



## **Pérez Art Museum Miami Announces rafa esparza as Recipient of 2022 Pérez Prize at Ninth Annual Art of the Party**

***PAMM Raised Over \$800,000 for Arts Education Programs at Annual Event***



Art of the Party Co-Chairs Adam Wolman, Alexa Wolman, Jessica Sirmans, and Franklin Sirmans. Photo by Getty Images.

(MIAMI, FL — March 14, 2022) — This weekend, on Saturday, March 12, **Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)** hosted the ninth annual **Art of the Party**, where Mexican-American artist **rafa esparza** was announced as the recipient of the 2022 Pérez Prize, an unrestricted award of \$50,000 that honors artistic achievement, funded by a gift from local patrons of the arts and longtime PAMM supporters Jorge and Darlene Pérez. The annual event, which included a celebratory Chef's Table dinner and Remix dance

party on PAMM's waterfront terrace, raised over \$800,000 for PAMM's robust arts education programs that have served over 300,000 children since opening in December 2013.

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

**Photo Credit:** Please note credit in each folder. (WorldRedEye.com, Getty Images).

At the event, PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans announced artist **rafa esparza** as the recipient of the fourth annual Pérez Prize for artistic achievement. The Los Angeles-based artist is known for his performance work exploring memory, family and colonial history. Guests also enjoyed a performance by internationally known Bossa Nova singer **Cris Delanno**, and a curated dinner by Constellation Culinary Group with wines from Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits.



**Left:** Pérez Prize recipient rafa esparza. **Right:** rafa esparza and Jorge Pérez.

Photos by Getty Images.

"We are thrilled that the Miami community congregated this weekend to support PAMM's arts education programs, from art talks and performances, to outreach programs and interactive school tours. Our institution's mission aims to encourage everyone to see art as an incentive for the exchange of ideas, and we could not imagine a better way to implement this belief than supporting education," said **PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans**. "PAMM is delighted to honor rafa esparza as the recipient of the fourth annual Perez Prize, an artist whose foundation is grounded in the same values as our institution, whose insightful art practice connects personal narrative with historical explorations of art and society."

Employing site-specificity, attention to material, and what he calls (non)documentation as primary tools, esparza's work investigates the ideologies and binary forms of identity shaping our social environment. The artist's recent projects are grounded in laboring with the land and adobe-making— a skill learned from his father, Ramón Esparza. In these projects, esparza has embraced large-scale collaboration with Brown and queer cultural producers, gathering people together to build networks of support outside of traditional art spaces.



On PAMM's waterfront terrace, Art of the Party guests celebrated **esparza's** artistic achievements. The Pérez Prize represents PAMM and the Pérez family's shared commitment to uplifting dynamic artistic voices in contemporary art. Last year's prize was awarded to Cuban artist **María Magdalena Campos-Pons**, whose work explores gender, religion, memory and Afro-Cuban identity. In prior years, the Pérez prize honored sculptor **Daniel Lind-Ramos** and painter **Christina Quarles**.



**Left:** Live performance by **Evolution** on PAMM's terrace. Photo by Getty Images

**Right:** **Cris Delanno**. Photo by Getty Images.

During the event, guests enjoyed music from Miami based soul group **Elastic Bond**, **Evolution**, and **Chris Delanno**, who has collaborated with some of the most important names in Bossa Nova and has toured around the world at events such as the Hollywood Bowl and the Latin Grammy Awards.

Notable guests included Miami Dade County **Mayor Daniella Levine Cava**, supporter of the arts **Jorge Pérez**, event chairs and philanthropists **Alexa and Adam Wolman**, 2022 prize recipient **rafa esparza**, Real Housewives star **Marysol Patton**, News Broadcaster **Belkys Nerey**, Weather Anchor **Sam Champion**, artists **Rashayla Marie Brown**, **Naomi Fisher**, **Adler Guerrier**, **Kelley Johnson**, **Gisela McDaniel**, **Rubem Robierb**, **Cristina Lei Rodriguez**, and **Rachel Stern**, Chief Curator of The Andy Warhol Museum **José Carlos Diaz**, Inter Miami FC owner **Jorge Mas**, Knight Foundation CEO **Alberto Ibarguen**, Founder of South Beach Wine and Food Festival **Lee Brian Schrager**, and Miami Dade County Commissioner **Eileen Higgins**, documentary filmmaker **Dennis Scholl**, LACMA film producer **Allison Berg**, LACF owner **Larry Berg**, Art Advisor **Graham Steele**, **Sultan bin Fahad bin Nasser bin Abdulaziz** and **Princess Deena Aljuhani Abdulaziz**, gallerists **Mindy Solomon**, and **Gabriel Kilongo**.

#### **2022 Art of the Party Chairs**

Alexa and Adam Wolman

Jessica and Franklin Sirmans

#### **Chef's Table Host Committee**

Tanvi Vattikuti Abbhi

María Bechily

Susanne Birbragher

Sam Champion  
Arlene Chaplin  
Chelsea Hirschhorn  
Laura Kaplan  
Kimberly Marshall  
Christy Martin  
Gail Meyers  
Rubem Robierb  
Nedra and Mark Oren  
Alexandra Wilkis Wilson

**Remix Co-Chairs**

Christopher Pastor  
Bibi Pestana

**Remix Host Committee**

Christopher Adeleke  
Nick d'Annunzio  
Gregory Boan  
Ysset Boan  
Jennifer Chaplin  
Daniela Cimo  
Elizabeth Coppolecchia  
Monica Defortuna  
Christopher DiSchino  
Wendy Francois  
Hiiiiileen  
Michele Hanash  
Florian Jouin  
Shana Kaufman  
Kinga Konsorska  
Lydia and Charles Lawrie  
Genna Mark  
Kevin Michael  
Matthew Ross  
Ashley Sebok Boehne  
Omar de Windt  
Cristina de Windt

**ABOUT PAMM**

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.

###



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 and the Miami OMNI Community Redevelopment Agency (OMNI CRA). Pérez Art Museum Miami is an accessible facility. All contents ©Pérez Art Museum Miami. All rights reserved.

**PRESS CONTACTS:**

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

Lauren Gagnon  
Account Coordinator, Cultural Counsel  
[lauren@culturalcounsel.com](mailto:lauren@culturalcounsel.com)