



Pérez Art Museum Miami  
1103 Biscayne Blvd.  
Miami, FL 33132  
305 375 3000  
pamm.org



**Pérez Art Museum Miami presents  
*At the Crossroads: Critical Film and Video from the Caribbean***

**Film series presented Thursdays in July**

**MIAMI – Tuesday, June 17, 2014** – This July, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) will present [\*At the Crossroads: Critical Film and Video from the Caribbean\*](#), a selection of videos and films that challenge conventional notions of the region through images and stories inspired by the cultural, social, and political complexities of the Caribbean. With works produced by Caribbean and international artists, this program conceptually bridges films from the 1960s to the 1980s with contemporary video art production. In an attempt to map contrasting subjectivities, *At the Crossroads* shows multiple realities of the “Caribbean experience” to deal with issues such as representation, migration, diaspora, plantation life, and collective histories and memories, including exceptional works from Cuba, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Martinique, Panama, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

*At the Crossroads* is presented in conjunction with [\*Caribbean: Crossroads of the World\*](#), as part of PAMM’s season-long focus on the Caribbean. This series is organized by Pérez Art Museum Miami Curatorial Assistant Maria Elena Ortiz.

**Film Schedule:**

**Thursday, July 3, 7-9pm**

**Program introduced by Patricia Saunders, Associate Professor of English,  
University of Miami**

***A Natural History* (2012)**

By Oneika Russell

*A Natural History* is a series of short video animations that presents a contemporary perspective on Jamaican culture and its diaspora. Oneika Russell, a young Jamaican artist, draws from art history and literature to create digital animations rooted in Jamaica’s colonial past and pop culture. For example, in one of the videos the figure of a man is situated against a green landscape and his appearance is constantly being modified through clashing references, almost like a collage, while in another video, Snow White interacts with an eclectic dancing figure.

***Rockers* (1978)**

Directed by Theodoros Bafaloukos

With a significant amount of its actors being real life popular reggae artists, *Rockers* (1978) is a Jamaican film, that along with *The Harder They Come* (1972), introduced





reggae music to the world. The movie tells the story of Leroy “Horsemouth” Wallace, a drummer living in a ghetto of Kingston, who decides to make extra money by selling and distributing records to help his fellow musicians, but is confronted by local gangsters. Starting with a subtle reference to the film *The Bicycle Thief* (1949) by Vittorio de Sica, *Rockers* is known for a Robin Hood narrative with a reggae style.

- Free and open to the public. Free First Thursdays is made possible in part with support from Knight Foundation.

### **Knight Foundation**

- Free guided exhibition tour of *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World, Kingdoms of this World* gallery at 6:30pm

**Thursday, July 10, 7-9pm**

**Program introduced by director Karen D. McKinnon**

#### ***Making History* (2008)**

Co-directed by Karen D. McKinnon and Caecilia Tripp

This video focuses on a conversation between cultural critic Edouard Glissant and Linton Kwesi Johnson, the first black poet to have his work published in Penguin’s Modern Classic Series. The exchange takes place in New York during the summer of 2008.

*Making History* shows a conversation between two Caribbean intellectuals that reflect upon the struggles and successes of a constructed Caribbean identity.

#### ***Haitian Corner* (1988)**

Directed by Raoul Peck

This early film by Haitian filmmaker Raoul Peck tells the story of a Haitian immigrant and poet in New York who becomes obsessed with finding the man who tortured him during the Duvalier Regime. Convinced that his torturer is also living in New York, this tormented individual delves into situations that complicate his personal and professional life.

- Free with museum admission. Space is limited. First come, first seated.
- Free guided exhibition tour of *Edouard Duval-Carrié: Imagined Landscapes* at 6:30pm

**Thursday, July 17, 7-9pm**

#### ***Stories from Surinam* (2002)**

By Melvin Moti

This work reflects on the story of 34,000 Indian laborers who, between the years of 1873 and 1916, left India to work on Dutch plantations in Surinam.

#### ***BIM* (1974)**

Directed by Hugh A. Robertson

*BIM* is a movie that portrays the complex relationship between blacks, Indians and whites in Trinidad and Tobago prior to the independence movement of 1962. It focuses on the





life of Bheem “Bim” Singh, an Indian boy living in Trinidad, who is sent to live with his aunt after his father, a trade union leader for sugar-cane workers, is shot to death during a wedding. At his new school, Bim is isolated and picked on by the black students because of his "coolie" (Indian) heritage. As tension builds during his very first day he stabs one of the students as a means of defense. This incident gets Bim kicked out of school and his aunt's home and he is forced to live a life of violence and crime to survive, but then rises to prominence as a trade union representative for the Indian sugar-cane workers.

