



**MIAMI ART MUSEUM PRESENTS**  
**Focus Gallery: Purvis Young**  
(July 30 - November 7, 2010)

**MIAMI – July 22, 2010** – Miami Art Museum will open a new exhibition in the Focus Gallery section of its Permanent Collection installation, dedicated to works by the late Purvis Young. *Focus Gallery: Purvis Young* (July 30 - November 7, 2010) features a selection of Young's paintings from the museum's permanent collection that span the career of the celebrated, self-taught Miami painter who passed away in April of this year at the age of 67.

Purvis Young's work reflects the condition experienced by residents of Miami's Overtown, the historic African American neighborhood that was transformed from a thriving community to an impoverished inner-city environment in the 1960's and 70's, when interstate 95 was erected. Against this backdrop, Young's work serves as inspiration for the capacity of the creative spirit to reclaim, transform, restore and renew.

"Through the decades, Young served as an eyewitness to changes in social conditions and Miami's transformation from a modest city to a bustling metropolis that now carries many of the social, economic, and political problems that come with being a large city," said Peter Boswell, MAM assistant director for programs/senior curator. "In this context, Young's paintings act as a form of protest against injustice and as a testament to the resiliency of the human spirit in the midst of often dehumanizing urban conditions."

Purvis Young is often and erroneously referred to as an "Outsider" artist, a term reserved for untrained artists with no concept of art, other than their own. Contrary to the term 'Outsider', Young was inspired by what he saw and read of the works by Van Gogh, Rubens, Rembrandt and Cézanne from books in the public library, as well as National Geographic magazine and public television documentaries. He was introduced to art as a child by relatives who were figurative artists and cartoonists. Although he was never formally trained, Purvis Young was socially and artistically aware. Limited in the resources available to him at the time he began painting, Young used whatever materials he could find on the street, scrap lumber, parts of packing crates, and cast-off doors. He initially gained public attention over 25 years ago by hanging his paintings on the fences and exteriors of buildings on a three-block length of NW 14<sup>th</sup> St. in Overtown known as Goodbread Alley. Even after gaining fame and financial stability, most of his paintings were executed with house paint on wood that has been exposed to the elements, resulting in the extremely raw quality that his work displays. His imagery includes wild horses, marching people, railroad tracks, pregnant women and angel heads. Young has explained that they represent various life experiences and that they each symbolize a vision of hope.

*Focus Gallery: Purvis Young*, is an exhibition within *BETWEEN HERE AND THERE: Modern and Contemporary Art from the Permanent Collection*, the Museum's Permanent Collection installation. Changing every four to six months, the Focus Gallery presents mini-exhibitions of artists or themes considered cornerstones of MAM's collection or collecting goals.

*Focus Gallery: Purvis Young* is organized by Miami Art Museum and supported by donations to MAM's Annual Exhibition Fund. It is curated by Peter Boswell, MAM assistant director for programs/senior curator.

**About Miami Art Museum**

Miami Art Museum, a modern and contemporary art museum located in downtown Miami, FL, 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

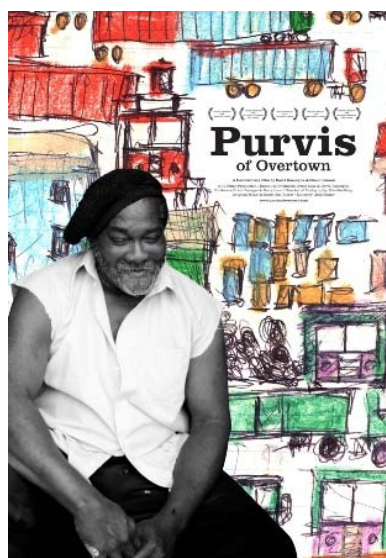
and ideas. Miami Art Museum's far-ranging vision is expressed in the breadth and depth of its exhibition program, and education and public programs. The Museum continues to build its collection of holdings from the twentieth century through the present, as it embarks on a major new building and expansion project. The new Miami Art Museum at Museum Park, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, is scheduled for completion in 2013. For more information about Miami Art Museum, visit [miamiartmuseum.org](http://miamiartmuseum.org).

Miami Art Museum is located at 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL 33130. Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10am - 5pm; Saturday through Sunday, Noon - 5pm; Closed Mondays. Admission is free for MAM members, children under 12 and students (with valid ID); adults \$8; seniors \$4; Second Saturdays are Free for Families. Parking is \$5 (with museum validation) at 50 NW 2nd Ave. Metro: Government Center Station.

Media Contact: Tracy Belcher/ 305.375.1705/ [TBelcher@miamiartmuseum.org](mailto:TBelcher@miamiartmuseum.org).

###

## RELATED EVENTS



### Opening Reception and Preview

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Preview, 6pm

Film screening, 7pm

In collaboration with Miami International Film Festival, Miami Art Museum will mark the opening of a Purvis Young focus gallery with a special screening of the 2006 documentary: *Purvis of Overtown*. Opening remarks will be given by César Trasobares. Seating is limited - first come, first seated. For information contact 305.375.1704 or [RSVP@miamiartmuseum.org](mailto:RSVP@miamiartmuseum.org). MAM and MIFF members free, non-members \$10



### 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.

### Public 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 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.