

# Document 1

## MAN EATS \$120,000 WORK OF ART - A BANANA TAPED TO WALL

A performance artist shook up the crowd at the Art Basel show in Miami Beach on Saturday when he grabbed a banana that had been duct-taped to a gallery wall and ate it. The banana was, in fact, a work of art by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan titled "Comedian" and sold to a French collector for US\$120,000.

In a video posted on his Instagram account, Mr David Datuna, who describes himself as a Georgian-born American artist living in New York, walks up to the banana and pulls it off the wall with the duct tape attached. "Art performance... hungry artist," he said, as he peeled the fruit and took a bite. "Thank you, very good." A few bystanders<sup>1</sup> could be heard giggling before a gallery official whisked<sup>2</sup> him to an adjoining space for questioning.

However, the kerfuffle<sup>3</sup> was resolved without a food fight. "He did not destroy the artwork. The banana is the idea," Mr Lucien Teras, director of museum relations for Galerie Perrotin, told the *Miami Herald*. As it turns out, the value of the work is in the certificate of authenticity, the newspaper said. The banana is meant to be replaced. A replacement banana was taped to the wall about 15 minutes after Mr Datuna's stunt<sup>4</sup>. "This has brought a lot of tension and attention to the booth and we're not into spectacles," Mr Teras said. "But the response has been great. It brings a smile to a lot of people's faces."

www.straitstimes.com, 10 December 2019

1. Bystanders = people
2. To whisk to = to take to
3. Kerfuffle = problem
4. Stunt = performance

## Document 2



New York Post, 8 December 2019

## Document 3



David Datuna with the remains of the artwork "Comedian" by the artist Maurizio Cattelan at Art Basel in Miami Beach.

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