

Art Basel

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8 artists to watch at Art Basel Miami Beach

By Payal Uttam

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This year, in the fair's Nova and Positions sectors, intriguing new voices reshape how we see and feel conflict, ritual, and everyday life

From surreal self-portraits set in apocalyptic landscapes to sculptural glass collages, Art Basel Miami Beach is full of discoveries this year. Newcomers to the fair's dynamic **Positions** and **Nova** sectors will present deeply personal works alongside socially engaged pieces confronting topics such as war, climate change, and the abuse of power.

Nour Malas

Carbon 12, United Arab Emirates, Positions sector

A monumental painting grappling with the recent war in Syria unfurls across the walls of Carbon 12's booth. The Syrian-Canadian painter Nour Malas's gestural four-panel work moves from scenes evoking destruction to more hopeful imagery suggesting renewal. Inspired by *Guernica*, Pablo Picasso's iconic anti-war painting, *Head Held High* (2025) reflects on the scars the war has left Syrians with and its indelible impact on their collective identity. Malas builds up each canvas through an accumulative process, layering gestural marks – a fitting parallel to how bodies and countries are scarred by repeated conflict.