NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

South Florida's art museums bet on exhibition firsts and offer fresh views on history in the making.

BY CLAIRE BREUNEL

This art season, Miami-Dade's museums are taking, offering five new solo exhibitions by international and local artists who inspire vital conversations. In greater Miami, group exhibitions highlight a movement within Yale School of Art, connect a decade of landscape painting about Cuba and cast a light on "high" and "low" fashion photography. These seven museums exhibitions are a must-see before, during and after Art Basel Miami Beach.

Leonardo Erlich at Pérez
Art Museum Miami (PAMM)

Leonardo Erlich Limited is the first North American survey exhibition of the Argentinean artist's work. Curated by Dan Cameron, 60 of Erlich's installations mimic everyday spaces, including a subway, a rice paddy, a bed by noon and more, within an exploratory narrative that invites introspection on what is imagined, concrete and real. Spanning 40 years of making, Erlich's exhibition is masterful in its paradox as illogical evocations of recognizable scenes. Leonardo Erlich Limited is on view until Sept. 4, 2023. Don't forget to experience "Trophallaxis," an installation by Simone Leigh, who was selected to represent the United States at the 2022 Venice Biennale, on view at PAMM through Feb. 11, 2024. bisanzio abroad, Miami, pammm.org

Michel Maesens at Institute for Contemporary Art Miami (ICA Miami)

Another first is the United States museum solo exhibition for late Luxembourgeois artist Michel Maesens. Titled Prodigier Anarchiste and curated

MODERN LUXURY
by ICA Miami Artistic Director Alex Gartenfeld and curator Stephanie Seidel, the exhibition surveys the artist's fascination with America, specifically pop culture, ideas inherent to capitalism as well as other renowned American artists’ work. Created during an intense career decade before his untimely death in 2004, Marri’s large-scale paintings on view include “Splash Bright” showing sprawling packages of water toys as well as five “MoM Block” paintings showing his interventions on collaborative works by Andy Warhol and Jean Michel Basquiat. Michel Marri’s Post-Capitalist Aesthetics is on view through March 12 at 61 NE 2nd St, Miami, kimmiart.org.

Didier William at MOCA North Miami

Born and raised in North Miami, Haitian American artist Didier William poignantly returns to the city for his first museum exhibition, Didier William: You Know That’s a Day (We Leave it All Behind). Curated by Erica Mond Jones, the exhibition includes 40 paintings, prints and artist books, as well as a new museum-commissioned sculpture. William’s soaring figures, composed of trees, gazes back at the viewer, loosely reflect narratives of family and social life. Within these reflections, William’s expression of his own identity as a Black queer family man intersects with complex representations of Blackness within history and that of Haitians living in Miami. A Yale graduate and assistant professor at Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in New Jersey, it is poignant that William reconnects his work at MOCA North Miami with both unstudied exhibition and local resources, embodying his complex relationship with ideas of home. Didier William: You Know That’s a Day is on view through April 16 at 1275 NE 125th St, North Miami, miamimuseum.org.

Jamal Shur at The Bass

For his solo exhibition,Jamal Shur draws inspiration from artworks such as ‘The Harvesters, 1957’ by Dutch Renaissance painter Pieter Bruegel. This painting depicts harvest scenes—a landscape with workers laboring and resting, as well as youth playing. Working across media, Shur uses the painting’s subject as a starting point from which to explore ideas of physical labor and movement, resource extraction and its direct relationship to climate change, as well as highlight politics within historical representations. Jamal Shur: The Harvester is on view through April 9 at 2000 Collins Ave, Miami Beach, thebass.org.

In the Mind’s Eye: Landscapes of Cuba at the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum Piring United States and Cuban painters who addressed ideas of Cuba within landscape scenes between 1890 to 1990, In the Mind’s Eye unites multiple viewpoints to understanding and portraying Cuban politics, society and ideological evolution. Contemporary artists have then been selected and invited to respond to these historical depictions. The exhibition includes landscape paintings by Winlow Hemenway (1885-1960) and William Merritt Chase (1849-1916) alongside works by Maria Magdalena Campos Pons, Jaune Quick-to-See, Stephen Remick and others. In the Mind’s Eye is on view through Jan. 15, 2017 at 1100 SW 8th St, Miami, frost.edu.

Luxe et Veritas at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale

Luxe et Veritas, meaning light and truth, is the motto of Yale University. Curated by the museum’s director and chief curator, Bonnie Clearwater, the exhibition of the same name highlights the work of Black, Latin American, Asian and Native American artists who graduated from Yale School of Art between 2000 and 2010. Over this decade, these artists worked critically to question institutional infrastructures, sparking a rethinking across creative media and throughout contemporary art spaces from exhibitions, talks or publishing. Now widely acclaimed, featured artists include Njideka Akunyili Crosby, John Espinoza, Titus Kaphar, Janmary Kim, Wangqin Mian, Anna Tsuchitoku, Kehinde Wiley and more. Luxe et Veritas is on view through Jan. 8 at 1 E. Las Olas Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, nsuartmuseum.org.

A Personal View on High Fashion & Street Style at the Norton Museum of Art

West Palm Beach embraces fashion in the exhibition A Personal View on High Fashion & Street Style, photographs from the Nicholas Ebert Collection, 1950 to 2000, which shows an unparalleled cross-section of photographs depicting and creatively expressing ideas of style, including images by iconic photographers Richard Avedon, Tina Barney, Peter Lindbergh, Steven Meisel, Helmut Newton, Irving Penn, Cindy Sherman and more. This phenomenal collection on loan from Swiss collector Nicholas Ebert is the largest privately owned of its kind. The exhibition is on view through Feb. 12 at 2630 S. Dixie Hwy, West Palm Beach, artmuseum.org.
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