



**MAJOR GUILLERMO KUITCA RETROSPECTIVE TO PREMIERE AT
MIAMI ART MUSEUM IN OCTOBER 2009**

**Comprehensive Survey of Artist's Work will Travel to Albright-Knox Art Gallery,
Walker Art Center and Hirshhorn Museum**

Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008
(October 9, 2009 through January 17, 2010)

MIAMI, August 26, 2009—In October of 2009, Miami Art Museum will premiere the most comprehensive survey of the work of Argentine artist Guillermo Kuitca ever presented in North America. On view at MAM from October 9, 2009 through January 17, 2010, *Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008* will trace the evolution of Kuitca's work through more than 50 canvases and 25 works on paper, spanning 28 years of the artist's career.

Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008 is co-organized by Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; and Miami Art Museum.

Guillermo Kuitca explores themes of dislocation and the intersection of public and private spaces through works ranging from early paintings of theatrical scenes, to complex abstractions which reference maps and architectural plans. Kuitca was the chosen representative of Argentina at the Venice Biennale in 2007, where he was one of only three artists with work on view in both a national pavilion and in the central international Biennale exhibition. The artist's work was previously exhibited at the Center for Fine Arts, which later became the Miami Art Museum, in the 1995 exhibition *Burning Beds Guillermo Kuitca: A Survey 1982-1994*.

In addition to the artworks within Miami Art Museum's on-site gallery space, the Museum will also host *Guillermo Kuitca: Everything (else)*, at Miami's Freedom Tower. MAM is working with the Art Gallery System of Miami Dade College, which owns and operates this nationally designated landmark historic building, to install *32 Seating Plans, 2007* a piece comprised of 32 drawings and two large-scale paintings, *Everything, 2004* and *The Ring, 2002.*, each over 20 feet wide. Also on view for the first time will be "*Der Fliegende Holländer*" (*Scrim Suite*), 2009. Tracing it's origins to the stage designs conceived by Kuitca for a 2003 production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* at the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, this installation explores the experience and perception of light, space and image through the medium of three silk scrims.

“Drawing inspiration from charts, maps and theater seating plans, Kuitca’s work challenges boundaries both literally and figuratively,” said Terence Riley, MAM Director. “MAM is a hemispheric hub for art across the Americas, and this exhibition is particularly relevant to MAM and the Miami community. We are pleased to present our second exhibition of Kuitca’s work, and look forward to presenting many more exhibitions of this scale and importance once MAM moves to its new, expanded facility at Museum Park.”

Curated by Doug Dreishpoon of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, *Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008* will travel to the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY; the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis; and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C following its premiere in Miami. Major funding is provided by the Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation, AXA Art Insurance Corporation, and the Leadership and Honorary Patrons Committee for the exhibition, with additional catalogue support from Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

Dating to the early and mid-1980s, the earliest works in the exhibition reflect Kuitca’s experiences as a theatrical stage director in Argentina, with titles often drawn from plays, literature, and popular music. Works such as *El Mar Dulce* and *Siete Ultima Canciones*, both completed in 1986, are reminiscent of stage sets viewed from a distance, with tiny figures acting out mysterious and disturbing dramas. Themes of absence and loss emerged in subsequent works of this period, which depict overturned chairs, sullied beds that appear to be on fire, and a microphone on an empty stage.

Kuitca’s works of the late 1980s and early 1990s explore architecture and topography, as well as domestic and communal spaces. The floor plans of public institutions (the “Tablada Suite”), geographical maps (the artist’s “map” paintings on canvases and mattresses), and genealogical charts (the “People on Fire” series) begin to serve as important references during this period. Though these works imply social interaction and public spaces, the human figure remains notably absent.

Kuitca further explored organizational systems throughout the 1990s and early 2000s. In *Neufert Suite*, 1998, a series of paintings, and *L’Encyclopédie*, 2002, a series of works on paper, he references an architect’s handbook and the work of French philosopher Denis Diderot, who attempted to condense the whole of human knowledge into an encyclopedia. In his series of drawings titled *Global Order*, 2002, Kuitca fuses a map of the world with building plans for domestic spaces, identifying borders and notions of “place” as the changing products of human invention.

Since the late 1990s, Kuitca has created both large and small-scale works on paper that explore and deconstruct his painted works. Continuing his investigation of mapping, Kuitca based a 2007 series on seating charts from renowned performance spaces such as the Metropolitan Opera House in New York. Kuitca selectively edits information from these charts in an electronic format before printing them. He then further alters their appearance and meaning by subjecting them to different water treatments which alter the printed image. The resulting works are surreal abstractions, whose pictorial elements have migrated across paper. *Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008* will explore the relationship between these recent works, which court accident through the use of procedures with random results.

Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008 will include Kuitca's canvas *Mozart-Da Ponte VI*, 1996, from Miami Art Museum's permanent collection, as well as two works included in the 2007 Venice Biennale, *Desenlace I*, 2006, and *Desenlace IV*, 2007. The exhibition will also feature *Untitled*, 1992, a piece comprised of 20 painted mattresses from the collection of Tate Modern.

About the Artist

Based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Guillermo Kuitca (born 1961, Buenos Aires) has garnered international attention since the mid-1980s. In 1985 he represented Argentina in the XVIII São Paulo Biennial. His work was first seen in the United States in a group exhibition at the Americas Society in New York in 1989, *New Image Painting: Argentina in the Eighties*.

In the 1990s he had solo museum and gallery shows in the Netherlands and the United States, which included a "Projects" show at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1992. Also that year, his installation for Documenta IX of "map" paintings and a large installation of "bed" sculptures brought him significant international attention. Since then Kuitca has had solo exhibitions at the Instituto de Arte Moderno (IVAM) in Valencia, Spain (1993) and *Burning Beds: Guillermo Kuitca, A Survey 1982-1994*, which was organized by the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio, and the Contemporary Art Foundation, Amsterdam in 1994. In 1999 he exhibited at the Centro Hélio Oiticica and in 2000 at the Foundation Cartier in Paris.

The most recent survey of Kuitca's works, covering the period 1983-2003, was organized by the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, and traveled to the Museo de Arte Latino Americano, Buenos Aires (MALBA) in the summer of 2003. Kuitca was the chosen representative of Argentina at the Venice Biennale in 2007.

On October 15, 2009, The Dallas Center for the Performing Arts will unveil the stage curtain designed by Kuitca for the Center's new Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House. This commission will be Kuitca's first design for a stage curtain.

Exhibition Organization and Support

Guillermo Kuitca: Everything, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1980-2008 is co-organized by Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.; and Miami Art Museum, Miami, Florida. Major funding is provided by the Bruce T. Halle Family Foundation, AXA Art Insurance Corporation, and the Leadership and Honorary Patrons Committees for the exhibition with additional catalogue support from Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive, fully illustrated catalogue that will include essays by Douglas Dreishpoon, Chief Curator, Albright-Knox Art Gallery; Olga Viso, Director, Walker Art Center; Terence Riley, Director, Miami Art Museum; and Andreas Huyssen, Villard Professor of German and Comparative Literature at Columbia University. The book will also feature a series of interviews with the artist, recorded between 1997 and 2008 by noted Argentinean author Graciela Speranza.

Exhibition Tour:

Miami Art Museum (October 9, 2009–January 17, 2010); Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (February 19–May 30, 2010); the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (June 26–September 19, 2010); and Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. (October 21, 2010–January 9, 2011).

Exhibition Leadership Committee: Moisés and Diana Berezdivin; Eugenio Lopez—Fundación/Colección Jumex; Mr. and Mrs. Steven Mishaan; and Humberto and Rosalía Ugobono.

Exhibition Honorary Patrons Committee: Philip and Shelley Fox Aarons; Tiqui Atencio and Ago Demirdjian; Charles E. and Carol Balbach; Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Banta; Esty and Dan Brodsky; Ella Fontanals-Cisneros; Nora Kohen and Alfredo Ghirardo; Dr. and Mrs. Robert Magoon; and Dr. and Mrs. Mark Oren.

Additional support for the presentation of this exhibition at Miami Art Museum is provided by Jorge M. Pérez and Bank Hapoalim.

Guillermo Kuitca: Everything (else), Large Scale Works at Freedom Tower is presented in association with Miami Dade College.

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, to 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.

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.

###

Media Contact:

Heather Steliga or Tracy Belcher

305.375.1705

TBelcher@MiamiArtMuseum.org

Kira Garcia / Leah Sandals

Resnicow Schroeder Associates

212-671-5155 / 212-671-5154

kgarcia@resnicowschroeder.com / lsandals@resnicowschroeder.com

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

Miami Art Museum

Open Tuesday through Friday – 10am to 5pm, Saturday and Sunday – Noon to 5pm. Third Thursdays until 8:30pm. Closed Monday. Admission for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID) is free. Adults \$8, seniors \$4. Free admission every Sunday and Second Saturdays.

101 West Flagler Street
Miami, FL 33130
305.375.3000
miamiartmuseum.org

Garage Parking
\$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave
between Flagler St and NW 1st St
Overflow parking at 270 NW 2nd Street
Metrorail: Government Center Station

Freedom Tower

Open weekdays Noon – 5pm, Saturdays 11am – 4pm; closed Sundays.
Admission is free

600 Biscayne Blvd
Miami, FL 33132
(305) 237-3000