

Boys Do Cry

Miami Art Museum Presents **the Short Films of Jesper Just** **January 16 – March 11, 2007**

The strong, silent type has represented the masculine ideal for centuries – from Hercules to Humphrey Bogart. Danish artist Jesper Just's short films uncover the emotional depths that lie hidden beneath such stoic surfaces.

“Just taps the universal power of music in lushly filmed, seductive works that challenge the traditional notion that masculinity is incompatible with external displays of emotion,” MAM Assistant Curator René Morales said. “The three short films on view in MAM's Video Gallery exemplify his critically acclaimed mix of tenderness, humor, and tongue-in-cheek incongruity.”

In *No Man is an Island II* 2004, the emotional walls between the habitués of a dimly-lit strip joint suddenly crumble when a young customer unexpectedly breaks into a heartfelt rendition of Roy Orbison's tear-jerker classic *Crying*. In *Bliss and Heaven* 2004, a freight container becomes a vast concert hall for a decidedly unorthodox rendition of Olivia Newton John's *Please Don't Keep Me Waiting*, while the music-box refrain of *Something to Love* 2005 sets into motion an emotional encounter between an elderly man and a young couple locked in a passionate embrace.

With the MAM Video Gallery, the Museum responds to the tremendous impact that video art has had on the contemporary scene. Every two months, a new video piece is selected for display in an intimate, darkened space adjoining the Plaza Level Gallery. Works are projected continuously during museum hours, and free Gallery Notes with a short explanatory text accompany each screening.

This presentation is organized by the Miami Art Museum and curated by Assistant Curator René Morales. It is supported by MAM's Annual Exhibition Fund.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Jesper Just was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1974, where he continues to live and work. He studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles;

Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Weiss Studio, New York; Herning Kunstmuseum, Denmark; Perry Rubenstein Gallery, New York; YYY, Toronto; Maze Gallery, Turin; Midway Contemporary Art, St. Paul; Galleri Christina Wilson, Copenhagen and Den Anden Opera, Copenhagen. Just's work is included in the permanent collection of a number of museums in Denmark, including the National Museum of Fine Art, as well as the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; Castello di Rivoli, Turin, Italy; Musée d'Art Moderne, Luxembourg; the Tate Modern, London; and private collections in Canada, Germany, Sweden and the United States.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

René Morales was named Assistant Curator at the Miami Art Museum in 2006. He played a significant role in the adaptation of the retrospective *Ana Mendieta: Earth Body* and of *Lorna Simpson* for their presentations at MAM and co-curated the MAM exhibitions *Mapping Space* and *Miami in Transition*. He also curated *Mark Dion: South Florida Wildlife Rescue Unit*. Morales is currently curating exhibitions in MAM's Video Gallery. Prior to joining MAM, Morales served as a curatorial intern at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and as a Curatorial Assistant at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design. Morales, who immigrated to Miami from Cuba in 1980, graduated with a double major in Art History and Psychobiology from Swarthmore College in 1997 and received a Master's degree in Art History from Brown University in 2000.

Related Publications

Gallery Notes

An illustrated brochure provides background information on Just's work and an in-depth examination of *No Man is an Island II*, *Bliss and Heaven* and *Something to Love*. Available in the galleries. Free.