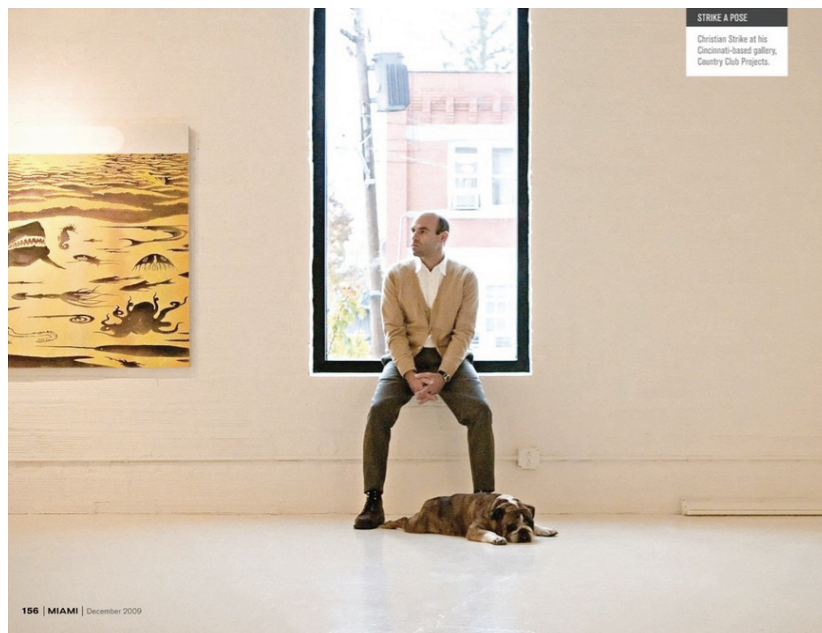


# MIAMI

## On Strike!

*Cincinnati-based gallerist Christian Strike is an unlikely force at this year's ABMB*

By Valerie Nahmad  
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Gallerist Christian Strike thrives on the unexpected. His Cincinnati-based Country Club Projects doubles as a traditional gallery space and creative incubator, exporting projects to other cities, while its Los Angeles counterpart operates by invitation only out of a landmark Rudolph Schindler home. “I wanted to abandon the traditional gallery model,” Strike, who turns 37 this month, explains. Strike is bringing the unexpected to Art Basel Miami Beach courtesy of a Country Club Projects exhibition at NADA, in addition to a much-anticipated mural project with Shepard Fairey, The Fountainhead Residency and the Miami Art Museum. Titled *The Public Works*, it will be something of a departure for art world It-boy Fairey. It’s being touted as a barricade covered in paintings in an offbeat location near the Design District, though it’s sure to contain Fairey’s socio-political messaging.

“I’m excited to see how everything’s going to weather the times we’re in,” says Strike of the month’s art fairs. “Art just gets better and better in these adverse economic times—it distills down to the best work.”

Exploring the economic effects on contemporary art isn't just an academic exercise. Country Club Projects is hoping to replicate its past Basel-week successes this year. "The art world industry is no different from any other industry: Art fairs are consumer trade shows for art," he says. "It's a little bit uncomfortable seeing art so craftily commercialized in these settings, but that's just reality. And I'm not saying it's a bad things."

During ABMB, Strike says he'll be found enjoying breakfast, lunch and dinner at Puerto Sagua, NADA's new home at the Deauville Beach Resort. "The week of Basel is just a fun, sexy time—and what's wrong with that?"

Strike's Hots: Tourist-style airbrushed Miami hats, Versace, Art Basel parties, vintage Lamborghinis, the fact that Iggy Pop lives in Miami, Club Deuce

Strike's Nots: Affliction clothing, not getting into Art Basel parties, new Lamborghinis, North Korea, Hummers, \$200 designer men's T-shirts