

Bridging Art and Religion

Miami Art Museum Presents *The Holy Artwork*
July 19 – August 19, 2007

The Holy Artwork is the result of a collaboration between artist Christian Jankowski and a televangelist from San Antonio, Texas. In it, Jankowski approaches the pastor just as he is beginning his broadcast, and then abruptly collapses at his feet, mimicking a specific Baroque-era painting that depicts an individual overcome with religious ecstasy. Unflustered, the pastor delivers a sermon that proposes a parallel between divine creation and artistic creativity, addressing key issues in contemporary aesthetic theory in the process. He ends his speech by reaching out to the art world with impassioned sincerity.

“*The Holy Artwork* is a unique and highly experimental attempt to resolve contemporary art and spirituality, and to use art to create social bridges between subcultures, no matter how radically different they may be,” MAM Assistant Curator René Morales says. “Remarkably, the result succeeds in transcending the seemingly irresolvable gulf between southern fundamentalist Christianity and the avant-garde art world.”

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

Christian Jankowski was born in 1968 in Göttingen, Germany, and lives in Berlin. His work has been featured in solo exhibitions at venues throughout the world, including Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne; Goethe Institute, Paris; Portikus, Frankfurt; and Art Node, Stockholm. Venues for group exhibitions in which he has participated include the Berlin Biennial; Museum der Gegenwart, Berlin; Institute for Contemporary Art, London; the Lyon Biennial; the Whitney Biennial, New York; Mass MoCA, North Adams, MA; and the Swiss Institute, New York.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

René Morales was named Assistant Curator at the Miami Art Museum in 2006. He has worked on the MAM presentations of the retrospectives *Ana Mendieta*:

Earth Body, Lorna Simpson, and Tamayo: A Modern Icon Reinterpreted 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 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 from Swarthmore College in 1997 and received a Master's degree in Art History from Brown University in 2001.

Related Publications

Gallery Notes

An illustrated brochure provides background information on Jankowski's work and an in-depth examination of *The Holy Artwork*. Available in the galleries. Free.