



Miami Art Museum

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### **Miami Art Museum Ball Dazzles at Art Basel**

More than 1,000 guests attended the 23rd annual Miami Art Museum Ball on Saturday, Dec. 9, 2006. Chairs for the 2006 Ball were MAM Trustee Sharon King and her husband Jerry Schwartz. Their efforts made it a record-breaking event, raising \$1.6 million for the museum's exhibitions and educational programs that serve thousands of residents and visitors each year.

One of the top museum fundraisers nationwide, the MAM Ball has always been held at the beginning of December. Since the arrival of Art Basel, the MAM Ball has taken on the added excitement of capping a week of important art-related events in Miami. This year, the fair designated the MAM Ball an official Art Basel event for the first time.

Miami Art Museum's 2006 Ball looked ahead to the museum's new home at Museum Park in downtown Miami, on Biscayne Bay, by celebrating the goal of, "Building One of the Great Museums of the World."

To lend an international flair to this always-unforgettable evening, King and Schwartz recruited "ambassadors" from four cities where four great museums of the world make their homes. The ambassadors served as hosts for the Ball and their hometown museums. The ambassadors were:

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

As part of the evening's events, George McNeeley and Amy Cappellazzo, representatives from Christie's, conducted an auction for exclusive tours of the four cities and museums. The tours, arranged by the evening's ambassadors,

also include visits to private art collections and other cultural highlights in each city. The live auction culminated with bidding for an extravagant, international tour to all four cities including a transatlantic crossing from New York to Southampton aboard Cunard's Queen Mary 2. Travel within the United States and Europe will be on private jet service provided by NetJets.

Among the Ball's many notable guests were Miami-Dade County Carlos Alvarez, County Manager George Burgess; Miami Mayor Manny Diaz; Ambassador Paul Cejas and his wife Trudy; Jan Cowles and her son, gallery owner and art collector Charles Cowles; President of MAM's Board of Trustees Mary Frank; MAM Trustee David Lawrence; Robert Chambers and Edouard Duval-Carrié. Also in attendance were Spanish royals, HRH The Infanta Margarita de Borbón, Duchess of Soria and Hon. Carlos Zurita, Duke of Sor.

MAM's Ball was held adjacent to the Art Basel fair in the Miami Beach Convention Center. Guests were treated to decor by Barton G, who created evocations of L'Hermitage, Louvre, Metropolitan and Prado facades as well as a tribute to the creations of MAM's architects Herzog & de Meuron. The evening was capped by dancing to the music of the George Tandy Band. Tables of ten for the Ball ranged from \$6,000 to \$25,000.

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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Accredited by the American Association of Art Museums, 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.

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