

**NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale Announces New Exhibition:**

***Emilio Martinez: Van Gogh, Lautrec, and Me***

*On view from February 11 through September 3, 2023, Martinez's first solo museum exhibition will address the struggles, dreams and aspirations of two artists whose dedication to their craft, effort and faith he deeply admires.*

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Beginning February 11 through September 3, 2023, [NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale](#) will present *Emilio Martinez: Van Gogh, Lautrec, and Me*, the first solo museum exhibition of Miami-based artist Emilio Martinez (b. 1981, Tegucigalpa, Honduras), who immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 13 years old. Martinez's mixed-media work is based on his childhood memories and dreams, which he recorded in his sketchbooks. This show will address the artist's anxieties and experiences of dislocation by using spiritual symbols derived from ancient indigenous peoples and making expressionistic marks.

Curated by Bonnie Clearwater, Director and Chief Curator of the Museum, the exhibition focuses on Martinez's fascination with Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh (1853 - 1890) and French-born Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (1864 - 1901). This fascination prompted him to research these artists' friendship after discovering that Lautrec had included van Gogh as a reveler in one of his paintings of the Cabaret Moulin Rouge. The two artists had met in Paris as art students at the studio of Fernand Corman. Lautrec is credited as one of the first to recognize and encourage Vincent's talent. Both artists were outsiders who suffered the mockery of their peers, van Gogh for his eccentric behavior and Lautrec for the stunted growth of his legs and distorted facial features due to a genetic bone disorder. Both died young, van Gogh at age 37, having sold hardly any paintings, and Lautrec at 36 at the height of his fame.

In 2021, Martinez was inspired to create the first series on view in this exhibition after seeing Julian Schnabel's riveting film *Eternity's Gate* (2018) about the turbulent final years and art of van Gogh. Under the spell of van Gogh, Martinez created mixed-media collages of macabre fanged beasts that incorporate elements from book reproductions of such van Gogh paintings as *Starry Night* (1889) and *Sunflowers* (1889). For Martinez, these fanciful and frightening creatures convey the emotional weight and humanist "verve" of van Gogh's visionary work. The series leads to a cross-centuries collaboration with Lautrec in which Martinez added his own embellishments to book reproductions of Lautrec's paintings and posters. Each piece in the van Gogh and Lautrec series suggests a narrative reflecting Martinez's engagement with the struggles, dreams, and aspirations of these two artists whose dedication to their art, effort, and faith he deeply admires.

This exhibition is part of NSU Art Museum's presentation *Picturing Fame*, which is comprised of four concurrent exhibitions that ruminate on the subject of fame: *Toulouse-Lautrec and the Follies of Fame* and *Hooray for Hollywood*, which opens with *Emilio Martinez* on Saturday, February 11; and *The Swans: Karen Kilimnik and Stephanie Seymour Paintings and Dresses*, which opens March 12.

Emilio Martinez immigrated in 1994 to Miami, where he continues to live and work. His artworks have been exhibited at the University of Syracuse the Instituto Cultural de México, Miami, and in the exhibitions *Visionary Aponte: Art & Black Freedom*, first presented at the Little Haiti Cultural Center, Miami, in 2017; it traveled to the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, New York University, New York (2018); Power Plant Gallery, Duke University, Durham (2018); *I Paint My Reality: Surrealism in Latin America*, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale (2019); Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba (2019); Galeria Oriente,

Santiago de Cuba, Cuba (2019); and Fine Arts Gallery, Vanderbilt University, Nashville (2020). His work is represented in private & institutional collections in the United States such as NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale and internationally.

Situated midway between Miami and Palm Beach, NSU Art Museum is located in the heart of Downtown Fort Lauderdale. The Museum is a premier destination for exhibitions and programs encompassing all facets of civilization's visual history and is widely known for its significant collection of Latin American art, contemporary art with an emphasis on art by Black, Latin American, and women artists, as well as works by American artist William Glackens and the European Cobra group of artists. For more information, please visit <https://nsuartmuseum.org>.

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### **About NSU Art Museum**

Founded in 1958, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is a premier destination for exhibitions and programs encompassing many facets of civilization's visual history. Located midway between Miami and Palm Beach in downtown Fort Lauderdale's arts and entertainment district, the Museum's 83,000 square-foot building, which opened in 1986, was designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes and contains over 25,000 square feet of exhibition space, the 256 -seat Horvitz auditorium, a museum store, and café. In 2008, the Museum became part of Nova Southeastern University (NSU), one of the largest private research universities in the United States. NSU Art Museum is known for its significant collection of Latin American art, contemporary art with an emphasis on art by Black, Latin American, and women artists, as well as works by early twentieth-century American artist William Glackens, and the European Cobra group of artists. Two scholarly research centers complement the collections: The Dr. Stanley and Pearl Goodman Latin American Art Study Center and the William J. Glackens Study Center.

Exhibitions and programs at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale are made possible in part by an endowment from the David and Francie Horvitz Family Endowment, Taylor-Bryant Foundation, Connie Gordon, and Sansom Foundation. Funding is also provided by the City of Fort Lauderdale, Community Foundation of Broward, the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is accredited by the American Association of Museums.