

Maurizio CATTELAN

*Maurizio Cattelan presents first new work for a fair in 15 years—and it
is a banana priced at \$120,000*

December 2019

Maurizio Cattelan presents first new work for a fair in 15 years—and it is a banana priced at \$120,000



A fair visitor inspects Maurizio Cattelan's new sculpture, *Comedian*, on Perrotin's stand
Photo: David Owens

The maverick Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan is showing a new “sculpture” at Art Basel Miami Beach—the first new piece he has offered at a fair in more than 15 years—comprising just a banana attached to the wall with grey duct tape. The work “offers insight [into] how we assign worth and what kind of objects we value”, according to a statement from Perrotin gallery, which is showing the found object assemblage.

Cattelan developed the idea a year ago when he began thinking of creating a sculpture shaped like a banana. “He made several models: first in resin, then in bronze and in painted bronze before finally coming back to the initial idea of a real banana,” the gallery says. It added that the fruit on display was “locally sourced” from a grocery store in Miami. The work, an edition of three with two artist’s proofs, is aptly titled *Comedian* and is priced at \$120,000.

Interested collectors should note, however, that there are no precise instructions for the the work's long-term care. “If the banana moulds, a decision on that will be made on site,” the gallery says.