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, 305.535.2099; *Doubtless of the Rose*, Dec. 3, 2011-May 16, 2012 at Funchia Tropical Botanic Garden, 3900 Old Cutler Road, Coral Gables, 305.657.6857