

First Look: 6 Momentous Artists at Art Basel Miami Beach 2022

From figuration and fiber to abstraction and installation—find out who you have to see at Art Basel Miami Beach this year in *CULTURED*'s ABMB preview.

WORDS

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Dewey Crumpler, *POPI*, 2022. Image courtesy of the artist and Derek Eller Gallery.

Dewey Crumpler
Derek Eller Gallery

Dewey Crumpler's "Hoodie" paintings—intimate, metamorphic deliveries from an Afrofuturist cosmos—germinated from his children's discovery of hip-hop. "I used to tell them to shut it off," the artist explained in a 2021 interview with Sampada Aranke, professor of art history, theory, and criticism at the School of the Art Institute, Chicago. "I thought the music put them in danger of being perceived as thugs because it was constructed around misogyny-gangster rap and gang pathology." Eventually, however, he found himself overtaken by the beat, and realized that his children were "reframing Blackness for themselves," as he put it. "They were shapeshifting."



Dewey Crumpler, *Time/Space*, 2022. Image courtesy of the artist and Derek Eller Gallery.

The hoodie itself is a cloak—manifesting through time and space—and the figures don't reflect us, insists the artist, but rather pure consciousness. Crumpler began his practice in the late 1960s San Francisco Bay area as part of a cohort of young, Black artists that attended weekly meetings at the home of Evangeline "EJ" Montgomery. It was the curator-printmaker who eventually led him to study painting in Mexico with muralists like Pablo O'Higgins. For the fair's Kabinett sector, Derek Eller Gallery gathers decades of the artist's spectacular "Hoodie" paintings—a series initiated nearly 30 years ago that couldn't feel more prescient or powerful. "I was painting some new 'Hoodie' works yesterday," he tells *CULTURED* on the eve of the ABMB. "Whenever they want to come into being, which is not always, I bring them."