



**NINA SUREL**

**B. 1971, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

Nina Surel is a Miami-based multidisciplinary artist from Argentina. Her work investigates the relationship between earthly matter and the human body. She is inspired by rites of passage and themes related to fertility. Her practice incorporates techniques such as video, photography, painting, sculpture, performance, and installation.

Surel studied Fashion Design at the University of Buenos Aires and Stage and Costume Design at the Arts Institute of Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in galleries and institutions in the United States, Europe, and Latin America. Surel's works have been featured in group exhibitions at the Church of San Matteo in Lucca, Italy, the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) in Long Beach, California, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in North Miami, Florida, the Boca Raton Museum of Art in Florida, Miami International Airport, and Orlando Museum of Art. In addition, she recently presented a public art ceramic wall sculpture in the Design District (Miami, FL), organized by Karen Grimson, curator of the Craig Robins Collection and Director of Cultural Programming; Surel debuted a solo booth presentation at Art Basel Miami Beach (2024) with Spinello Projects. Surel is the winner of Miami Beach's Legacy Purchase Program (2024), her work is in permanent collections of City of Miami Beach Public Art Collection (Miami Beach, FL) and El Espacio 23 (Miami, FL). Surel lives and works in Miami, and is represented by Spinello Projects.

Portrait of Nina Surel, photo by Elliot & Erick Jiménez



THE ART NEWSPAPER

## Nina Surel's Ceramic Symbol of Florida Acquired for Miami Beach's Collection at Art Basel



Miami Beach voters elected to buy locally for this year's Legacy Purchase programme, an initiative through which the city acquires a work from Art Basel Miami Beach for its Art in Public Places collection. Of the three finalists, *Allegory of Florida* (2023) by the Buenos Aires-born, Miami-based artist Nina Surel received the most votes.

The all-white ceramic wall relief features “an allegory of Florida, represented as a young, fertile goddess”, Surel tells *The Art Newspaper*. A related group of new works—incorporating elements in earth tones and bold glazes—are featured in her solo stand with the Miami gallery Spinello Projects in the fair's Nova section.

The two other finalists this year were works by William Cordova and Ximena Garrido-Lecca. Previous Legacy Purchases, which are installed around the Miami Beach Convention Center (where the fair is held), have included works by Juana Valdés, Sanford Biggers, Amoako Boafo, Ebony G. Patterson, Farah Al Qasimi and Anneke Eussen.

Surel adds: “For the longest time, the conversation in the ceramics world has been about feeling excluded, but there are ceramics all over the fair this year.”

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ARTSY

## The 10 Best Booths at Art Basel Miami Beach 2024



Miami-based artist Nina Surel's solo presentation at Spinnello Projects's booth kept a steady crowd throughout VIP day, anchored by a monumental ceramic wall relief, *Greta Chamotta* (2024). Crafted from more than 1,000 pounds of stoneware ceramic with chamotte, the kiln-fired mural depicts two nude goddess-like figures surrounded by symbols evocative of the ocean, including water droplets, waves, and an orange seashell affixed at the bottom.

An inspiration for the presentation is *Atabey*, a goddess of the Taíno people in the Dominican Republic. In *Atabei* (2024), for instance, what began as an experimental vase with two legs evolved into a chimerical sculpture, featuring the goddess's face painted in blue. "When I created her, my first intention was to make a vase with legs, but the legs became real legs, and the woman inside the vase emerged as her," Surel told Artsy.

The booth also features ceramic tablets, sculptures, and hand-built coiled vessels. Surel also explores the experiences of womanhood, adorning her ceramic sculptures with motifs such as breasts or ovaries. Prices at the booth, which was nearly sold out by the middle of VIP day—with one work acquired by El Espacio 23, the art space founded by collector Jorge M. Pérez—range from \$8,500 to \$50,000.

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## **Miami Beach Residents Voted for the City to Buy this Miami Artist's Work at Art Basel**



Presented by Spinello Projects in the NOVA sector, Surel's debut at Art Basel Miami is the culmination of years of artistic evolution. Her work draws on a blend of Afro-Caribbean, Latin, and Mediterranean influences, fused with her deep connection to Miami's unique artistic landscape. "Miami's art scene has grown so much since I arrived," says Surel. "It has always had this deep sense of community, which is why I stayed, but now it's gaining international recognition, which makes this moment so special for me."

"I'm inspired by these ancient symbols, but I want to reimagine them in a way that reflects the strength and complexity of women today," she explains. Surel's ceramic vessels, mosaic tablets, and sculptures also tell stories of womanhood, from the joys of childbirth to the inevitable pains of loss. "There's a beauty in imperfection, in how we grow through our experiences," she says. Surel's approach, a fusion of personal memories and collective mythology, invites viewers to contemplate the many faces of femininity.

