

Oct. 3, 2022

THEATER & ARTS

# Guide to the Arts: Critic's Picks for film festivals & visual arts

By Phillip Valys

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A scene from Miami Film Festival, which is presenting its every-fall offshoot, the GEMS Film Festival, in November.  
(Miami Film Festival / Courtesy)

As part of our Arts Guide, which published in [PRIME Magazine on Oct. 2](#), Sun Sentinel senior writer Phillip Valys gave his “Critic’s Picks” for best film festivals and visual arts exhibits coming up in South Florida.

See what he had to say and look for special Arts Guide stories posted online every day this week.

## FILM FESTIVALS

### GEMS Film Festival

*Nov. 3-6, 2022, at Miami Dade College's Tower Theater, 1508 SW Eighth St., Miami.  
305-237-3456 or [MiamiFilmFestival.com](https://miamiFilmFestival.com).*

GEMs, the every-fall offshoot of the Miami Film Festival, is a weeklong bash crammed with screenings of acclaimed sleepers and Oscar-bait heavyweights. They're all designed to whet the appetite for 2023's Miami Film Festival (returning March 3-12). GEM's program is TBA for now, but expect it to capitalize on the cornucopia of awards-season hopefuls, domestic and international, that always fill the fall-festival calendar. As in previous years, GEMS should include appearances from world filmmakers, seminars, film talks and post-screening parties.



OUTshine Film Festival is returning Oct. 13-23 to multiple Fort Lauderdale venues. (Outshine Film Festival / Courtesy)

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*Oct. 13-23, 2022, at Savor Cinema, 503 SE Sixth St., Fort Lauderdale, and other TBA venues. Tickets cost \$11-\$70 at 305-751-6305 or [OutShineFilm.com](https://www.outshinefilm.com).*

This year's schedule of independent movies and documentaries hasn't been released yet, but it often repeats many of the same films as its Miami edition (which screened more than 45 feature-length films and shorts earlier this year, in April). Anchoring Miami's Outshine OUTshine was "B-Boy Blues," a "Moonlight"-meets-"Queer as Folk"-inspired feature directed by controversial actor Jussie Smollett, about a relationship between a Brooklyn journalist and a Harlem bike messenger. As it has in the past, the full program will no doubt include panel discussions, post-screening Q&As, exclusive afterparties and virtual-only screenings. As of publication, one of Outshine's OUTshine's usual venues, the Classic Gateway Theater, is in the [midst of a fall renovation](#), so check the festival website for updates.



Savor Cinema in Fort Lauderdale is one of the marquee venues for film screenings during the annual Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, returning Nov. 4-13. (FLIFF / Courtesy)



## **Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival**

*Nov. 4-13, 2022; Savor Cinema, 503 SE Sixth St., Fort Lauderdale; and Cinema Paradiso-Hollywood, 2008 Hollywood Blvd., with screenings at several other Broward County venues. 954-525-3456 or [FLIFF.com](http://FLIFF.com).*

How does South Florida's largest film festival outclass its usual lineup of celebrities, which have included the likes of Talia Shire, Karen Allen, Beverly D'Angelo and [late Palm Beach County resident Burt Reynolds](#)? The answer, naturally, is with more celebrities. This year's cinematic bill had not been announced as of this writing, but FLIFF expects to screen 200 films, documentaries and shorts in Fort Lauderdale, Sunrise and Hollywood (plus a few more in St. Augustine and the Bahamas). Last November's highlights included screenings of actor Daniel Baldwin's first documentary and a film directed by Eleanor Coppola (wife of Francis Ford Coppola). Another highlight: "American-Ish," an American-Muslim comedy from director Iman Zawahry, a lecturer from University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications.





## **Miami Jewish Film Festival**

*Jan. 12-26, 2023, at locations from North Miami to Miami Beach. 305-573-7304 or [MiamiJewishFilmFestival.org](https://MiamiJewishFilmFestival.org).*

When other festivals switched to all-virtual formats during the pandemic, this 25-year-old bash chose to host its entire program outdoors in 2022, screening 108 feature-length films and 40 shorts, often at striking locations such as North Beach Bandshell (now called The Miami Beach Bandshell). That's one of several reasons that annual attendance has shot up from 4,000 in 2013 to 60,000-plus in 2022. Here's another: It's listed among the [“50 Best Film Festivals in the World”](#) by MovieMaker magazine. OK, one more: MJFF's director, Igor Shteyrenberg (who also programs Popcorn Frights, a Fort Lauderdale horror-film festival), has been courting younger audiences [with constant innovation](#) — and no shortage of celebrity guests. In January, for example, [a premiere of “iMordecai,”](#) about two Polish-born Holocaust survivors living in an Aventura condo, featured a live appearance from actor Judd Hirsch (“Taxi”).

