



Pérez Art Museum Miami Announces Acquisition of Artwork by Lauren Halsey at 12th Annual Art + Soul Celebration

PAMM Raised More than \$1.4 Million for the Fund for Black Art

(MIAMI, FL — February 4, 2025) — On **Saturday, February 1**, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) welcomed over 350 artists, philanthropists, and museum supporters to the 12th annual **Art + Soul** party, the museum's premier social and fundraising event in support and celebration of the **PAMM Fund for Black Art**, which supports the purchase and showcase of contemporary art by Black artists for the museum's permanent collection. The museum raised more than **\$1.4 million** for the Fund.

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

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DJ Niara | The Diaspora Vibe Afrobeat Allstars

During the celebration, PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans announced the Fund for Black Art's newest acquisition, ***lil e-man (2024)* by Lauren Halsey**. Past acquisitions for the museum's permanent collection include works by artists such as Willie Cole, Carrie Mae Weems, Terry Adkins, Romare Bearden, Kevin Beasley, Ed Clark, Theresa Chromati, Ebony G. Patterson, Isaac Julien, Lorraine O'Grady, Faith Ringgold, Tschabalala Self, Vaughn Spann, Juana Valdes, Nari Ward, and Kennedy Yanko.



Lauren Halsey, *lil e-man*, 2024. Hard-coated foam, metal, and paint. Collection Pérez Art Museum Miami, museum purchase with funds provided by Jorge M. Pérez, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and PAMM Ambassadors for Black Art.

The evening also honored **Thelma Golden**, director and chief curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem for her outstanding impact on the history of American Art, whose focus on Black Art has changed the fields of art history and cultural criticism. The event is led by co-chairs Holly Gaines and Eric Johnson, Tracey Robertson Carter and Christopher Carter, and Patricia Howell, and honorary co-chair Deryl McKissack.



Franklin Sirmans & Thelma Golden

“Art + Soul is about the power of showcasing art from the African diaspora and celebrating Black excellence. While efforts to honor diversity for all are increasingly challenged, the PAMM Fund for Black Art stands as a vital beacon of progress and resilience,” said **PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans**. “With the generous support of our donors and community, we are building a collection that reflects the best art of our time, ensuring PAMM remains a leader in shaping a canon of Black art to be celebrated for generations to come.”



Thomas Wilhelm & Sarah Arison | Kennedy Yanko | Rodney Miller, Rebecca Williams, Joanne Walker & Greg Maya

Guests enjoyed cocktails; music by Guitars over Guns, the Diaspora Vibe Afrobeat Allstars, and DJ Niara Sterling; and dancing, as well as a curated dinner by chef **Akino West**.



Chef Akino West

Attendees also had the opportunity to view the museum’s current exhibitions which include: ***Narratives in Focus***, the newly opened presentation of photo-based works from PAMM’s collection; ***José Parlá: Homecoming***, celebrating the artist’s artistic return to his hometown; ***Hurvin Anderson: Passenger Opportunity***, a monumental painting drawing inspiration from Caribbean immigration stories; ***Xican-a.o.x. Body***, a major exhibition showcasing Chicano artists who foreground the body as a site of

political agency and imagination, artistic investigation, and alternative forms of community; ***Every Sound is a Shape of Time***, a dynamic group presentation of works from the museum's collection made between 1958 and 2020; and ***One Becomes Many***, the museum's first exhibition of works by Brazilian artists from its collection.



Sergei Grant | Franklin Sirmans & Constance Jones Simmons | Patrice Alexander & Leroy Campbell

Proceeds from Art + Soul benefit the PAMM Fund for Black Art. Art + Soul 2025 is sponsored by Baldwin Richardson Foods Co., The Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner, Keon Hardemon, J.P. Morgan Private Bank, Lincoln Financial, Paramount, Amazon, Knock, Inc., GIVENCHY, and Maker's Mark.

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 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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