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## Miami Herald

"In mythology, goddesses like Atabey hold both light and dark energy, making them all the more powerful, magical, and interesting," says Argentine-born artist Nina Surel, whose intricate, myth-laden works will be on display at Art Basel Miami Beach for the first time this December. Surel, a Miami resident for 22 years, is set to captivate the international art scene with "Greta Chamotta / Great Love," a stunning presentation that blends timeless beauty with powerful themes of femininity and transformation.

Surel's approach, a fusion of personal memories and collective mythology, invites viewers to contemplate the many faces of femininity. As she prepares for her Basel debut, Surel reflects on the journey that has brought her here: "To be part of Art Basel Miami Beach this year feels like a recognition of not just my work, but of the years I've spent growing alongside this city's arts community."



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# Galerie

## 8 Standout Artworks to Discover at Art Basel Miami Beach



Nina Surel is a Miami-based multidisciplinary artist from Argentina who uses materials like clay, plants, and raw canvas to explore such themes of transformation, aging, resilience, and fragility. The packed booth included a monumental ceramic wall relief, Greta Chamotta (2024) depicting two nude goddess-like figures as well as a selection of ceramic tablets, sculptures, and hand-built vessels. Surel's 2023 work *Allegory of Florida* was selected by the Miami Beach residents for the Legacy Purchase Program, which is an annual initiative to add works to the city's public art collection.

The wall relief is composed of over 100 pieces of stoneware ceramic and imagines Florida as a goddess of feminine fertility, filled with references to native flora and fauna. "It's my pleasure to represent and place the second work into the Legacy Collection by a woman artist," says gallery director Anthony Spinello. "This acquisition and recognition hits differently considering women artists are still underrepresented, undervalued, and especially at a time when women's rights are being challenged."

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Read article [here](#).

## Body of Work

MIAMI ARTIST NINA SUREL'S NEW CERAMICS CHRONICLE THE MYRIAD EXPERIENCES OF WOMANHOOD

TEXT KELLEY MARCELLUS



ABOVE: *A Conch Called Snail*, 2024, underglaze on stoneware. The female figures in Surel's work are often fragmented body parts combined with features from animals or plants.

*As life transforms the human anatomy*, so does a portion of clay in the artist's hands—at least, that's how multidisciplinary-artist-turned-ceramicist Nina Surel sees it.

"There's a deep connection between clay and the body," says the Miami-based creative. "I work with clay for its boundless transformative qualities and deep historical references, and because it's a material that will outlast us."

She would know. For the past few years, Surel has been experimenting with the medium, and her efforts make up *Greta Chamotta/Great Love*, a new series with which she will make her Art Basel Miami Beach debut this December. The exhibition (organized by Spinello Projects for the fair's NOVA sector) is made up of vessels, mosaic tablets, sculptures, and a ceramic wall relief mural made from more than 1,000 pounds of stoneware ceramic with grog that Surel describes as an "assemblage of female figures, pagan deities, and gynoids, drawing from private and popular memories." The works explore the connection between history, nature, and the female body, a recurring theme in Surel's work.

"Motherhood has been the seed through which my work has evolved," says the artist. "I'm interested in recording the temporalities that inhabit our body—aging, hardening, scarring, and mutation—and exploring the feminine with its myths and rituals."

While her early work included performances, video, and installations, Surel transitioned to ceramics exclusively about three years ago, a move that has made her studio more sustainable, with virtually zero waste. She appreciates the malleability of clay as she shapes and sculpts it, and points to its shrinking and cracking as it dries as a parallel to the evolving nature of the female body.

"I'm constantly inspired by the role women have in making the planet more livable," says Surel. "[Women are the ones making us aware] of the need to ensure a more comprehensive and less binary world." [ninasurel.com](https://ninasurel.com); [spinelloprojects.com](https://spinelloprojects.com)

LEFT: *The Holder*, 2024, underglaze on stoneware. Surel infuses her pieces with a surrealistic medley of botanical, mythical, and bodily forms. In this case, the *Attalea* palm tree, exaggerated into shapes resembling breasts, serves as a symbol of fertility and transformation.



BELOW: Nina Surel is making her Art Basel debut with works that investigate the relationship between earthly elements and the female body.



ABOVE: *Beauty Berry*, 2024, underglaze on stoneware over wood. This piece alludes to the themes of slow sexuality, transformation, and the beauty of imperfection through motifs that include ovaries, native Florida beauty berries, and human cells.



Read article [here](#).

