Pérez Art Museum Miami Celebrates Opening of Teresita Fernández: Elemental

*Featuring Sold-Out Scholl Lecture, Book Signing, & Live Music*

Exhibition on View Now Through February 9, 2020

(MIAMI, FL — October 21, 2019) — This week, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) celebrated the opening of *Teresita Fernández: Elemental*, the first mid-career survey of the internationally-acclaimed visual artist. Now on view through February 9, 2020, the exhibition features more than 50 of the artist's large-scale sculptures, installations, drawings, and wall works created over two decades.

**IMAGES:** [Available for download here.](#)

**CREDIT:** World Red Eye

The festivities kicked off on **Wednesday, October 16** with a special Museum Circle Preview reception, where Museum Circle members were given a first look at the exhibition along with music, an artisanal activation by John Hardy Jewelry, special cocktails, and bites. After an opening dinner with donors and sponsors at **Boulud Sud Miami**, the events culminated on **Thursday, October 17** with a sold-out Scholl Lecture with Teresita Fernández, where she delved into her creative practice and the socio-political
context of her work. Following a book signing of the *Elemental* catalogue with the artist, guests were invited to mingle on PAMM’s waterfront terrace with live music by Miami DJ Lumin, art-making activities, and festive drinks. The week-long festivities ended with an intimate dinner at The Standard Spa.


*Teresita Fernández: Elemental* offers visitors an unparalleled opportunity to experience numerous works by one of the nation’s leading contemporary artists. The exhibition tells the story of a creator who, through her practice, reflects and challenges perceptions of place, the natural world and the U.S. social order, and asks viewers to contemplate who they are as an extension of where they are. The retrospective will introduce visitors to the artist’s large-scale sculptures, installations, and mixed media works that merge formal and conceptual aspects of her practice through the use of natural materials and the historic genre of landscape to reinterpret relationships between nature, history, and identity.

*Teresita Fernández: Elemental* will premiere at Pérez Art Museum Miami from October 17 through February 9, 2020 before traveling to Phoenix Art Museum in spring 2020. The traveling exhibition is co-curated by Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum; Franklin Sirmans, the Director of Pérez Art Museum Miami; Gilbert Vicario, the Selig Family Chief Curator of Phoenix Art Museum; and María Elena Ortiz, Associate Curator of Pérez Art Museum Miami.

*Teresita Fernández: Elemental* is co-organized by Pérez Art Museum Miami and Phoenix Art Museum. This exhibition is presented by Citi with generous support from the Ford Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, the Jorge M. Pérez Family Foundation, and John Hardy Jewelry. Additional support from Funding Arts Network and JW Marriott Marquis Miami is gratefully acknowledged. Lead individual support from Camille and Patrick McDowell together with support from Patricia and William Kleh, and Anthony and Celeste Meier is also gratefully acknowledged. Valuable support for the exhibition catalogue was provided by Lehmann Maupin, New York, Hong Kong, and Seoul.
About Teresita Fernández
Teresita Fernández (b. 1968, Miami, Fla.) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She received a BFA from Florida International University, Miami, in 1990 and an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, in 1992. Fernández is best known for her prominent public installations and experiential large-scale sculptures that evoke striking landscapes. Her work, often inspired by natural wonders, invites an individualized experience of the work and the space it occupies. She places particular importance on her choice of medium, playing with the limitations of materials and employing those such as gold, graphite, and other minerals that have complicated histories often tied to colonialism. Her work is characterized by an interest in place, perception and the psychology of looking. She is a 2005 MacArthur Foundation Fellow and a recipient of the Aspen Award for Art (2013), the Guggenheim Fellowship (2003), and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Biennial Award (1999). Appointed by President Obama, she was the first Latina to serve on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, a 100-year-old federal panel that advises the president and Congress on national matters of design and aesthetics. Fernández’s work is featured in the permanent collections of various international public and private collections, including The Museum of Modern Art (N.Y.); Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Mass.); The New Orleans Museum of Art (LA); Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (N.Y.); San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (Calif.); Pérez Art Museum, Miami (Fla.); the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington D.C.; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (Minn.). For more information on the artist, please visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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. The 35-year-old South Florida institution, formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM) and led by Director Franklin Sirmans, opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, on December 4, 2013 in Downtown Miami’s Museum Park. 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.

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