



FEATURED: [What's The Story? >>](#) [Latin America Report >>](#) [End Of The Road >>](#) [FPREN Storm Center >>](#) [StateImpact FL >>](#)



News
[Florida Keys' First Gay Marriage Becomes Public Celebration](#)



News
[Palm Beach County's Same-Sex Group Wedding A Festive Affair](#)



The Florida Roundup
[LISTEN: Understanding Same-Sex Marriage In Florida](#)

Art Basel

1:40 PM THU DECEMBER 4, 2014

Let Them Taste Cake: Rubells Celebrate 50 Years Of Marriage

By [MARIA MURRIEL](#) (@PEOPLE/MARIA-MURRIEL)

Don and Mera Rubell, founding couple of the Rubell Family Collection, spoon-fed people little bites of cake Thursday in Wynwood, assisted by 48 servers dressed all in black.

Yes. Like Marie Antoinette.

It was a celebration of the couple's 50th wedding anniversary and also a performance-art piece by daughter Jennifer at her annual Art Basel breakfast. Every year Rubell puts on a food-related installation. Her breakfast itself is the piece of art.



Don Rubell feeds a strawberry cake to a visitor of the Rubell Family Collection during Jennifer Rubell's annual performance-art Art Basel breakfast.

Credit Maria Murriel / WLRN

Listening...



/ 0:59

Listen to the audio version of this story.

[The Rubells are widely viewed as Miami's most prominent art collectors](https://www.rfc.museum/about-us)

<https://www.rfc.museum/about-us>), and they boast one of the world's largest privately owned contemporary-art collections. At the breakfast, patriarch Don cheerily offered a crowd of intrigued watchers pieces of a small pink cake frosted in white.

"It's a very good feeling to serve other people on your anniversary," he said. "We have all different flavors -- chocolate, vanilla, strawberry -- so, like marriage, we have to satisfy all the needs."



The eater-participants congratulated Don and Mera on their 50 years and some stopped to chat after taking their bite. A small line formed at times in front of the couple. Overall, it was a chipper event for the chatty Basel crowd and the guests of honor.

But what the Rubells seem to have overlooked is the performance's inescapable resemblance to the 18th-Century episode of royal neglect attributed to Queen Marie Antoinette.

<http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/wlrn/files/201412>

[/Screen Shot 2014-12-04 at 1.55.52 PM.png](#)

Mera and Don Rubell serving cake at the Rubell Family's annual Art Basel breakfast.

Credit Maria Murriel / WLRN

Except instead of "let them eat cake," the Rubells only let the commoners of Art Basel taste it. Fifty different flavors of it, if they liked, but the point stands: Did the Rubells not think that one of Miami's most eminent art families spoon-feeding

the public seemed a little weird?

It could be an instance of benign ignorance. Or maybe just a highfalutin show of art.

Either way, the Rubells served, and the people ate up.



Mera Rubell feeds a chocolate cake to a man at the Rubell Collection's annual Art Basel breakfast.
Credit Maria Murrell / WLRN

TAGS: [arts \(/term/arts-o\)](#) [Wynwood \(/term/wynwood\)](#) [Art Basel 2014 \(/term/art-basel-2014\)](#) [news \(/term/news-o\)](#)

Related Content:



Art Basel
[The WLRN Guide To Miami Art Week 2014 \(/post/wlrn-guide-miami-art-week-2014\)](#)



Art Basel
[Did Art Basel Devastate The Local Arts Scene? Or Did NY Times Get It](#)

0 Comments

WLRN

Login -

Sort by Best -

Share Favorite



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

[Subscribe](#)

[Add Disqus to your site](#)

[Privacy](#)

DISQUS