

ART BASEL NOTEBOOK

Really want art? Arm-wrestle for it

Sweating, panting and grimacing in a public arm-wrestling match onstage in front of about 100 people may not

be that high a price to pay for a mixed-media work by Quisqueya Henríquez.

That was among the prizes awarded Saturday night to the roughly 40 men and 40 women who participated in *Art Wrestling*, a performance-art piece conceived by Los Angeles artist Joshua Okon and presented at the Art Positions container village in Collins Park.

Some may quibble over whether arm-wrestling is art, but not Lizabeth Eva Rossof, 35, of San Francisco.

"What makes it art is it's disrupting something that's in



PETER ANDREW BOSCH/MIAMI HERALD STAFF

ARM-WRESTLING AS ART?

Amanda Bishop, left, lost to Sara Rounsavall in 'Art Wrestling,' a performance-art piece by L.A. artist Joshua Okon.

people's minds," said Rossof, a performance artist.

"You're putting a sport, arm-wrestling, in a new context, which is an interpretation by the artist."

Rossof arm-wrestled her first opponent into the mat.

"The thing that I'm really fighting for is the glory, the title," she said, tongue-in-cheek. But Rossof's effort was no joke. "It was a lot harder than I thought it would be," she said of the match. "I definitely was quivering."

— DANIEL CHANG