## VISUAL ARTS



"Legba," a mixed-media canvas from Palm Beach County-born printmaker Kathia St. Hilaire, includes paper, tire skins, fabric and metal. Hilaire will showcase her collage-style murals inspired by South Florida Haitian neighborhoods in "Cross Country," opening Oct. 30 at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale. (Michael and Leslie Weissman / Courtesy)

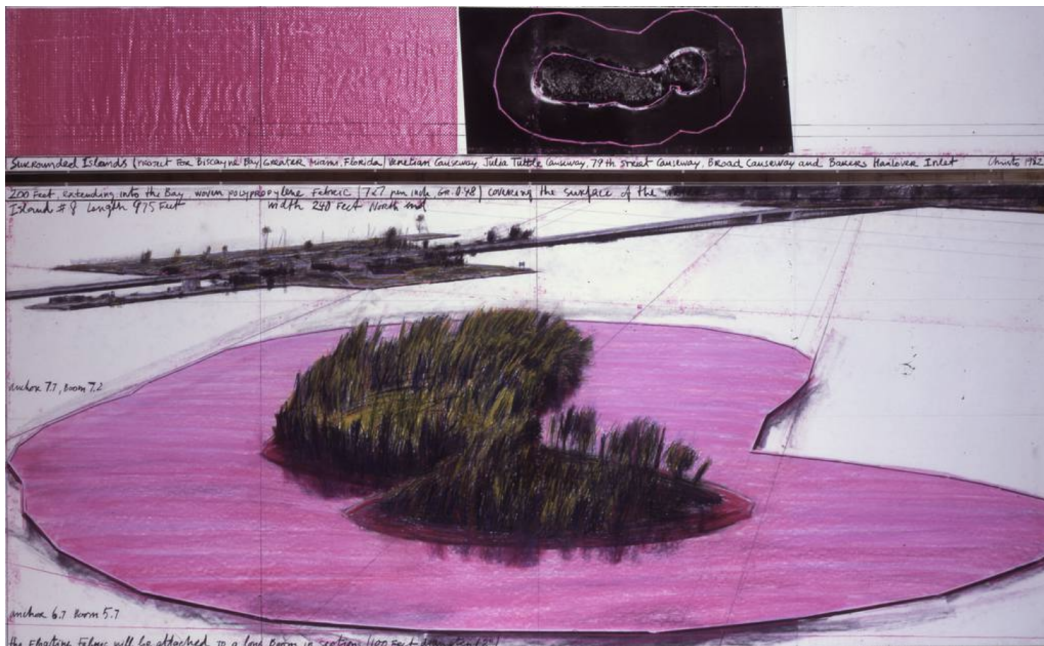


**‘Kathia St. Hilaire: Cross Country’**

*Oct. 30, 2022-April 23, 2023, at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, 1 E. Las Olas Blvd. Admission is \$5-\$12, free for children age 12 and younger; 954-525-5500 or [NSUArtMuseum.org](https://www.nsuartmuseum.org).*

Kathia St. Hilaire’s two-story mural “Pilgrimage of the Soul,” a couple of doors down from Olympia Theater on Flagler Street, is a starry dreamscape where angelic Haitian figures dive, somersault and frolic among the clouds. The Palm Beach County-born printmaker fills these murals with snapshots of joy, family gatherings and Kreyol conversations inspired by her upbringing in Little Haiti and in the Haitian enclaves of West Palm Beach and Okeechobee. Many of her collage-style murals going on display at NSU are built with items about her identity (beauty products, sugar packages, even tires), a statement about how her culture is being uprooted and moved around. St. Hilaire, who is inspired by the politics of migration and by Diego Rivera’s Mexico murals, makes a similar statement with “Cross Country,” especially as Miami’s Little Haiti is swallowed by the urban creep of gentrification. — PV





Christo and Jeanne-Claude's "Surrounded Islands," one of Miami's most epic art installations, is revisited along with drawings of the couple's most powerful public-art projects during "Christo Drawings," now open at the Pérez Art Museum Miami. (Perez Art Museum Miami / Courtesy)

## **‘Christo Drawings: A Gift from the Maria Bechily and Scott Hodes Collection’**

*Through June 11, 2023, at Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), 1103 Biscayne Blvd. Admission is \$12-\$16, free for children up to age 6; 305-375-3000 or [PAMM.org](https://pamm.org).*