- Free with museum admission. Space is limited. First come, first seated.
- Free guided exhibition tour of *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World, Counterpoints* gallery at 6:30pm

**Thursday, July 24, 7-9pm**

***Archivo (excerpt) (2001)***

*Archivo* is a hilarious compilation of short videos that reinterprets notorious incidents in Puerto Rican popular history. Beatriz Santiago Muñoz employs friends and non-actors in reenactments of some memorable incidents that happened on the island, such as the shooting of the legendary outlaw Toño Bicicleta. Drawing from subjective memories and the acts of ordinary people, this early work captures the ironies and contradictions of a collective and popular history in Puerto Rico.

***Memories of Underdevelopment (1968)***

Directed by Tomás Gutiérrez Alea

*Memories of Underdevelopment* tells the story of Sergio, a wealthy bourgeois aspiring writer who decides to stay in Cuba, even though his wife and friends flee to Miami. Sergio considers the political changes on the island as he juggles two girlfriends. This is a complex character study of alienation during the turmoil of intense social and political changes experienced in Cuba in the 1960s. *Memories of Underdevelopment* is narrated from a highly subjective point of view in which the main character tells the story in fragments, resembling the way memory functions.

- Free with museum admission. Space is limited. First come, first seated.
- Free guided exhibition tour of *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World, Fluid Motions* gallery at 6:30pm

**Thursday, July 31, 7-9pm**

***The Last Builder (2008)***

This video creates a connection between a body builder and the Panama Canal. The video shows “the last builder” brought from Jamaica to Panama, who worked on the Canal since he was 15 years old.

***Sugar Cane Alley (1983)***

Directed by Euzhan Palcy





This film focuses on the teenage life and adventures of young José who lives in a shantytown on Martinique in the mid-'30s. José lives with his grandmother and is well aware of the French colonial presence but they are far away from his world. He gets into mischief, learns valuable lessons on living from an old former slave, gets drunk, and sets fire to one of the run-down shanties. Regardless of his pranks, José never gives up on his studies. At the end, his diligence pays off.

- Free with museum admission. Space is limited. First come, first seated.
- Free guided exhibition tour of *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World, Shades of History*, gallery at 6:30pm

### **About *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World***

*Caribbean: Crossroads of the World* highlights over two centuries of rarely seen works—from paintings and sculptures to prints, photographs, installations, films, and videos—dating from the Haitian Revolution to the present. This exhibition employs an interdisciplinary approach to advance our understanding of the Caribbean and its artistic heritage and contemporary practices. It focuses on four central themes: Fluid Motions, Counterpoints, Shades of History, and Kingdoms of this World. These interconnected frameworks allow insight into the complex context from which the vital and varied artistic production of the region has emerged, illuminating the multiple histories of the region.

# # #

### **About Pérez Art Museum Miami**

Pérez Art Museum Miami, which opened in December 2013 in downtown Miami's Museum Park, is focused on collecting and exhibiting modern and contemporary art that represents Miami's cultural diversity, while providing progressive educational and community programming. Designed by Herzog & de Meuron, the cutting-edge facility will provide room to showcase growing collections, expanded exhibition space to bring more world-class exhibitions to Miami-Dade County and an educational complex. Pérez Art Museum Miami was originally founded as Center for Fine Arts, and was strictly an exhibiting organization with no collection of its own. In 1996, as part of an institution-wide reorganization, the museum was renamed Miami Art Museum and dedicated itself to collecting and exhibiting international art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a special emphasis on art of the Americas. In January 2011 work began on a cutting-edge building with generous spaces to showcase its art holdings and attract more top caliber exhibitions. The new facility will open in December 2013 as Pérez Art Museum Miami in recognition of a landmark leadership gift of now \$40 million in cash and art.

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. Support is provided by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners. Additional support is provided by the City of Miami. Pérez Art Museum Miami is an accessible facility. All contents ©Pérez Art Museum Miami. All rights reserved.



### **Media Contact:**

Tracy Belcher, [belcher@pamm.org](mailto:belcher@pamm.org) / 786 345 5615  
Alexa Ferra, [aferra@pamm.org](mailto:aferra@pamm.org) / 786 345 5619

