**Sports**

**Big Fat Disappointment**

The Miami Marlins kicked off their inaugural season with a flair of pomp, spectacle, and a shaky home-run sculpture that lights up and spews water after every dinger and team win. They had a brand new stadium, new uniforms, new faces on the team, a new manager, and their very own nationally televised cable reality show. And then the games had to be played, and things went down the proverbial shitter.

The Marlins have been something of a disaster during the first half of the season, shown via their lack of offense and evidently losing streaks. Ozzie Guillen’s dementia contents about Fidel Castro, and star free agent acquisition Jose Reyes’s mediocrity. But mainly the Marlins’ woes can be traced to hefty closer Heath Bell, who was brought in with a big contract to be the guy who was supposed to shut the door on the competition and make us all excited with his closeness to the team and from the bullpen. Instead, Bell has been a huge sack of fail. He’s blown six saves, with an ERA to match his salary (because he’s paid). He’s had no luck, done nothing to justify his big paycheck.

Now that the second half of the season is underway, the Fish find themselves nine games out of first place in the NL East and a few mountains to climb just to get into playoff contention. Will Heath get his crap together before it’s too late? Yeah, probably not. But here’s to hoping Ozzie says another ridiculous thing to distract us from the Marlin’s bad luck.

The Marlins will look to turn their season around Monday against the Atlanta Braves at Marlin Park. First pitch at 7:10. Tickets start at $8. Visit marlins.com or call 877-411-2012.

**Art**

**Odd and Outlandish**

When you plan to visit an art museum, particularly one that tends to showcase the modern era, you expect to see some weird stuff mixed in with the traditionally pretty paintings, sculptures, and assorted doodads. But at the PAMM Art Museum, it’s America International University (0972 SW 11th St., Miami) has been seriously holding out on us beginning this week and continuing through October 21, the museum presents "This and That: Unconventional Selections From the Permanent Collection.”

The exhibit is, essentially, the weirdest and wackiest of the museum’s permanent holdings. From strange, handheld tools to towering mixed-media sculptures, "This and That" takes unconventional art to a new level in an attempt to challenge visitors’ perceptions of art and beauty. The show is perfect for art enthusiasts seeking material for a heated discussion about meaning and purpose, or for anyone who enjoys the fun and irreverent side of art. Featured artists include Daniel Buren, Christo & Jeanne-Claude, Robert Motherwell, and Jannett Mayer.

The event is free and open to the public. Visit thepammmuseum.org or call 305-377-3636.

**Film**

**I Thee Bed**

Sandra Bullock’s second feature, *Take This Waltz*, thoughtfully probes the pitfalls of coupldom and third-party thorns. Five years into their marriage, Torontonians Margot (Michelle Williams) and Lou (Sorh Rogan) have regressed fully into sado-masochism—heat and mastery having been supplanted by baby talk,screams overDVDs, and weirdly aggressive verbal games. Playing for one of her infrequent freelance-writing gigs, Margot leaves her husband—a suspicious co-conspirator who cobwebbed books who perfects chicken dishes in the kitchen—for a quick-flirtation in the woods of Nova Scotia. There she meets Lean, hungry District (Lake Bell), sooted next to each other on the flight back to T.O. separately—particularly when they discover they live across the street from each other.

*Take This Waltz* wobbles at times with the writer-director’s own credibility-straining choices: Daniel isn’t just a kick-ass driver but also an aspiring painter; signpost dialogue—"I don’t like being in between two things,” Mar has said of her fear of flight connections—abounds in the film’s first third. But there are enough unexpected delights, such as reposing "Video Killed the Radio Star” during a mirage. Afield between Margot and Daniel, to keep us interested in their drawn-out, teasing, tantalizing courtship.

*Take This Waltz* plays Wednesday at 8:30 at the Beach Cinematheque (3603 Washington Ave., Miami Beach). Tickets cost $10, or $8 for students and seniors. For more information, call 305-674-5312.