



Miami Art Museum

Miami Art Museum Presents
Carlos Bunga: Metamorphosis
(November 20, 2009 - February 28, 2010)

Artist's First U.S. Solo Exhibition Features Site-Specific Installations
Exploring the Impermanence of Architectural Structures and Urban Space

MIAMI, November 2, 2009— Miami Art Museum presents **Carlos Bunga: Metamorphosis** (November 20, 2009 through February 28, 2010), the Portuguese artist's first U.S. solo exhibition. Bunga, whose large-scale structures explore the continuous mutation of architecture and urban space, will create two site-specific installations at Miami Art Museum, 101 West Flagler Street, Miami, FL, 33130.

Carlos Bunga: Metamorphosis features two large-scale, site-specific structures made from perishable materials such as cardboard and packing tape emphasizing ideas of impermanence, crisis and decay. Bunga's constructions – which grow organically and sometimes recall provisional street shelters – arise from a dialogue with the existing architecture of the sites at which they are built. The structures employ the motif of the metabolic processes that sustain living organisms as a metaphor for the continuous mutation of architecture and urban space.

In the last stage of the work, after carefully building his structures for weeks, Bunga submits them to a radical transformation. Through a performative, cathartic act, he slices the walls of this construction and pulls it with his body to reveal additional layers and traces hidden within its interior.

"With a particular interest in the connection between the pictorial and the architectural, Carlos Bunga investigates urban space and the transitory nature of architectural structures," said Rina Carvajal, adjunct curator at Miami Art Museum and curator of the exhibition. "Behind his psychologically and politically charged environments lie urgent and timely issues related to demographics, immigration, socio-economic disparity and the fragility of contemporary urban life."

Carlos Bunga was born in Porto, Portugal in 1976. After studying Fine Arts at the Escola Superior de Arte e Design in Caldas da Rainha in Portugal, Bunga first attracted international attention with his work at the contemporary art biennial Manifesta 5 (San Sebastian, 2004). Since then, he has been awarded a visual arts grant by the Fundación Marcelino Botín (Spain, 2006) and has had solo shows of his work at MARCO, Museum of Contemporary Art, Vigo (*Heterotopias*, 2009), Milton Keynes Gallery (UK, 2006) and Culturgest (Portugal, 2005); and group exhibitions at Warsaw Museum of Modern Art (*Warsaw Under Construction*, Poland, 2009), Museum of Contemporary Art Barcelona (*Time as Matter*, MACBA Collection, 2009), Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno, IVAM (*Construir, habitar, pensar*, Valencia, 2008); New Museum, New York (*Unmonumental: The Object in the 21st Century*, 2007), Justus Lipsius Building (*Mobility at Work*, Brussels, 2007), Artists Space (*Things Fall Apart All Over Again*, New York, 2005), and San Diego Museum of Art (*Farsites: Urban Crisis and Domestic Symptoms in Recent Contemporary Art*, inSite_05, San Diego, 2005).

Carlos Bunga: Metamorphosis is organized by Miami Art Museum and curated by Rina Carvajal. It is funded by Instituto Camões, Espírito Santo Bank, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, and Directorate-General for the Arts / Ministry of Culture, Portugal, with additional support provided by UBS Financial Services, Inc. - The Bodner Zubizarreta Group and MAM's Annual Exhibition Fund.

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.

Related events:

Carlos Bunga: Metamorphosis opening

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 6-8pm

Members free; non-members \$10

Opening reception for *Carlos Bunga: Metamorphosis* and *Space as Medium* during JAM @ MAM, the museum's happy hour with an artful twist.

Artist Performance

Sunday, November 22, 3pm

Free with museum admission

Carlos Bunga carries out an intervention within his site-specific installation at Miami Art Museum. His performance will evoke the impermanence of contemporary urban life.

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.

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.

Media Contact: Tracy Belcher/ 305.375.1705/ TBelcher@miamiartmuseum.org

###

