



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



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

— Now On View Through February 17, 2019 —



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

(MIAMI, FL – October 5, 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 that sheds light on the renowned artists' site-specific 1983 installation, *Surrounded Islands*, in Miami's Biscayne Bay. On view now 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 the Fine Arts. The history





of *Surrounded Islands* is inseparable from PAMM's origin story, 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 manmade uninhabited islands in Miami's Biscayne Bay with 6.5 million square feet of floating, pink, woven polypropylene fabric. For just under two weeks, the results harmonized with water, sky, and foliage, creating a vivid composition 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 anticipating its rise as a hub for contemporary art.

*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.

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 exhibition at PAMM 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. It exemplifies art's potential as a catalyst for fostering civic unity, an idea that Miami remains intensely invested in—an idea deeply imbedded in PAMM's institutional mission.

On **November 17**, PAMM will host a screening of four films on the work of Christo and Jeanne-Claude by Albert and David Maysles, celebrated practitioners of *cinéma vérité*: *Valley Curtain* (1974), *Running Fence* (1978), *Islands* (1986), and *Christo in Paris* (1990). [More information here.](#)

The museum will also host an Art Talk with Christo on **December 4**. The wide-ranging conversation will touch on his life's work, and the intricacies of his collaborative process with his late wife, Jeanne-Claude, followed by a book and poster signing by the artist. [More information here.](#)

### **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. Led by Director Franklin Sirmans, the 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 [pamm.org](http://pamm.org), find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami](https://facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami)), or follow us on Instagram/Twitter ([@pamm](https://twitter.com/pamm)).

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## Press Contacts

### Local:

RockOrange | [pamm@rockorange.com](mailto:pamm@rockorange.com)

### National:

Marcella Zimmermann  
Vice President, Cultural Counsel  
[marcella@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:marcella@culturalcounsel.com)

Ali Rigo  
Account Executive, Cultural Counsel  
[ali@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:ali@culturalcounsel.com)

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