



**Miami Art Museum's New ArTalk Series Continues
With *Nomad* by Cuban-Born Artist Enrique Martínez Celaya**

January 9, 8-9pm

The second of a new series of free **ArTalks**, co-sponsored by Miami Art Museum and Books & Books, features Cuban-born artist Enrique Martínez Celaya and noted Miami art critic Alfredo Triff. They will discuss *Nomad*, which documents Martínez Celaya's creative process during preparations for his current show at MAM.

This **ArTalk**, part of a new series of occasional conversations pairing artists, authors and scholars in conversations centered on recently published books, will take place January 9, 8-9pm at Books & Books in Coral Gables.

Martínez Celaya created five large-scale, oil-and-wax paintings exploring issues of exile and rootlessness especially for his MAM exhibition. *Nomad's* enormous central painting, ten feet tall by twenty-one feet wide, features the image of a leopard crossing a wintry landscape, a traveler out of place in time and space. The canvas is rendered entirely in black-and-white. Flanking this image are four paintings symbolic of the seasons, painted in virtuoso fashion and in rich, full color, achieving a sense of lush beauty unprecedented in his work. Each of these "seasons" paintings features a central image of a young girl carrying a dead leopard over her shoulders. The paintings evoke the dream-like state of suspension in which the exile lives: time passes and yet nothing changes. The accompanying book provides an intimate look into the artist's creative process, providing excerpts and sketches from the artist's notebook and photographs of the canvases as they evolved in his studio. It also includes an essay by MAM's Assistant Director for Programs/Senior Curator Peter Boswell and a complete biography and exhibition history of the artist.

Martínez Celaya works in a variety of media, including painting, photography, sculpture and installation. He is perhaps best known for his large-scale paintings made from tar and other materials. Influenced by the writings of poets and philosophers, these rich and brooding paintings suggest deep feelings of loneliness, yearning and desire for connection. Martínez Celaya received the Anderson Ranch Arts Center National Artist Award for 2007 in July at the Ranch's facilities in Snowmass Village, Colorado. The award is given to a nationally or internationally recognized artist who has supported artists, created innovations in art education and whose career has set an example and a direction for other artists. He was cited for "his commitment not only to his own

creative vision, but also through his efforts to encourage collaborations between art and other intellectual and creative fields.”

Miami art critic Alfredo Triff was trained as a musician at the national Conservatory of Music in Havana, Cuba. Triff left Cuba for the U.S. in 1980. Triff is a professor of philosophy at Miami-Dade College and lecturer in modern and contemporary art history at the University of Miami. His criticism appears regularly in magazines in Latin America and Europe as well as a number of Miami-based publications. An anthology of his critical essays for the *Miami New Times*, *Miami Arts Explosion*, was recently issued by Thompson Publishing.

Books & Books is located at 265 Aragon Avenue in Coral Gables. Public parking garage is located across the street. Tickets validated at Books & Books will be charged a reduced rate.

Miami Art Museum is dedicated to engaging the public with art from the twentieth century through the present. Since its founding in 1996, the museum has built a collection of contemporary art with the goal of providing Miami with a legacy for future generations. MAM's holdings have grown exponentially since *Art in America* called it "the quintessential Miami collection" in 1999. The MAM collection is dedicated to international art of the 20th and 21st centuries, taking a hemispheric perspective on the Americas.

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Accredited by the American Association of Art Museums, 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 also may be requested.

Open Tuesday through Friday - 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday and Sunday – noon to 5 PM. Third Thursdays until 8:30 PM. 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
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\$5 at 50 NW 2nd Ave
between Flagler St and NW 1st St
Overflow parking at 270 NW 2nd Street
Metrorail: Government Center Station