



Pérez Art Museum Miami Announces Acquisition of Artworks by Willie Cole and Carrie Mae Weems at Tenth Annual Art + Soul Celebration

PAMM Raised \$1.6 Million for the Fund for Black Art



Left: Gilbert Vicario, Willie Cole, and Franklin Sirmans. **Right:** Jesse Williams and Franklin Sirmans.

(MIAMI, FL — February 14, 2023) — **On Saturday, February 11, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM)** hosted artists, philanthropists, and museum supporters for the tenth annual **Art + Soul presented by Northern Trust**, the museum's premier social and fundraising event in support and celebration of the **PAMM Fund for Black Art**, which allows the museum to purchase and showcase contemporary art by Black artists for its permanent collection. The museum raised more than \$1.6 million for the Fund.

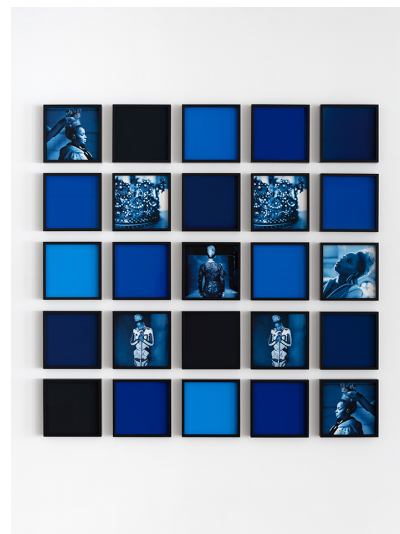
Event Images: Available for [download here](#).

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Eric Johnson, Darlene Pérez, Holly Gaines, & Jorge M. Pérez.

PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans revealed the fund's most recent art acquisitions: ***With a Heart of Gold*** by **Willie Cole** and ***The Blues*** by **Carrie Mae Weems**. *With a Heart of Gold* is the first work by Cole in the museum's permanent collection, which includes works by artists such as **Terry Adkins, Romare Bearden, Kevin Beasley, Ed Clark, Theresa Chromati, Nari Ward, Lorraine O'Grady, Ebony G. Patterson, Faith Ringgold, Tschabalala Self, Vaughn Spann, Juana Valdes**, and more.



Left: Willie Cole. *With a Heart of Gold*, 2005-06. Collection Pérez Art Museum Miami, museum purchase with funds provided by Jorge M. Pérez, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the PAMM Ambassadors for Black Art. © Willie Cole. Image courtesy Alexander and Bonin, New York. **Right:** Carrie Mae Weems. *The Blues*, 2017. Collection Pérez Art Museum Miami, museum purchase with funds provided by Jorge M. Pérez, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the PAMM Ambassadors for Black Art. © Carrie Mae Weems. Courtesy the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

The evening also honored actor and activist **Jesse Williams**, who ranks among the most notable young collectors of art from the African diaspora, with a collection including work by **Charles White, Benny Andrews, Kerry James Marshall, Noah Davis, Ferrari Sheppard, Jerrell Gibbs, Janiva Ellis**, and more. The event was co-hosted by a Vanguard Committee of patrons including **Tracey Robertson Carter**

and Christopher Carter, Patricia and Lloyd Howell, Eric Johnson and Holly Gaines, Deryl McKissack, and Dorothy Terrell.

“Art + Soul is a moment for us to express our gratitude not only for our community, but for the incredible artists that enter our orbit and the variety of cultures showcased on the walls of our galleries. The PAMM Fund for Black Art—an important initiative which allows us to build a collection reflective of the community—grants us the opportunity to do just that,” said **PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans**. “Our tenth anniversary of Art + Soul was a magical evening, and we’re thankful to all who support us.”



Left: Franklin Sirmans, Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, and Alberto Ibargüen **Right:** Mark Higgins & Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.

Guests enjoyed cocktails and a specially-curated dinner by **Ghetto Gastro (Jon Gray, Pierre Serrao and Lester Walker)**. Following a glamorous champagne toast to the acquisition reveal, guests danced and mingled under the stars with live performances by **Guitars over Guns, Deep Fried Funk, and DJ Pam Jones**.

