

Pérez Art Museum Miami Announces Reopening Plans

*PAMM Will Be Open Four Days a Week,
Thursday through Sunday, Beginning November 7, 2020*



*Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection. Photo by Lazaro Llanes.
Courtesy of Pérez Art Museum Miami.*

(MIAMI, FL — October 21, 2020) — Today, **Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)** announces plans to reopen to the public on **November 7, 2020**, following a nearly eight-month closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A member's preview will take place earlier that week, **November 5–6, 2020**. All first responders and healthcare professionals are welcome during the member's preview.

PAMM's new hours of operation will be **Thursday** from **2–9pm** and **Friday–Sunday** from **11am–6pm**. To follow social distancing guidelines and manage gallery capacity, members and visitors must reserve timed tickets online ahead of visitation. The museum has reserved the first hour of daily ticket slots for guests who are seniors (62+) and/or immunocompromised.

"We are thrilled to open our doors after nearly eight months of closure. We have all endured many hardships over the past several months, and we hope now more than ever that the museum can serve as a safe space for our community to reconnect with the arts," said **PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans**. "Whether it's returning to a familiar work of art or the surprise of seeing new art in new shows, we believe art has something extraordinary to offer in this moment of ongoing challenge."

PAMM is closely monitoring COVID-19 data. The museum's priority is the health and comfort of visitors and staff. The museum has put new safety precautions into place, including required face coverings for guests, one-way paths, and hand-sanitizing stations. A more detailed list of safety procedures can be found [here](#).

The museum will reopen with a new exhibition, ***Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection***, a showcase of 39 works by international African and African Diaspora artists on view from the collection of a longtime board member, PAMM supporter, and namesake **Jorge M. Pérez**.

Throughout the pandemic, PAMM has developed new ways to serve its community and support local artists through a variety of virtual programs, including Virtual Local Views, online art talks, Free Second Saturdays, and virtual studio visits with local Miami artists. The museum will continue these robust online programs throughout the fall and winter as part of PAMM's Digital Museum. A continually updated schedule can be found online [here](#).

ON VIEW NOW

Allied with Power: African and African Diaspora Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection

Celebrating Jorge M. and Darlene Pérez's most recently promised gifts to the museum, which consist of a sizable selection of international African and African Diaspora artists, this exhibition highlights artists whose works embody the possibilities and complexities of our contemporary moment. *Allied with Power* showcases the depth and breadth of Pérez's collection. Inspired by his upbringing in a number of Latin American countries, Pérez began collecting the work of Cuban and Afro-Latino artists several years ago. Recently he has expanded that focus to include artists of the full African diaspora. *Allied with Power* encompasses a wide range of practices and thematics, including abstraction, representation, politics, spirituality, and race. Collapsing national borders, the artists in the exhibition ally with power, representing a kaleidoscope of voices that declare their authority.

What Carried Us Over: Gifts from Gordon W. Bailey

This exhibition features selections from gifts made by Gordon W. Bailey, a Los Angeles-based collector, scholar, and advocate, who has donated 60 artworks to PAMM since 2016. Of the 28 artists represented, few received formal instruction. Most overcame hardship, particularly those living in the Deep South during the Jim Crow era. Despite the challenges before them, as the title of this inclusive exhibition confirms, they have been carried over by their respective commitments to their unique practices, creating inspiring works in a variety of media such as drawing, painting, and sculpture.

Meleko Mokgosi: Your Trip to Africa

An exhibition of newly commissioned works created by the artist specifically for PAMM's 30-foot double-height project gallery. Featuring a series of large-scale paintings that together function as a single, unified work, the show investigates themes of colonialism, nationalism, tourism, and race. By combining a high degree of painterly skill with a poetic, open-ended semiotic approach and an affinity for archival research, the artist shines a light on some of the complex socio-economic dynamics that animate contemporary southern Africa.

Polyphonic: Celebrating PAMM's Fund for African American Art

This exhibition showcases a selection of artworks acquired through PAMM's Fund for African American Art, which allows the museum to purchase contemporary art by African American and African diasporic artists for its permanent collection. This selection highlights a group of paintings, sculptures, and photographs that have since become quintessential for the museum—including works by Terry Adkins, Romare Bearden, Kevin Beasley, Ed Clark, Leslie Hewitt, Faith Ringgold, Tschabalala Self, and Nari Ward, among several others. The title of the exhibition points to the idea of various, distinct artistic voices coming together in a spirit of harmony and solidarity.

Theaster Gates: Breathing

Breathing (2010) is a video work inspired by Theaster Gates' avid interest in Eastern Buddhism as well as his lifelong personal relationship with traditional gospel music, which constituted a formative aspect of his Baptist upbringing. The singers who appear in the video belong to an experimental choir known as the Black Monks (formerly the Black Monks of Mississippi), which Gates has directed since 2008. The ensemble has performed many times in the context of Gates's rehabilitated venues and in conjunction with his exhibitions in art galleries and museums around the world. The Black Monks merge Black Southern gospel and blues music with the monastic chant traditions of Buddhism. The soothing, beautiful melodies that result from this unique hybrid testify to the potency of Black spiritual musical legacies while alluding to a communal experience that transcends geographic, cultural, and linguistic boundaries.

George Segal: Abraham's Farewell to Ishmael

Thanks to a recent grant received through the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, George Segal's *Abraham's Farewell to Ishmael* (1987) is on view for the first time since a complete restoration. Segal first began making plaster casts from live models in 1961 and was known for his figurative sculptures throughout his career. The hyperrealism of these works renders the figures familiar and emotionally resonant. *Abraham's Farewell to Ishmael* belongs to a series of works by Segal based on biblical stories from the Book of Genesis.

About Pérez Art Museum Miami

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), led by Director Franklin Sirmans, 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 36-year-old South Florida institution, formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM), opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, on December 4, 2013, in Downtown Miami's Maurice A. Ferré 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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