The islands dotting Miami's Biscayne Bay once wore hot-pink skirts. As Miami wrestled with cocaine trafficking and gun violence in the '80s, married artists Christo (born Christo Vladimirov Javacheff) and Jeanne-Claude (born Jeanne-Claude Denat de Guillebon) unveiled their epic project, titled "Surrounded Islands," to the public. There on the water, glowing luminously pink under South Florida's sun, were 11 transformed islands, each dressed with thousands of yards of polypropylene fabric. What audiences did not witness, however, was how they bankrolled this gargantuan project. Refusing money from government institutions and donors, Christo and Jeanne-Claude instead funded "Surrounded Islands" through direct sales of color drawings of the islands. The PAMM collection of Christo drawings, gifted by longtime friends Maria Bechily and Scott Hodes, include "Surrounded Islands" and other projects, revealing an overview of the art couple's long career from the late 1960s to the early 2000s.



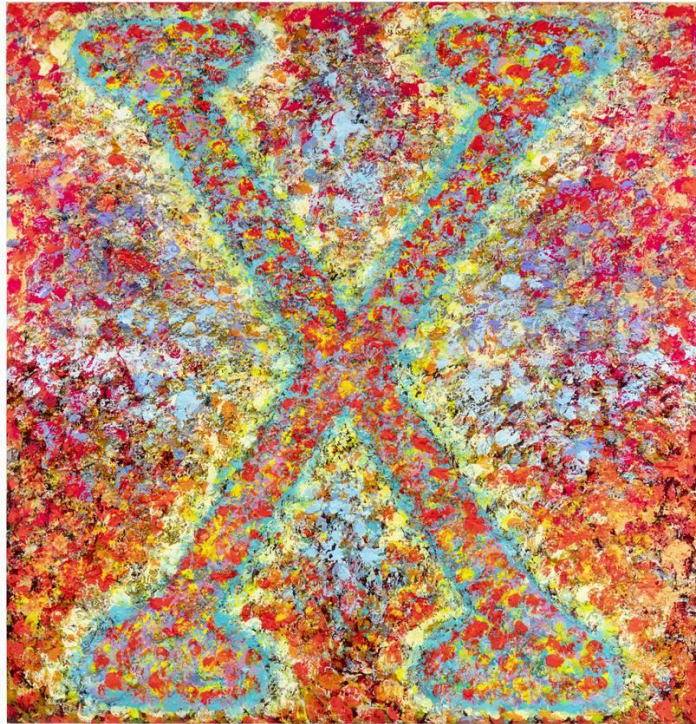
Photographer Reginald Cunningham's image "The Andersons" is one of multiple photographs capturing the residents of Boca Raton's historic Pearl City neighborhood. The image is part of Cunningham's "Black Pearls," now open at Boca Raton Museum of Art. (Reginald Cunningham / Courtesy)



**‘Reginald Cunningham: Black Pearls’**

*Through Jan. 22, 2023, at Boca Raton Museum of Art, 501 Plaza Real. Admission is \$10-\$12; free for children age 15 and younger; 561-392-2500 or [BocaMuseum.org](http://BocaMuseum.org).*

Reginald Cunningham turned to photography after the 2014 fatal shooting of Michael Brown by Ferguson, Mo., police — quietly capturing subsequent Black Lives Matter protests near his home in St. Louis. Inspired by his mother, a portrait photographer of Black talent during his childhood, Cunningham grew obsessed with social-justice portraits, publishing them in Huffington Post, Essence, Ebony and British Vogue. For “Black Pearls,” Cunningham turned his camera on the residents of Boca Raton’s historic Pearl City neighborhood (off Glades Road, between Federal and Dixie highways), the descendants of Black pioneer families who settled there in 1915. The show, curated by the Boca Museum’s Kelli Bodle, features large-scale photos of current Pearl City residents, paired with audio oral histories and personal family mementos passed down through the generations.



Vaughn Spann's painting, "Soul of the revolutionary," is one of the works experimenting with the power of words in visual art in "Phraseology," now on display at The Bass. (Collection of the Bass / Courtesy)

### **'Phraseology'**

*Through April 23, 2023, at The Bass Museum of Art, 2100 Collins Ave., Miami Beach. Admission is \$8-\$15, free for children age 6 and younger; 305-673-7530 or [TheBass.org](http://TheBass.org).*

When artist John Giorno's "Dial-a-Poem" project went live at The Museum of Modern Art in 1970, New Yorkers dialed a single number and, at random, they listened to one of hundreds of recorded poems from Allen Ginsberg, or a radical reading from William S. Burroughs, or a Black Panther speech. The idea was to liberate poetry from what Giorno called "the sense-deadening lecture hall situation," by transporting it right into public homes, creating a new relationship between poet and audience. Literature, wordplay and typography are all acts of irony and subversion in "Phraseology," the new exhibit at The Bass. Giorno's original "Dial-a-Poem" rotary telephone is on display (visitors can listen to poems) alongside 30 works that experiment with the power of words in visual art. Participating artists include Vaughn Spann, Faith Ringgold, John Baldessari, Corita Kent, Xaviera Simmons, among others.



