



Miami Art Museum Names John Wetenhall Interim Director

Search for Permanent Director Underway

Miami – November 30, 2009 – The Board of Trustees of Miami Art Museum announced the appointment of John Wetenhall as the museum’s interim director while it undertakes a search for the next director of the institution. Wetenhall will officially start on January 4, 2010, and will oversee the day-to-day operations of the museum and planning for its new home in Museum Park.

Wetenhall previously served for eight years as executive director of The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, FL where he was responsible for all aspects of operations, and saw the institution through a period of significant growth and expansion including the addition of four new buildings. Prior to that, Wetenhall served as director of the Cheekwood Museum of Art in Nashville, where he participated in a capital improvement project that included the renovation of the museum, establishment of a new contemporary art and education center, and creation of a 1.5-mile woodland sculpture trail. He was a Smithsonian Institution Fellow and has taught at Stanford, Santa Clara University, the University of Minnesota and Florida State University. Wetenhall earned his B.A. (cum laude) in English Literature at Dartmouth College, M.A. in the History of Art at Williams College, M.A. and Ph.D. at Stanford University, and his M.B.A. at Vanderbilt University. He belongs to the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) and serves on the Boards of the American Association of Museums (AAM) and the U.S. National Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM-US).

“We are very fortunate to have John’s leadership while the search committee works to identify the right long-term leader for the Miami Art Museum,” said Aaron Podhurst, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. “John’s depth of experience will be an invaluable asset as we continue to move forward with building our institution. The board is committed to identifying the right leadership to realize the powerful vision set for Miami Art Museum’s future, and John will play a key role in the Museum’s institutional transformation.”

Miami Art Museum trustee Rose Ellen Greene has been appointed to lead the search committee for a permanent director. The new director will oversee the construction phase of Miami Art Museum’s new facility and continue to build the permanent collection and spearhead the fundraising program. Terence Riley, who stepped down as Miami Art Museum’s director in November upon completion of the design and development phase of the building project, continues to oversee development of Miami Art Museum’s new home at Museum Park as project consultant.

Herzog & de Meuron’s design for new Miami Art Museum at Museum Park generated critical acclaim when it was unveiled on October 21, 2009. Miami Art Museum is scheduled to break ground for its new, expanded facility on Biscayne Bay in 2010. In October 2009, Miami Art Museum premiered the most comprehensive survey of work by Argentine artist Guillermo Kuitca

ever presented in North America. Miami Art Museum is South Florida's largest provider of arts education outside of the Miami Dade Public Schools.

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. Miami Art Museum embraces its role as a cultural anchor and touchstone in a city that welcomes countless ethnic and age groups, lifestyles and ideas. Miami Art Museum's far-ranging vision is expressed in the breadth and depth of its exhibition program, and 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 Miami Art Museum at Museum Park, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, is scheduled for completion in 2012 and will open to the public in 2013.

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.

Miami Art Museum is located at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130. Museum hours are: Tuesday through Friday, 10am - 5pm; Saturday through Sunday, Noon - 5pm; and third Thursdays (JAM@MAM), 5-8:30pm. MAM is closed on Mondays. Admission is free for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID); adults \$8; seniors \$4; JAM@MAM \$10 (non-members), and Second Saturdays are Free for Families. Parking is \$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave. Overflow parking is available at 270 NW 2nd Street. Miami Art Museum is accessible via Metrorail, Metrobus and Metromover through Government Center Station. For more information about Miami Art Museum, please call 305.375.3000 or visit miamiartmuseum.org.

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