



EXHIBITION BRIDGING CONTINENTS AND CULTURES OPENS AT MIAMI ART MUSEUM

NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith February 22 – May 24, 2009

Although for centuries spirituality was an essential, even guiding, component of art, in the modern era artists have often distanced themselves from otherworldly concerns. NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith, on view at Miami Art Museum February 22 – May 24, 2009, brings together an intergenerational group of artists who address ritual in the artistic process and the wider implications of spirituality in contemporary art. The inspiration for the exhibition comes from the work of Afro-American poet Ishmael Reed.

NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith is co-organized by The Menil Collection and P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center and curated by Franklin Simans, curator of modern and contemporary art at The Menil Collection. It encompasses 50 works by 33 artists in a variety of media including sculpture, photography, assemblage, video and performance.

"The artists whose work is on view in NeoHooDoo are drawn from throughout the Americas, which makes it an ideal exhibition for Miami Art Museum," Director Terence Riley said. "It complements the Museum's role as a bridge between continents and cultures."

The term HooDoo, which shares the same linguistic roots as Vodun, originated in 19th-century America to describe religion and ritual originating in pre-colonial West Africa. In the 1970s Reed explored what he called Neo-HooDoo, or new HooDoo, as a spiritual practice outside of any definable faith or creed. The practice allows artists to reexamine and reinterpret aspects of their cultural heritage. Challenging conceptions of "high" and "low" art and of "insider" and "outsider" practices, the artists in the exhibition frequently create work using everyday objects that resonate both within the confines of a gallery or museum and among their own local audiences.

"Several of the artists whose work is on view in NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith, including José Bedia, William Cordova, Ana Mendieta and Felix Gonzalez-Torres, have lived or worked in Miami," Miami Art Museum Assistant Director for Programs/Senior Curator Peter Boswell said. "Others, including Janine Antoni, Pepón Osorio and María Magdalena Campos-Pons, are familiar to local audiences through previous exhibitions at Miami Art Museum. The varied approaches to spirituality in the work of these artists is reflected in the wide range of expression that is embraced by NeoHooDoo."

Other artists whose work is on view in NeoHooDoo include Jean-Michel Basquiat, Radcliffe Bailey, Rebecca Belmore, James Lee Byars, John Cage, Jimmie Durham, Regina José Galindo, Robert Gober, David Hammons, Michael Joo, Brian Jungen, Amalia Mesa-Baines, Ernesto Pujol, Dario Robleto, Doris Salcedo and Gary Simmons.

NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith is co-organized by The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas, and P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, a Museum of Modern Art affiliate. The exhibition is generously supported by The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Anonymous, William J. Hill, Beth and Rick Schnieders, Sara Dodd Spickelmier and Keith Spickelmier, Barbara and Charles Wright, Nina and Michael Zilkha, The Cullen Foundation, Houston Endowment, and the City of Houston. The presentation at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center was made possible by The Friends of Education of the Museum of Modern Art, David Teiger, and with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. Its presentation in Miami is supported by Miami Art Museum's Annual Exhibition Fund.

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 2012.

The Menil Collection

Housed in architect Renzo Piano's first U.S. building, The Menil Collection opened in 1987 to preserve and exhibit the art collection of John and Dominique de Menil. Considered one of the most important privately assembled collections of the twentieth century, The Menil Collection houses approximately 16,000 paintings, sculptures, prints, drawings, photographs, and rare books. Masterpieces from antiquity, the Byzantine and medieval worlds, the tribal cultures of Africa, Oceania, and the American Pacific Northwest, and the twentieth century (including Surrealism) are particularly well represented. Admission to the Menil is free of charge.

Related Programming

Artists Panel

Sunday, February 22, 3pm
MAM Auditorium
\$5 for members and students with valid id
\$10 for non-members
(includes Museum admission)

Second Saturdays are Free for Families

presented by MetLife Foundation
Second Saturday of every month
1 – 4pm

Saturday, March 14, 2009
1-4pm

Rhythm-Makers

Dress up dancing puppets that can boogie to a beat.

Miami Art Museum's free monthly program for drop-in visitors features fun hands-on activities for children and adults. Second Saturdays also regularly include guided tours, gallery games, and live performances. It is a day for children and adults to explore the museum, learn something new, create art and enjoy time together.

Tours

Docent-led group tours of NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith can be scheduled upon request. Those interested should call MAM's Education Department at 305.375.4073 for additional information.

Publications

NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with essays by Arthur C. Danto, professor of philosophy at Columbia University; Greg Tate, cultural critic for the Village Voice; Robert Farris Thompson, professor of history at Yale University; Jen Budney, associate curator at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and Julia Herzberg, art historian and curator specializing in Latin American art. The catalogue also includes an interview with Ishmael Reed by Franklin Simans and work by renowned poet Quincy Troupe. The fully illustrated, color catalogue will be available for purchase at the MAM Store (144 pp. Members \$40.50, Non-Members \$45).

###

Media Contact
Mitch Snow
305.375.1705
msnow@miamiartmuseum.org

Chris D'Aleo / Kira Garcia
Resnicow Schroeder Associates
212.671.5178 / 212.671.5155
cdaleo@resnicow-schroeder.com / kgarcia@resnicow-schroeder.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. 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.