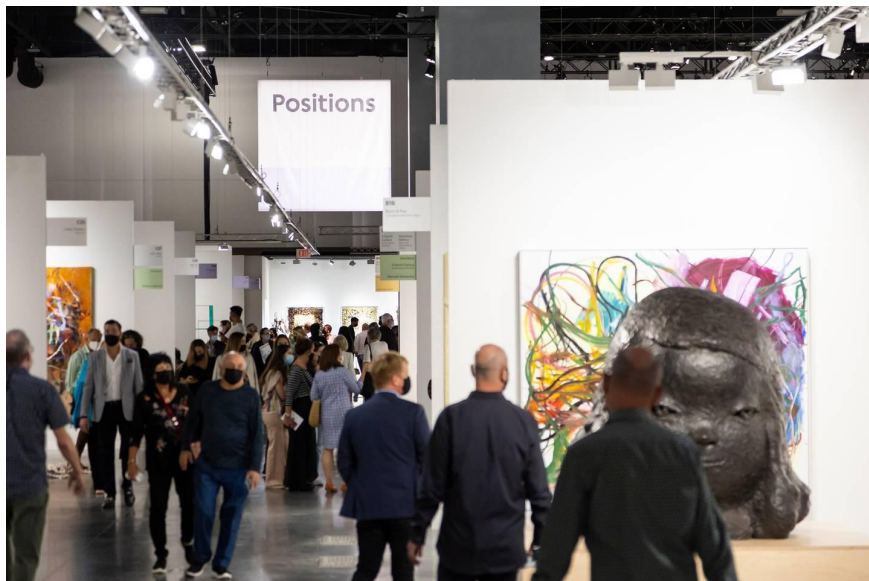


Outsider artist Vivian Meier's "Untitled, 1954" is among 250 photographs from the Norton's upcoming exhibit, "A Personal View on High Fashion & Street Style: Photographs from the Nicola Erni Collection, 1930s to Now," opening Oct. 8. (Nicole Erni Collection / Courtesy)

**‘A Personal View on High Fashion & Street Style: Photographs from the Nicola Erni Collection, 1930s to Now’**

*Oct. 8, 2022-Feb. 12, 2023, at Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach. Admission is \$5-\$18, free for children age 12 and younger; 561-832-5196 or [Norton.org](https://www.norton.org).*

Outsider artist Vivian Maier spent 40 years of her life as a nanny in Chicago, and when she died in 2009, the intensely private woman left behind more than 100,000 photo negatives. They reveal the decades she spent wandering the streets of her hometown, a Rolleiflex strapped around her neck, capturing ordinary street scenes but never publishing them: a sunbather on the sand, a VW hubcap, a bookshop's theft prevention mirror. (Almost always, Maier herself is visible: a dark shadow, her deadpan face, one of her fashionable fedoras.) Maier's candids are part of 250 photographs on display at the Norton, all capturing everyday people living urban lives. The ambitious show, spanning 90 years, is divided into 12 sections, featuring rare prints and portraits of high fashion, era-defining models and changing ideas of clothes and beauty from photographers such as Richard Avedon, Tina Barney, Guy Bourdin, Cindy Sherman, Garry Winogrand and Bill Cunningham.



A scene from Art Basel Miami Beach 2021 inside the Miami Beach Convention Center. (Art Basel/TNS)

## **Art Basel Miami Beach**

*Dec. 1-3, 2022, at Miami Beach Convention Center, 1901 Convention Center Drive.  
786-276-2600 or [ArtBasel.com/Miami-Beach](https://www.artbasel.com/Miami-Beach).*

The grand poobah of art fairs, Art Basel Miami Beach, marks its 2022 edition at the Miami Beach Convention Center, with the expected participants' list at 287 art galleries and growing. Those interested in rubbing shoulders with multimillionaire art collectors will have many opportunities here. For those wanting to mingle with folks closer to their tax bracket, there's everywhere else in Miami. Roughly a dozen satellite art fairs are set up, a sprawl of white tents popping up around Wynwood, downtown (and Midtown) Miami and Miami Beach. Consider this art overload, a juggernaut of celebrity sightings, rooftop parties, live graffiti, exclusive gallery pop-ups and late-night concerts. All these art gatherings in the shadow of Art Basel, collectively called Miami Art Week, are an experience best described as thrilling and immersive and impossible to conquer in one outing, so be prepared to cash in those leftover vacation days.