

5 Must-See Booths at Art Basel Miami Beach 2022, From a Fully Functioning Casino to a Gutsy Presentation by a Rising Star

Julia Halperin, December 1, 2022



Installation view, Romare Bearden, *Bayou Fever* at DC Moore's booth at Art Basel Miami Beach. Photo courtesy of DC Moore.

Every so often, an art fair offers the rare opportunity to see a body of work you might never have been aware of otherwise. For Kabinett, Art Basel's section for curated displays, DC Moore presented a little-known series of 21 postcard-size works by famed collage artist Romare Bearden. *Bayou Fever* tells the story of a dramatic confrontation between two magical figures—the Conjur Woman and the Swamp Witch—in a rural cabin in Louisiana. Bearden originally conceived the series for a

ballet he hoped would be staged by Alvin Ailey. While that never came to pass, the intimate collages are packed with clever moves of their own: the Conjur Woman, for example, arrives on the scene with a tangle of string meant to represent ropes that can turn into vipers. The series remained in the possession of Bearden's widow—a dancer herself—until her death in 1996.