

**MIAMI ART MUSEUM BALL  
“BUILDING ONE OF THE GREAT MUSEUMS OF THE WORLD”  
TO BE HELD DURING ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH**

Miami Art Museum’s 2006 Ball, looks ahead to the museum’s new home at Museum Park in downtown Miami, by celebrating the goal of, “Building One of the Great Museums of the World.”

This year’s gala will be held Saturday, December 9 at the Miami Beach Convention Center, just steps away from the Art Basel Miami Beach art fair. For the first time, the MAM Ball will be an official Art Basel Miami Beach event.

MAM’s annual Ball is one of the most anticipated events of the Miami social calendar. Held traditionally during the first week of December, it now crowns a week of art-related events attended by civic leaders, art patrons, as well as international guests drawn to Miami for Art Basel. Proceeds from the fundraising event provide vital annual support for MAM’s public programs and exhibitions.

To lend an international flair to this always unforgettable evening, Ball Chairs, Sharon King and husband Jerry Schwartz have recruited “ambassadors” from four cities where four great museums of the world make their homes. The ambassadors will serve as hosts for the Ball. The museums are -- the Louvre in Paris, the Prado in Madrid, the Hermitage in St. Petersburg and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The ambassadors are:

- Geraldine Holze and Cedrik Denain for Paris and the Louvre;
- Marilina and Leopoldo Fernández Pujals for Madrid and the Prado;
- Olga and Igor Kroutoi the Hermitage; and
- Judy and Russ Carson for New York City and the Metropolitan.

As part of the evening’s events, live auctions will be conducted for exclusive tours of the four cities and museums. The tours, arranged by the evening’s ambassadors, will also include visits to private art collections and other cultural highlights of each city. The live auction will culminate with bidding for an extravagant, international tour to all four cities. Travel within the United States and Europe will be on private jet service provided by NetJets. The glamour and

style of the trip will continue with a return passage to the United States aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2.

"In past years, tickets to the Ball have sold out," said Sharon King. "This year we wanted to make sure that everyone who wanted to support the museum would have a chance to take part in this very special event. For the first time, we will have space to accommodate the increased demand for tickets. Last year's Ball was described by the press as the most dazzling gala of Miami's social season. We're working hard to make this year's ball every bit as impressive."

MAM depends on private donations to help fulfill its role as a civic and cultural institution. The 2005 MAM Ball was the most successful to date, thanks to Miami Art Museum patrons, a diverse reflection of Miami's demographic profile including core figures in the business, civic and cultural communities.

Since its inception, MAM has worked closely with the community to develop and carry out the largest museum arts education program in Miami-Dade County, build a permanent collection dedicated to international art and presenting lively exhibition programs.

To purchase tickets for the Ball contact Debra Chase at 305.663.5307.

**Ticket Costs:** \$600 & \$1,000 per person, \$6,000 to \$25,000 for tables

Miami Art Museum receives both private and public funding. More than 50 percent of its annual support comes from corporations, individuals, foundations and MAM members. MAM 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 Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

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