

MIAMI ART MUSEUM TO PRESENT THREE PUBLIC ART PROJECTS DURING ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH 2008

Large-Scale Works by Koons, Arsham and Henry Integrate Art into Community, Drawing Visitors to Downtown Miami

MIAMI, October 30, 2008—Miami Art Museum (MAM) will present works by Jeff Koons, Daniel Arsham, and John Henry which will be installed at three public sites throughout the city during Art Basel Miami Beach 2008. These large-scale installations are part of MAM's ongoing initiative to move programming beyond the walls of the museum and into the community.

- Jeff Koons' *Rabbit by Jeff Koons*, a 53-foot rabbit-shaped balloon originally commissioned for the 2007 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, will float above MAM's plaza on December 4, 2008. The reflective silver rabbit, outsized and buoyant, was modeled after the artist's celebrated 1986 stainless-steel sculpture *Rabbit*, itself a cast of a small inflatable bunny.
- Organized by MAM, in association with Art in Public Places and the Department of Cultural Affairs, Daniel Arsham's pulsing light installation *Beacon/Miami* on the Bank of America tower in Miami's urban center will literally light up the sky for the people of Miami and some 30,000 anticipated fair visitors, on the night of December 4, 2008.
- MAM recently acquired a monumental new outdoor sculpture by artist John Henry, thanks to the generosity of the Arison Arts Foundation. *Je Souhaite* (I Wish) will be temporarily installed in downtown Miami near the future site of Museum Park and the new MAM building being designed by architects Herzog & de Meuron. The 80-foot steel sculpture, painted ice blue, will be on view from December until June 2009, drawing Miami residents and visitors to the surrounding waterfront site.

"These dynamic works of art will engage audiences at three different sites in downtown Miami, drawing both the local community and visitors to the fairs," said Terence Riley, Director of the Miami Art Museum. "We selected examples of several different approaches to public art so that Miami audiences will get a taste of the diverse possibilities opened up by contemporary artists. These three pieces give art a new dimension in the city, and exemplify the range of experiences MAM will bring to the community in its new facility and on the Museum Park site."

As previously announced, MAM will simultaneously present three exhibitions at its current downtown facility: the first U.S. survey of the work of Belgian filmmaker and video artist Chantal Akerman; a new installation by British artist Yinka Shonibare, created specially for Miami; and an exhibition of work by 20 contemporary artists exploring how value is assigned to objects and circumstances.

Rabbit by Jeff Koons is based on the artist's iconic 1986 sculpture, *Rabbit*, a polished stainless steel cast of an inflatable bunny. The balloon was created using new reflective material specially fabricated to replicate the mirror-like finish on the original sculpture. As inflatables have always been a part of Koons' repertoire, he felt creating the *Rabbit* for the Macy's Parade was a great opportunity to make his largest inflatable sculpture to date. *Rabbit by Jeff Koons* is on special loan from Macy's Parade & Entertainment Group.

Arsham's *Beacon/Miami*, at the Bank of America Tower at International Place in downtown Miami will transform this landmark of Miami's skyline by making the entire building pulse on and off like a heartbeat. Arsham is well-known for works that transform everyday architecture into reality-bending experiences; this intervention carries over Arsham's ideas onto a mass, urban scale. In 2007 Arsham was selected by Merce Cunningham to collaborate on *eyeSpace* at The Miami Performing Arts Center, FL. *Beacon/Miami* is presented in association with Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places/Department of Cultural Affairs.

Henry's 80-foot painted steel sculpture *Je Souhaite* (I Wish) will be located near the downtown waterfront site soon to be redesigned as Museum Park. The new MAM, scheduled for completion in 2012, will be an anchor of this 29-acre park overlooking Biscayne Bay. A vibrant mix of green space and cultural offerings, Museum Park will act as a catalyst for the transformation of the downtown district. Commissioned by MAM and supported by the Arison Arts Foundation, the work will form part of *Drawing in Space: The Peninsula Project*, a presentation of Henry's large-scale public artworks in seven cities throughout Florida. It will remain on view until June 2009, then be dismantled until a permanent site is created for it.

This public art program will complement MAM's diverse roster of exhibitions on view in December.

Chantal Akerman: Moving Through Time and Space

October 10, 2008 – January 18, 2009

The first U.S. survey of the work of renowned filmmaker and artist Chantal Akerman, this exhibition features four major installations from her documentary series: *From the East*, *Bordering on Fiction*, *South*, *From the Other Side*, and *Down There*, as well as the new two-channel video installation, *Women from Antwerp in November*, commissioned expressly for this show.

Yinka Shonibare: A Flying Machine for Every Man, Woman and Child

October 31, 2008 – January 18, 2009

This new site-specific installation will explore Miami's role as a destination for both tourists and immigrants and as a symbol of freedom and promise. The installation will feature an idealized nuclear family clothed in Shonibare's signature wax-printed attire, each straddling a human-powered flying machine modeled after 19th century drawings.

Objects of Value

November 21, 2008 – February 22, 2009

An exhibition exploring the nature of value, featuring works by 20 contemporary artists including Dario Escobar, Josiah McElheny, Carey Young, and Wilfredo Prieto. The exhibition explores the rich cultural history of traditionally valuable materials such as silver, diamonds, gold, etc., while also focusing on some of the important immaterial factors that determine value: from an object's emotional or religious significance to aspects of its life on the open market.

Miami Art Museum

Miami Art Museum serves one of the most diverse and fast-growing regions of the country, where a confluence of North and Latin American cultures adds vibrancy and texture to the civic landscape. MAM embraces its role as a cultural anchor and touchstone in a city that welcomes countless ethnic and age groups, lifestyles and ideas.

MAM's far-ranging vision is expressed in the breadth and depth of its exhibition program and through its ambitious education and public programs. The Museum continues to build its collection of holdings from the twentieth century through the present, as it embarks on a major new building and expansion project. The new MAM designed by Herzog & de Meuron will open in downtown Miami's Museum Park in 2012.

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Miami Art Museum is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. The Miami Art Museum is an accessible facility. For sign language interpretation or assistive listening devices please call MAM's Education Department 305.375.4073 at least five days in advance. Materials in accessible format may be requested.

Open Tuesday through Friday - 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday – noon to 5 PM. Third Thursdays until 8:30 PM. Closed Monday. Admission for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID) is free. Adults \$8, seniors \$4. Free admission on second Saturdays.

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miamiartmuseum.org

Garage Parking
\$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave
between Flagler St and NW 1st St
Overflow parking at 270 NW 2nd Street
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