



Pérez Art Museum Miami
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Pérez Art Museum Miami Presents
Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-83: A Documentary Exhibition

On View October 5, 2018 – February 17, 2019



New York, 1983: Christo in his studio working on a preparatory drawing for *Surrounded Islands*. Photo: Wolfgang Volz

MIAMI – May 29, 2018 – Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) presents *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Surrounded Islands, Biscayne Bay, Greater Miami, Florida, 1980-83: A Documentary Exhibition*, an exhibition of archival materials and artworks around the renowned artists' site-specific 1983 installation, *Surrounded Islands*, in Miami's Biscayne Bay. On view from October 5, 2018 through February 17, 2019, the exhibition commemorates the 35th anniversary of *Surrounded Islands*—an anniversary that also coincides with the founding of PAMM's predecessor institution, Center for Fine Arts. The history of *Surrounded Islands* is inseparable from PAMM's origins, and the exhibition reinforces the idea that the museum's evolution is inextricable from the development of Miami as both a city and an artistic hub.

In May of 1983, Christo and Jeanne-Claude encircled 11 uninhabited islands in Miami's Biscayne Bay with 6.5 million square feet of floating, pink, woven polypropylene fabric. For two weeks, the results harmonized with water, sky, and foliage, creating a stunning chromatic medley in blue, green, pink, and turquoise. Despite its short duration, *Surrounded Islands* made a lasting impact on the city's cultural history, marking the birth of Miami's international





artistic profile while serving as inspiration for untold numbers of people across the entire spectrum of the South Florida community.

Surrounded Islands was an endeavor of epic ambition, and the upcoming exhibition will present the entertaining and inspiring history by which this project became a reality. It is a narrative of empowerment, exemplifying the idea that lone individuals are capable of marshaling large civic forces to bring their dreams to fruition—that with determination, willpower, and compelling vision, anything is possible.

“All of our projects are like expeditions,” said Christo. “The story of each is unique. The Pérez Art Museum Miami exhibition will include drawings, collages, photographs and other components of *Surrounded Islands* that provide a window into the project—from its conception to realization.”

The exhibition at PAMM is an adaptation of an earlier exhibition focused on *Surrounded Islands*, which traveled through Germany, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, and Japan between 1984 and 1991. Like its precursor, the show will be of sweeping depth and breadth, comprising approximately 50 drawings and collages, a large-scale model of the bay and its islands, hundreds of photographs and documents, several photomurals, and physical components of the project. This extensive cache of materials attests to the profound challenges that the artist duo encountered over the course of three years (1980-1983) as they worked to realize their epic vision, overcoming formidable logistical and governmental obstacles with the help of hundreds of paid workers. The iteration at PAMM seeks to go beyond simply commemorating the original *Surrounded Islands* project and serve as a time capsule that captures and evokes a consequential time in Miami’s history.

Surrounded Islands had a strong impact on Miami, stimulating the growth of the local art community and encouraging the city to recognize the ways in which Miami could become a significant center for contemporary art. In a broader sense, the project had a unifying effect on the city as a whole, prompting residents to come together in celebration of the natural beauty that surrounds them. The project exemplifies art’s potential in fostering civic unity, an idea that Miami remains intensely invested in—an idea upon which PAMM is largely premised.

About Pérez Art Museum Miami

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) promotes artistic expression and the exchange of ideas, advancing public knowledge and appreciation of art, architecture and design, and reflecting the diverse community of its pivotal geographic location at the crossroads of the Americas. A nearly 35-year-old South Florida institution formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM), Pérez Art Museum Miami opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, in Downtown Miami’s Museum Park on December 4, 2013. The facility is a state-of-the-art model for sustainable museum design and progressive programming and features 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor program space with flexible galleries; shaded outdoor verandas; a waterfront restaurant and bar; a museum shop; and an education center with a library, media lab and classroom spaces. For more information, please visit www.pamm.org, find us on Facebook (facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami), or follow us on Instagram/Twitter (@pamm).

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