



MAM COMMISSIONS A NEW VERSION OF DOUG AITKEN'S "SLEEPWALKERS" FOR THE CITY OF MIAMI

MIAMI, October 26, 2007—To inaugurate its new facility when it opens in 2011, Miami Art Museum has commissioned artist Doug Aitken to create a site specific version of "sleepwalkers," his large-scale cinematic installation presented earlier this year at The Museum of Modern Art. The artist's adaptation of this major public artwork will introduce two new Miami-based narratives to the piece through new footage shot in and around Miami. Projected onto the facades of the new building, "sleepwalkers (Miami)" will merge architecture by Herzog & de Meuron with depictions of the nocturnal lives of seven denizens of Miami and New York, and the city spaces they inhabit.

"sleepwalkers (Miami)" will expand the work's landscape and characters in a manner that reflects the diverse social fabric of Miami. The new Miami-based storylines follow a young, female, Latin-American lighthouse attendant traveling through urban neighborhoods and a transient man, who moves with a weightless quality from setting to setting—from the sea to an elegant outdoor gathering. The storylines will be synchronized and entwined with distinct narratives constructed around five archetypal New Yorkers—a bicycle messenger, an electrician, a postal worker, a businessman, and an office worker. Each story, 15 minutes in length, will continuously recombine in new juxtapositions on different surfaces of the new Museum throughout the course of an evening. The parallel stories create a symmetry as each character undergoes a transformation from routine urban existence to an abstract, trance-like state.

"Aitken's work will be on view for all of Miami, simultaneously inviting the public to interact with the art, the building, and the city," said Terence Riley, Director of the Miami Art Museum. "We are delighted to collaborate with Doug Aitken to create and present a work that will be unique to Miami, as we work with Herzog & de Meuron to build a new home for our Museum. We look forward to premiering the Miami edition of "sleepwalkers" alongside our building in 2011."

"sleepwalkers" was originally commissioned by the Museum of Modern Art and Creative Time in New York. The Miami Art Museum was given the first in an edition of six of the original "sleepwalkers" in June 2007. The work was a gift

from the Arison Arts Foundation, in honor of MAM's 10th anniversary. The Arison Arts Foundation has also agreed to help underwrite the new Miami narratives.

"Our challenge was to create a piece that would be as unique for Miami as it was for New York, and I wanted to extend the work and create a piece that does not have a conclusion but is more of a continuum," said Aitken. "I like the idea that when you see this work as it will be seen in Miami, it will have elements that feel very local juxtaposed with completely different environments. The piece creates this invisible thread that we all share through the very intimate and quiet moments that we experience on a daily basis."

MAM will unveil the initial concept designs for the building this winter in conjunction with Art Basel Miami Beach, and Aitken will join Jacques Herzog and Terrence Riley at a panel lecture about the new building as part of the ABMB "Art Loves" lecture series on December 7, 2007.

Doug Aitken

Doug Aitken's body of work ranges from photography, sculpture, and architectural interventions to sound, single- and multichannel video works and installations. During the past decade, the artist has created innovative contemporary video art by fracturing the narrative structures of his films across multi-screen environments. His "electric earth" installation brought him to international prominence and earned him the International Prize at the Venice Biennale in 1999. In 2000 and 2001, Aitken continued to explore his interest in architectural structures and in art that interacts with urban environments in installations at the Vienna Secession and London's Serpentine Gallery. His work has been featured in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world, in institutions such as the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, among others.

Museum Expansion

In September 2006, MAM's Trustees selected Herzog & de Meuron to design a new and expanded facility, scheduled to open in Miami's Museum Park in 2011. The new 125,000-square-foot space will occupy four acres on the north side of Museum Park, overlooking Biscayne Bay, and will be more than twice the size of MAM's current facility. It will include 32,000 square feet of galleries, providing space for larger and more diverse displays of the Museum's permanent collection and special exhibitions; an educational complex with a library, auditorium, classrooms, and workshop space; and such amenities as a cafe and store. The new MAM will also include outdoor sculpture installations contiguous with the Museum.

Miami Art Museum

Miami Art Museum is dedicated to engaging the public with international art of the 20th and 21st centuries, taking a hemispheric perspective of the Americas. Since its founding in 1996, the Museum has exponentially built a body of contemporary art called by *Art in America* "the quintessential Miami collection."

Arison Arts Foundation

The Arison Arts Foundation was founded in 2005 with its main objective to support and encourage arts in America. It concentrates mainly on young artists from high schools and conservatories across the country, who work in every art form, including dance, visual arts, music, writing, filmmaking and photography. It also sponsors an orchestral academy.

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