

BLOUIN ARTINFO

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Desi Santiago Transforms Miami Beach Hotel Into Interactive, Fortune-Telling Dog Installation



“There are no black buildings in Miami — everything is pastel,” says **Desi Santiago**. “I decided to change that.” Now through December 9, the fashion designer and artist behind the S&M-inflected face masks at **Alexander McQueen’s Metropolitan Museum** retrospective will transform the exterior of the **Lords South Beach** hotel into an installation both dark and mysterious: an oversize, fortune-telling black dog with laser eyes (seen mid-installation above).

Crossed paws modeled after those of the artist’s own dog, **Gypsy**, will flank the entrance, while a head pops out of the roof and a motorized tail wags in back. The interactive display, officially titled “Perrier Presents The Black Lords by Desi Santiago,” will also feature sounds of the dog panting, barking, and running. Visitors can approach the “dog,” ask a question, and press a button to hear the dog’s reply of yes, no, or maybe. “I wanted something that reflected the art market — the dog’s answer is also a gamble,” he says.

Asked why the dog motif appears so frequently in his work, Santiago explains, “I’ve always been interested in the relationship between dominance and submission.”

— *Julia Halperin*

<http://blogs.artinfo.com/artintheair/2012/12/04/desi-santiago-will-transform-miami-beach-hotel-into-interactive-fortune-telling-dog-installation/>

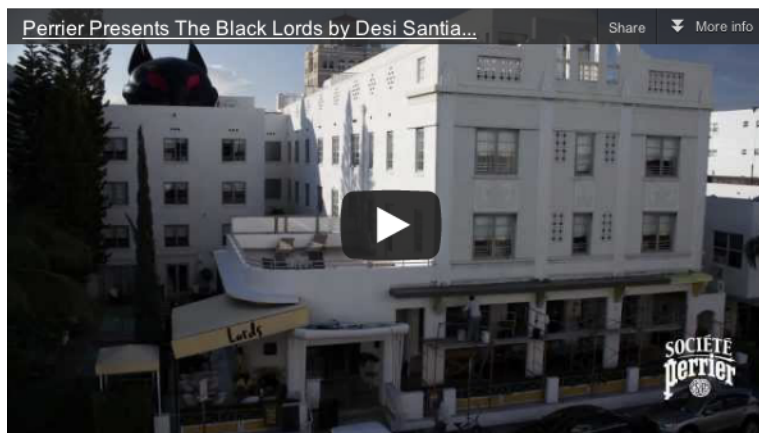
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Watch Desi Santiago's Giant Inflatable Fortune-Telling Dog Come to Life in Miami Beach



“I’ve always been interested in the relationship between dominance and submission,” artist **Desi Santiago** told **ARTINFO** recently. And his large, black, inflatable fortune-telling dog certainly dominates Miami Beach’s **Lords**, where the installation “Perrier Presents The Black Lords by Desi Santiago” required that the art deco hotel be painted entirely in black and transformed into a fearsome, supernatural canine, a process captured in the video below.



Santiago’s installation, modeled after his dog Gypsy, will be on view at the Lords South Beach (1120 Collins Avenue) through December 9, telling fortunes from 11am to 2am daily.

— Benjamin Sutton

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