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**The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum FIU Presents  
“Tesoro: Pepe Mar’s Love Letter to the Frost”**

**MIAMI (Dec. 1, 2020)** — This Miami Art Week [Frost Art Museum FIU](#) will present a new exhibition “Tesoro: Pepe Mar’s Love Letter to the Frost.” In *Tesoro*, Pepe Mar—an artist who marries a broad range of visual references and personal obsessions spanning art, fashion, queer history, and Mexican culture—has created an installation drawn from the Frost Art Museum’s collection. Mar envisions the Museum’s permanent collection of art from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe, as special treasures and presents them as gifts to the public.

“I wanted to make a collage of the collection as an extension of my artistic practice to create new definitions for the objects on view and encourage unexpected connections throughout the installation,” reflected Mar.

Organized visually across thematic chapters such as Theatre of the City; Mirror, Mirror; Procession; and Cabinet of Curiosities, *Tesoro*’s highlights include masks, ceramics, and paintings by René Portocarrero, Manuel Mendive, Thornton Dial, and Purvis Young, alongside select loans by artists such as Pawel Althamer and Anna Betbeze.

“A singular canon of art history is, by definition, exclusionary, and reflective of the social, political, and economic biases of a privileged few. I have winnowed through the museum’s collection and proposed an alternative narrative, one in which I focus on art made by artists of color, self-taught artists, LGBTQ artists, non-Western artists, and others regularly excluded from the dominant narratives of art history. I present this art in tandem with work that would more comfortably fit the established canon,” added Mar.

An FIU alumnus who has been living and working in Miami for the past twenty years, Pepe Mar’s recent solo exhibitions include presentations at the Mattress Factory Museum of Contemporary Art in Pittsburgh and Locust Projects in Miami. He received his MFA from Florida International University and his BFA from the California College of the Arts.

This is the second presentation in a series of exhibitions re-envisioning the Museum’s permanent collection and will be on view for two years, starting on December 1, 2020.

### **About the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum FIU:**

*One of the largest art museums in Florida, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University was founded in 1977 and is the Smithsonian Affiliate in Miami. The museum's mission is three-fold: to be a campus resource for the entire FIU community; to offer interdisciplinary training in the arts for the next generation of artists and art historians; and to serve as a premier cultural destination for the residents of Miami, and visitors. The Frost is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is located on the FIU MMC Campus at 10975 SW 17 Street. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.- 4:45 p.m., and Sunday noon-4:45 p.m. Closed on Mondays and most legal holidays. The Sculpture Park is open every day. Admission to the museum is always free. For more information, visit [frost.fiu.edu](http://frost.fiu.edu).*

### **About FIU:**

*Florida International University is Miami's public research university, focused on student success. According to U.S. News and World Report, FIU has 26 top-50 rankings in the nation among public universities and Washington Monthly Magazine ranks FIU among the top 20 public universities contributing to the public good and No. 12 for social mobility. FIU is a top U.S. research university (R1), with more than \$200 million in annual expenditures. FIU ranks 15th in the nation among public universities for patent production, which drives innovation, and is one of the institutions that helps make Florida the top state for higher education. The [Next Horizon](#) fundraising campaign is furthering FIU's commitment to providing students Worlds Ahead opportunities. Today, FIU has two campuses and multiple centers, and supports artistic and cultural engagement through its three museums: [Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum](#), the [Wolfsonian-FIU](#), and the [Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU](#). FIU is a member of [Conference USA](#), with more than 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. The university has awarded more than 330,000 degrees to many leaders in South Florida and beyond. For more information about FIU, visit [www.fiu.edu](http://www.fiu.edu).*