# VOGUE

## A Friendly Guide to the Standout Booths at Art Basel Miami Beach



With 286 galleries from 38 countries and territories featuring a vast array of artists, not to mention official merch shops, restaurants, and brand activations, navigating the fair's bustling halls can feel overwhelming. To help get you started—or, in the event that you can't make it down to Miami Beach to see all the goings-on for yourself—here is a selection of the must-see presentations. From debut participants to thought-provoking installations by established names, we present the buzziest booths at Art Basel Miami Beach 2024.

Miami-based gallery Spinello Projects has attracted significant attention at this year's fair with a solo booth dedicated to local artist Nina Surel. The presentation features an extraordinary collection of ceramic vessels, sculptures, and wall-mounted works rendered in rich earthy tones and deep blue, exploring themes of mysticism, botany, and humanity's connection to nature.

A highlight piece from the booth, Surel's ceramic wall installation *Allegory of Florida* (2023), was selected for the City of Miami Beach's Legacy Purchase Program, an initiative that acquires artworks from Art Basel Miami Beach for the city's Art in Public Places collection. Composed of 100 milky stoneware ceramic pieces, the work reimagines the Sunshine State as a goddess of feminine fertility.

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Read article [here](#).

Spinello

# WSJ

## The Best Works at Art Basel Miami Beach 2024



The standout art here was all by women, all receiving overdue attention after working at times when the art world was still mainly a boys' club. [...] The stoneware-relief mural by Nina Surel at Spinello is a fractured, multipanel scene celebrating the feminine, its topless figures drawing on Cubist and tribal aesthetics as well as Botticelli's "Birth of Venus," an Yves Klein blue bursting forth from rich terracotta surfaces.

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Read article [here](#).

Spinello



WORDS BY JENNY STARR PEREZ

# DIVINE CALLING

**Nina Sural's anticipated debut at Art Basel Miami Beach explores fertility, mythology, and the strength of women.**

"In mythology, goddesses like Atabey hold both light and dark energy, making them all the more powerful, magical, and interesting," says Argentine-born artist Nina Sural, whose intricate, myth-laden works will be on display at Art Basel Miami Beach for the first time this December. Sural, a Miami resident for 22 years,

is set to captivate the international art scene with "Greta Chamotta / Great Love," a stunning presentation that blends timeless beauty with powerful themes of femininity and transformation. Drawing inspiration from mythological goddesses, including the sea goddess Atabey, Sural explores their dual nature.

"Greta Chamotta / Great Love," artist Nina Sural's debut exhibition Art Basel Miami Beach, will be featured in the NOVA sector of the fair and present a series of vessels, mosaic tablets, sculptures, and a ceramic wall relief that draws on mythology and the power of femininity.

This monumental exhibit features an exquisite collection of intricately crafted vessels, tablets, and sculptures, anchored by a remarkable wall relief composed of over 1,000 pounds of ceramic stoneware. The fragmented female figures and deities are imbued with both personal and universal symbolism, inviting a deeper reflection on their significance.

Presented by Spinello Projects in the NOVA sector, Sural's debut at Art Basel Miami is the culmination of years of artistic evolution. Her work draws on a blend of Afro-Caribbean, Latin, and Mediterranean influences, fused with her deep connection to Miami's unique artistic landscape. "Miami's art scene has grown so much since I arrived," says Sural. "It has always had this deep sense of community, which is why I stayed, but now it's gaining international recognition, which makes this moment so special for me."

"Greta Chamotta / Great Love" is a deeply personal narrative, intertwining elements of mythology and the feminine experience. Sural's use of chamote, a rough clay material, lends her figures a primal strength, while the imperfections in the medium evoke the raw beauty of life. In her pieces, traditional representations of beauty are upended, with exaggerated features such as oversized feet or hands symbolizing resilience and groundedness. Her figures, often merged with elements of nature, like the Attalea palm tree seed, represent both fertility and transformation, themes that resonate throughout her work.

"I'm inspired by these ancient symbols, but I want to reimagine them in a way that reflects the strength and complexity of women today," she explains. Sural's ceramic vessels, mosaic tablets, and sculptures also tell stories of womanhood, from the joys of childbirth to the inevitable pains of loss. "There's a beauty in imperfection, in how we grow through our experiences," she says. Sural's approach, a fusion of personal memories and collective mythology, invites viewers to contemplate the many faces of femininity.

As she prepares for her Basel debut, Sural reflects on the journey that has brought her here: "To be part of Art Basel Miami Beach this year feels like a recognition of not just my work, but of the years I've spent growing alongside this city's arts community."

# ART WEEK 2024

Miami Herald



Read article [here](#).

Spinello

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