



Miami Art Museum

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**Miami Art Museum's *Converge 2* Continues "Vital Initiative"
of Documenting MAM's *New Works* Series**

Miami Art Museum, (MAM), South Florida's flagship museum for international art of the 20th and 21st centuries, announces the publication of *Converge 2*, the second volume of its acclaimed publication series documenting the museum's *New Work* exhibitions.

Converge 1 was hailed as "a vital initiative" by the *Miami Herald* when it was published in 2000. *Converge 2* was launched at an event hosted by Jan Cowles, MAM founder and honorary trustee and New York art dealer, photography collector and Miami native Charles Cowles on October 15. *Converge 2* receives its Miami premiere during the November JAM at MAM, November 17 from 5 – 8:30pm.

"The artists selected to participate in the *New Work* series and documented in *Converge* reflect the blending of cultures which is an essential element of South Florida culture," said MAM Director Suzanne Delehanty. "Together, the projects presented in the *New Work* series address a range of social and cultural issues that reflect our community and our times while exploring innovative formal and technical approaches to artmaking."

MAM's *New Work* series, established in 1993, includes three or four exhibitions per year presenting work by leading contemporary artists. *Converge 2* highlights work from the 1998-2000 exhibition seasons. The artists whose projects are documented in *Converge 2* are Willie Cole, Jim Hodges, Miralda, Steven Pippin, Liisa Roberts, Nancy Rubins, Alexis Smith, and William Wegman.

The *New Work* series serves to articulate the museum's mission to exhibit international art of the 20th and 21st centuries.

In addition to the critically-acclaimed artworks documented in *Converge 2*, the book features writing in a range of styles and perspectives by some of the world's leading authors. It includes commentaries by National Book Critics Circle Award winner Amy Gerstler, MacArthur Fellow Lewis Hyde, chef Maricel Presilla, NPR *All Things Considered* humorist Bob Morris, and MAM Assistant Director for Special Projects/Curator Lorie Mertes among others.

A future volume in the series, *Converge 3*, will document New Work exhibitions by Edouard Duval-Carrié, Frank Benson and Robert Chambers, Dara Friedman and Robert Thiele, Adler Guerrier and Consuelo Casteñeda, Naomi Fisher and Glexis Novoa, Donald Lipski, Odili Donald Odita and recent MacArthur Fellow Teresita Fernandez.

Publication of *Converge 2* was underwritten by the Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, Eugenio Lopez, Nancy and Robert Magoon and David Beaty. The publication's coordinator and lead editor is Lorie Mertes, MAM Assistant Director for Special Projects/Curator.

Converge 2 has 104 pages and includes more than 70 color and black-and-white illustrations. It is available at the MAM Shop for \$22.45 for museum members and \$24.95 for non-members, and over the Internet through Amazon.com. It also will be distributed internationally through art bookstores and museum stores.

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