

ASSUME VIVID ASTRO FOCUS: XI  
ON VIEW NOV 13, 2024  
AT THE BASS MIAMI BEACH



MIAMI BEACH, FL (November 1, 2024) – The Bass is pleased to present the exhibition *assume vivid astro focus: XI*, an enveloping installation spanning floor to ceiling that features densely patterned wallpaper, multicolored seating, a modular stage, digital decals, sculptures that shapeshift into performative stage elements, and a large-scale projection covering an entire wall. On view beginning November 13, 2024, the exhibition is a collaborative work, bringing together individual pieces by *assume vivid astro focus* (avaf) as well as an array of collaborations and contributions by General Idea, Honeygun Labs, Natalja Kent, Michael Lazarus, Los Super Elegantes, Carla Machado, Justin Samson, Marco Boggio Sella, and Pete Woods.

The São Paulo–based multidisciplinary art collective fuses drawing, sculpture, video and performance into large-scale installations and happenings where gender, politics and cultural codes freely interact. Inhabiting the social forms of discos and dance parties, avaf invites museum visitors to engage with the exhibition environment, creating lived experiences that contribute to the continually evolving social dynamics inherent in their work. The collective reimagines artistic conventions and challenges the mythology of the singular artist, co-creating their projects alongside viewers and collaborators while fluidly traversing diverse themes and media.

Originally installed at the home of Miami-based collectors Rosa and Carlos de la Cruz, and premiering during the 2004 edition of Art Basel Miami Beach, *XI* embodied a communal sense of excitement in the local arts scene and signaled Miami as a new global contemporary art destination. Fast-forward two decades and *assume vivid astro focus: XI* marks the twenty-year anniversary of that watershed moment and this groundbreaking work. Miami continues to leave its mark on *XI* in this new iteration at The Bass. Central to the reinstatement of *XI* is a newly commissioned mural by avaf that pays tribute to local drag performers—Adora, Akasha O’Hara Lords, Daisy Dead Petals, Ebonee Excell, Fantasia Royale Gaga, Kitty Meow, Tiffany Fantasia, and TP Lords. The mural celebrates their vital community-building role in Miami, embodying the spirit of inclusivity at the heart of avaf’s practice.

ASSUME VIVID ASTRO FOCUS: XI  
ON VIEW NOV 13, 2024  
AT THE BASS MIAMI BEACH

Anchoring *XI* is the video program *Butch Queen Realness with a Twist in Pastel Colors*, a nearly seven-hour compilation of 93 short videos spanning a range of genres and creators—artists, pop-culture figures, and anonymous contributors—all of whom have influenced the collective’s practice. Curated by avaf in 2004, the selection ranges from historical work by such figures as László Moholy-Nagy and Paul Sharits, to more recent work by Mike Bell-Smith, Miguel Calderón, Dearraindrop, Black Leotard Front, and Kembra Pfahler. Interspersed are music videos by Blondie, Grace Jones, and La Tigre, footage from *Soul Train* in the 1970s, underground performances at New York’s Pyramid Club in the 1990s, and Harlem vogue balls in the early 2000s. Queerness—less an overt reference to sexuality than a strategy to destabilize the status quo—is a prominent, pulsing thread running through the videos, intertwined with explorations of underground subcultures, art collectives active during the era, and experimental uses of moving-image technologies.

avaf’s installations showcase the flexible, open-ended and collaborative ethos that drives their practice, blurring lines between exhibition, performance and immersive experience. The generosity and openness of their approach to art-making welcomes a multitude of figures and ideas into the fold, possessing extraordinary relevance, even urgency, today as the social and political climate exhibit increasing hostility toward difference.

The exhibition celebrates the de la Cruzes’ 2024 gift of *XI* to The Bass, reconfigured in the museum’s Gallery 5.

####

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*assume vivid astro focus: XI* is organized by Claudia Mattos, Associate Curator of New Media Art. The Bass is generously funded by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and The Bass membership.

ABOUT AVAF

Founded in New York in 2001, *assume vivid astro focus* (avaf) is a multidisciplinary collective defined by its fluidity—continually adapting and assuming new roles to suit the needs of each project. Operating across a wide range of media, including installation, video, performance, sculpture, painting, and tapestry, avaf creates immersive pieces that position the audience’s experience at their core. Color functions as a key thread in their practice, shaping the atmosphere of their work to invite dynamic forms of participation and engagement. avaf’s works are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, Museum of Art São Paulo (MASP), Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome, National Museum of Art, Architecture, and Design, Oslo, and Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, FL, among others.

ABOUT THE BASS

Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season, The Bass is Miami Beach’s contemporary art museum. Its mission is to create connections between international contemporary art and its diverse audiences. The museum shares the power of contemporary art through experiences that excite, challenge, and educate. Recognized for organizing major exhibitions and commissioned art projects by mid-career and established contemporary artists, its exhibition and education programs encompass a wide range of media and artistic points of view, that bring fresh perspectives to the diverse cultural context of Miami Beach, as well as to international audiences.

Founded in 1964 by the City of Miami Beach by a private collection donation by John and Johanna Bass, the museum opened in what was formerly the Miami Beach Public Library and Art Center, a 1930s Art Deco building designed by Russell Pancoast. It is currently housed in this historic building, which later added an Arata Isozaki/David Gauld expansion. The exhibition program encompasses a wide range of media and artistic points of view, bringing fresh perspectives to the diverse cultural context of Miami Beach. The Bass is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

\*\*\*\*

CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

*Assume Vivid Astro Focus: Xi*  
On View Nov 13, 2024

*Ulla von Brandenburg: In Dialogue*

ASSUME VIVID ASTRO FOCUS: XI  
ON VIEW NOV 13, 2024  
AT THE BASS MIAMI BEACH

Sep 4, 2024–Jul 6, 2025

*Rachel Feinstein: The Miami Years*  
Sep 25, 2024–Aug 17, 2025

*(LA)HORDE: Heureux Sous Son Ombre,*  
Oct 16, 2024–Apr 27, 2025

*Performing Perspectives: A Collection In Dialogue*  
Ongoing

*Social Assembly: Welcome to the Museum*  
Ongoing

*Art Outside*  
Ongoing

MEDIA CONTACTS

*For U.S. and international inquiries:*

SUTTON PR: Mackenzie Berk, [mackenzie@suttoncomms.com](mailto:mackenzie@suttoncomms.com). +216-577-4194.

Caption: Installation view, *avaf: XI* at the de la Cruz home (2004). Photography by Zaire Aranguren. Courtesy of the de la Cruz Collection and The Bass, Miami Beach.