Attendees also had the opportunity to view the museum’s current exhibitions which include **Leandro Erlich: Liminal** presented by Citi, the artist’s first ever survey in North America. Featuring a selection of 16 interactive works and site-specific installations that span more than two decades of the artist’s career, the exhibition includes Erlich’s famed **Swimming Pool**, the impossible-to-miss installation which submerges viewers, creating an unforgettable experience.



Joan M. Johnson, Christopher Carter, Dorothy Terrell, Tracey Robertson Carter, Tammy Terrell, Christine Allen Ossi, and Peter Ossi.

Notable guests included actor, collector and activist **Jesse Williams**; artist **Willie Cole**; chef collective **Ghetto Gastro**; Miami-Dade County Mayor **Daniella Levine Cava**; Miami-Dade Commissioner (District 8) **Danielle Cohen Higgins**; PAMM Chief Curator **Gilbert Vicario**; PAMM Board Chairman **Aaron Podhurst**; PAMM Board President **Luke Palacio**; PAMM Trustees **Chris Armstrong**, **Maria Bechily**, **Karen Bechtel**, **Mitchell Bierman**, **Barron Channer**, **Greg Ferrero**, **John Fumagalli**, **Dorothea Green**, **Rose Ellen Greene**, **Diane Grob**, **Eric G. Johnson**, **Kimberly Marshall**, **Deryl McKissack**, **Diane Moss**, **Dr. Mark Oren** and **Nedra Oren**, **Patricia Papper**, **Sylvia Pope**, **Dorothy Terrell**, and **Juan Toro**; writer and activist **Tom Healy**; philanthropists **Patricia and Lloyd Howell**; artist and architect **Germane Barnes**; **Ambassador Kirk Wagar** and **Crystal Wagar**; Ambassador **Steven Green**; John S. and James L. Knight Foundation CEO **Alberto Ibargüen**; former Miami Television anchor **Neki Mohan**; artist **Christopher Carter** and **Tracey Robertson Carter**; interior designer **Doreen Chambers**; actress **Holly Gaines**; collectors **Eric McKissack** and **Cheryl McKissack Daniel** and NFL star and broadcaster **Desmond Howard**; Senator **Shevrin D. Jones of the Florida State Senate**; Past Art + Soul Honoree **Pamela J. Joyner** and **Fred Giuffrida**; **Dr. Anita Blanchard** and **Martin Nesbitt**, philanthropists **Jorge and Darlene Pérez**; **Frank and Luisa Borges**; **Amina Dickerson**; curator **Larry Ossei-Mensah**; artists **Chire Regans**, **Loni Johnson**, **T. Elliott Mansa**, **Nate Young** and **Caroline Kent**; **Jeanine Liburd** and **Kim Paige of BET**; gallerists **Peg Alston**, **Mindy Solomon** and **Fred Snitzer**; writer **Edwidge Danticat**; South Florida cultural leaders **Leigh-Ann Buchanan**, **Adrienne Chadwick**, **Bonnie Clearwater**, **Rachelle Salnave**, **Adeze Wilford**....

Proceeds from Art + Soul benefit the Fund and are generously matched by the Knight Foundation. Art + Soul 2023 was presented by Northern Trust and sponsored by Baldwin Richardson Food Co., Celsius Inc., BET Networks, ArentFoxSchiff, Amazon, Green Family Foundation and Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.

ABOUT KNIGHT FOUNDATION

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ABOUT THE PAMM FUND FOR BLACK ART

The PAMM Fund for Black Art was established in 2013 as the Fund for African American Art with a \$1 million donation, funded equally by Jorge M. Pérez and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, for the purchase of contemporary art by African American artists for the museum's permanent collection. In 2021, PAMM renamed the fund to the Fund for Black Art, to more inclusively describe the various identities represented by the fund, including from Latin America and the Caribbean in addition to the African Diaspora. Through the Fund, the museum first acquired works by Al Loving, Faith Ringgold, and Xaviera Simmons, which joined other significant pieces in the museum's collection by African American artists such as Leonardo Drew, Sam Gilliam, Rashid Johnson, Lorna Simpson, James Van Der Zee, Carrie Mae Weems, Kehinde Wiley, and Purvis Young.

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 nearly 40-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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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 Arts and Culture 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.



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