

**The Art Angle** (<https://news.artnet.com/multimedia/the-art-angle>)

## The Art Angle Podcast: How the Rubells Built an Empire Out of Minting Art Stars

Ahead of Art Basel Miami Beach, reporter Katya Kazakina spoke to mega-collectors Don and Mera Rubell about building a world-class contemporary art collection.

**Artnet News** (<https://news.artnet.com/about/artnet-news-39>), November 25, 2022

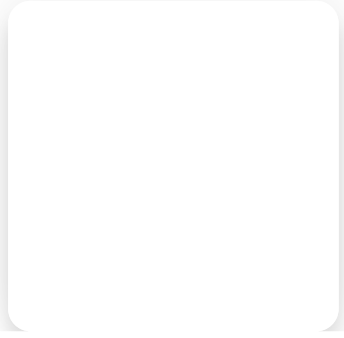




Don and Mera Rubell outside of their newly opened museum in Washington, D.C. Photo by Shuran Huang for The Washington Post via Getty Image.

*Welcome to the Art Angle, a podcast from Artnet News that delves into the places where the art world meets the real world, bringing each week's biggest story down to earth. Join us every week for an in-depth look at what matters most in museums, the art market, and much more, with input from our own writers and editors, as well as artists, curators, and other top experts in the field.*





What do Sterling Ruby, Oscar Murillo, [Kennedy Yanko](https://news.artnet.com/multimedia/the-art-angle-podcast-kennedy-yanko-2130984) (<https://news.artnet.com/multimedia/the-art-angle-podcast-kennedy-yanko-2130984>), [Genesis Tramaine](https://news.artnet.com/the-big-interview/christian-artist-genesis-tramaine-2006470) (<https://news.artnet.com/the-big-interview/christian-artist-genesis-tramaine-2006470>), and [Aomoako Boafa](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/amoako-boafa-1910883) (<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/amoako-boafa-1910883>) have in common? Beyond being some of the most sought-after contemporary artists of the past decade, they are all veterans of the prestigious Rubell Museum Residency program.

Helmed by its namesake founders, the mega-collecting duo Don and Mera Rubell, the residency program is something of a hit-maker—call it “[the Rubell effect](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/rubell-effect-miami-couple-brought-midas-touch-generations-young-artists-1720494) (<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/rubell-effect-miami-couple-brought-midas-touch-generations-young-artists-1720494>).” Beyond [minting art-market stars](https://news.artnet.com/news-pro/rubell-residency-miami-2021-1991447) (<https://news.artnet.com/news-pro/rubell-residency-miami-2021-1991447>), the Rubells now have two museums, a 100,000 square-foot campus with more than 50,000 square feet dedicated to galleries in [Miami’s Allapattah district](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/rubell-museum-1719987), (<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/rubell-museum-1719987>) and a newly opened 32,000-square-foot outpost in Southwest Washington, D.C.

The couple’s art collecting began when they were newlyweds and would squirrel away \$25 from Mera’s teaching salary to put toward acquisitions while Don was in medical school. Now, along with their son Jason and daughter Jennifer, they own one of the largest private collections of contemporary art in the world, with more than 7,400 works of art by the likes of Kehinde Wiley, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and Catherine Opie.

On the heels of their [D.C. museum’s grand opening](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/the-rubells-new-d-c-museum-delivers-on-a-promise-to-grow-the-citys-art-scene-and-corrects-oversights-at-other-institutions-2200879) (<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/the-rubells-new-d-c-museum-delivers-on-a-promise-to-grow-the-citys-art-scene-and-corrects-oversights-at-other-institutions-2200879>), and just weeks before they will hold court at Art Basel in Miami Beach, Artnet News’s senior reporter Katya Kazakina caught up with Don, Jason, and Mera to discuss the origins of their collection, the symbiotic relationship between art and real estate, and their famous Midas touch for sussing out the hottest emerging artists.

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# Tens of Thousands of Artworks Have Debuted at Art Basel Miami Beach Over the Past 20 Years. Here Are 11 of the Most Memorable

We said memorable—we didn’t say good.

Janelle Zara (<https://news.artnet.com/about/janelle-zara-246>), November 25, 2022

