



## **MIAMI ART MUSEUM OFFERS FREE ADMISSION TO MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES THIS SUMMER**

### **MAM Joins 700 Museums across the Nation Participating in Blue Star Museums Program**

**Miami – June 1, 2010 - Miami Art Museum** will offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day 2010, as part of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and more than 700 museums across America. The Blue Star Museums admission program is available to active duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members), which includes active duty Reserve and active duty National Guard. Miami Art Museum, located at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130, is open Tuesday through Friday, 10am to 5pm, and Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5pm. For more information, visit [miamiartmuseum.org](http://miamiartmuseum.org) or call 305.375.3000.

“Miami Art Museum is proud to join museums across the country in thanking our military personnel and their families for their service,” said John Wetenhall, MAM interim director. “Exploring a museum with family is a wonderful bonding experience, and I look forward to welcoming many military families to the museum this summer.”

More than 600 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are taking part in the initiative. The American Association of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, and the Association of Children’s Museums each sent a letter from NEA Chairman Landesman inviting museums to participate in this program. In addition to thirty children’s museums across the country, participating museums represent a broad range of art, history, science, and cultural topics. Some special or limited-time museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. For questions on particular exhibits or museums, please contact the museum directly. **The complete list of participating Blue Star Museums is available at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).**

#### **About 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 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 2013.

#### **About Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families is a national, non-partisan, non-profit network of military families from all ranks and services including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life with civilian community and leaders. Membership includes spouses, kids, parents, service members, veterans and civilians. Operation Appreciation is an initiative of Blue Star Families that seeks to connect military families to the larger community. Blue Star Families 2009 annual survey shows that 94 percent of military families feel that the larger community doesn’t truly understand or appreciate the sacrifices we make for the country. Through initiatives such as Blue Star

Museums, Blue Star Families provides avenues for the larger community to show that they do understand, in meaningful ways that enrich the lives of military service members, spouses, children and parents. For more information, please visit [www.BlueStarFam.org](http://www.BlueStarFam.org).

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Blue Star Museum is the latest Arts Endowment program to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans and their families. Other NEA programs for the military have included Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience, Great American Voices Military Base Tour, and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour. The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts – both new and established – bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest annual national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov).

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### **Miami Art Museum Media Contact:**

Tracy Belcher / 305.375.1705 / [TBelcher@MiamiArtMuseum.org](mailto:TBelcher@MiamiArtMuseum.org)

### **RELATED EVENTS**

#### **Second Saturdays are Free for Families presented by MetLife Foundation**

Second Saturday of every month, 1–4pm

Drop in to enjoy fun, interactive programs. Families of all ages explore MAM together, find inspiration to create works of art, and participate in hands-on activities led by Education Staff.

#### **Tours**

Public tours, free with museum admission, are given every Sunday at 2pm. Docent-led tours in English or Spanish can be scheduled upon request. Call MAM's Education Department at 305.375.4073 for additional information.

#### **Miami Art Museum**

101 West Flagler Street  
Miami, FL 33130  
305.375.3000  
[miamiartmuseum.org](http://miamiartmuseum.org)

**Hours:** Open Tuesday through Friday, 10am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5pm. Closed Monday. **Admission:** Free for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID); adults \$8; seniors \$4. Free admission every second Saturday. **Parking:** \$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave. Government Center Station.

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 Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. Miami Art Museum is an accessible facility. For sign language interpretation or assistive listening devices please call Miami Art Museum's education department 305.375.4073 at least five days in advance. Materials in accessible format may be requested.