

ART+ AUCTION

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Basel to Broadway

The New York-based modern- and contemporary-art dealer **Edward Tyler Nahem** has an alter ego: theatrical producer. Along with **Jay-Z** and **Will and Jada Pinkett Smith**, he coproduced the Tony-nominated musical *Fela!*, about the Nigerian musician and activist **Fela Kuti**. Nahem (second from left below, with cast) has plotted his **Art Basel** schedule around the Tony presentations, slated for New York's Radio City Music Hall on June 13—two days before the fair's opening. Not wanting to miss either event, the dealer plans to jet to Switzerland to set up his booth, return to New



York for the awards ceremony, and then race back to Basel in time for the VIP preview. "I have my day job and my night job," Nahem jokes.

Teaming Up

Are art and sports like oil and water? Several recent collaborations aim to prove otherwise. A snazzy BMW M3 GT2, decorated by **Jeff Koons**, right, is competing at the 24 Hours of Le Mans endurance race in Paris on June 12, and the new \$1.2-billion Cowboys Stadium, in Dallas, officially unveiled several indoor art commissions, including works by **Franz Ackermann**, **Mel Bochner**,

and **Lawrence Weiner**. Team owners **Jerry and Gene Jones**, who are financing the commissions, are new to the art world, so they hired the San Francisco art adviser



Mary Zlot to help, with input from local collectors like **Howard Rachofsky** and **Gayle Stoffel**. Keeping up with the Joneses, Florida Marlins owner and former New York art dealer **Jeffrey Loria** also plans an art program for his stadium, set to open in Miami in two years.

The Secret Is Out

So far the inaugural exhibitions at the highly anticipated **Rafael Viñoly**-designed **Arab Museum of Modern Art (AMOMA)**, in Doha, Qatar, due to open in December, have been shrouded in mystery. But it's tough to keep projects with living artists under wraps. A source tells *In the Air* that one of the inaugural shows is curated by **Sam Bardaouil** and **Till Fellrath**, of **Art Reoriented**, a curatorial platform specializing in contemporary art from the Middle East, and will feature no fewer than 25 newly commissioned pieces by such artists of Arab origin as **Ghada Amer**, **Kadar Attia**, **Mounir Fatmi**, **Hassan Khan**, and **Walid Raad**.

Masterpiece of Bureaucracy

Shepard Fairey attracts trouble. Previously dragged into court for appropriating a press photograph of then candidate **Obama** for a poster, the street artist is now embroiled in another controversy. His Soviet-style mural on East Houston Street—unveiled to coincide with the opening of his "May Day" show at **Deitch Projects** on May 1—irked a passerby, who complained to the New York City Department of Buildings that the wooden wall on which it is painted lacked a permit. A note slapped on the mural,



above, slated to remain on view through December 31, threatens the "small building" with demolition if this omission is not remedied. Did someone drop the ball on the permit, or is this bureaucracy run amok?

Party Hearty

Simon de Pury, **Phillips de Pury & Co.**'s head auctioneer, and **Michaela Neumeister**, who directs the firm's business with German-speaking countries, are pulling out all the stops to celebrate their union. De Pury and Neumeister returned from vacation last January married. For their postceremony soiree, planned for June 21, they've booked London's **Saatchi Gallery** and enlisted none other than **Jennifer Rubell**—food artist, lifestyle guru, and daughter of the Miami megacollectors **Mera and Donald Rubell**—to design one of her "food journeys." An example at the former **Dia Art Foundation** building in New York last November re-counted the Genesis story through such edible installations as a pile of honey-drenched ribs, while another, for the **Brooklyn Museum of Art** in April, included **Bruce Nauman**-style cheese sculptures and a giant piñata of **Andy Warhol's** head (right, with Rubell). According to a source close to Rubell, her culinary creations for the nuptial shindig will vastly outdo those two feasts.

