ART AFTER STONEWALL, 1969-1989 Honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprisings

- First Major National Exhibition of its Kind, will Headline Art Basel Season at the Frost Art Museum FIU (Opens Sept. 14 through Jan. 5) -

- Miami is One of Only Three Cities to Host this Groundbreaking Tour de Force -



As celebrants across the nation honor the 50th anniversary year of the Stonewall Uprisings, the <u>Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum FIU</u> announces that **Miami will be one of only three cities in the U.S. to host** *Art after Stonewall, 1969-1989*. The major exhibition opens in Miami on September 14 through January 5. Due to its monumental size and scope – more than 200 artworks – the show will encompass the entire second floor of the museum, including the Frost Art Museum's Grand Galleries.

Art after Stonewall will headline Miami's Art Basel in December: when the global spotlight shines on this city for one of the world's leading art fairs, attracting 70,000+ collectors, cultural leaders, artists and media influencers from around the world. This is the first national museum show of its kind to survey the impact of the LGBTQ civil rights movement on visual culture, during the pivotal two decades after the Stonewall Riots, as the first Pride marches took flight — a bold visual history of twenty years in American queer life.

"When the police raided the Stonewall Inn on June 28, 1969, that night's events changed the course of American history. *Art after Stonewall* brings to light the evolution of the modern LGBT

movement and its undeniable impact on the art world," said Dr. Jordana Pomeroy, the Director of the Frost Art Museum FIU. "The exhibition acknowledges the guts and grit of these artists, gay and straight, to make declarative and public visual statements about gender and sexuality in a predominantly homophobic world. The Frost Art Museum FIU is honored and delighted to bring to Miami the tour de force *Art after Stonewall*, which encompasses the passion, energy, and excitement that inspired the art world at this time."





The Miami presentation of Art after Stonewall, 1969-1989 will be the first time the entire exhibition will be presented under one roof, because the previous showing in New York was split up between two venues. More than 200 works - photographs, paintings, sculpture, film clips, video, music, performance pieces, plus historical documents and images taken from magazines, newspapers and television - will be on view at the Frost. The exhibition presents the work of openly LGBTQ artists alongside other artists who also engaged with the emerging queer subcultures, between 1969 and 1989. The Stonewall Riots are considered a historic flash-point for the LGBTQ movement, and the first two decades of art-making that immediately followed the uprising have never been explored this way before. This exhibition was first presented in New York, at two venues: the Leslie-Lohman Museum and NYU's Grey Art Gallery (recently on view from April through July). The exhibition travels next to Miami for Art Basel season, at the Frost Art Museum FIU (Sept. 14, 2019 - Jan. 5, 2020). The show will then travel to the Columbus Museum of Art (March 6 - May 31, 2020).



This 20-year period blazed with new creativity from these communities. **These artists cleared a path through uncharted cultural territories**, across intersections of avant-garde art worlds, radical political movements, and profound social change. The exhibition was organized by the Columbus Museum of Art and features seven sections: *Coming Out, Sexual Outlaws, The Uses of the Erotic, Gender and Body, Things are Queer, AIDS and Activism*, and *We're Here.* The show was curated by the artist and art historian Jonathan Weinberg, with Daniel Marcus and Drew Sawyer. **"Art after Stonewall is all about using art for empowerment and community, making visible queer identities in a myriad of fabulous forms,"** said Jonathan Weinberg.

KISSING DOESN'T KILL: GREED AND INDIFFERENCE DO.



CORPORATE GREED, GOVERNMENT INACTION, AND PUBLIC INDIFFERENCE MAKE AIDS A POLITICAL CRISIS



The list of trailblazing artists includes:

Vito Acconci, Laura Aguilar, Diane Arbus, Lyle Ashton Harris, Judith F. Baca, Don Bachardy, Lynda Benglis, JEB (Joan E. Biren), Louise Bourgeois, Judy Chicago, Lenore Chinn, Arch Connelly, Tee A. Corinne, Luis Cruz Azaceta, Karen Finley, Louise Fishman, Nan Goldin, Michela Griffo, Sunil Gupta, Barbara Hammer, Harmony Hammond, Keith Haring, David Hockney, Peter Hujar, Holly Hughes, Tseng Kwong Chi, Greer Lankton, Annie Leibovitz, Christopher Makos, Robert Mapplethorpe, Frank Moore, Alice Neel, Catherine Opie, Jack Pierson, Marlon T. Riggs, Jack Smith, Joan Snyder, Carmelita Tropicana, Andy Warhol, David Wojnarowicz, and Martin Wong, among others. Although much has been written on the impact of the LGBTQ movement on American society, fifty years after Stonewall many key artists are still relatively unknown and are brought to light.

<u>The Miami Connections in Art after Stonewall</u> Some of the artists included in *Art after Stonewall* had Miami connections, including Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Martin Kreloff.

The work by Kreloff

featured in the show is the poster for the very first White Party fundraiser for AIDS, held in Miami in 1985. The history-making idea for the White Party AIDS fundraiser was hatched by Kreloff and friends in Miami, and **became an inspiration for communities nationwide to raise muchneeded funds** to help those suffering from the epidemic. The work by Gonzalez-Torres also **confronted the AIDS crisis**: a haunting billboard created by the artist in 1989 that ran for six months above the site of the Stonewall Riots, informing viewers streaming along NY's busy Seventh Avenue about the need for activism.

Celebrate Orgullo Fashion Gala:

Benefitting Unity Coalition / Coalición Unida

The museum will host October 12 one of Miami's most highly anticipated LGBTQ events of the year: the annual Gala benefiting <u>Unity Coalición | Coalición Unida</u>. Focusing on inclusiveness towards the entire spectrum of the LGBTQ communities, the museum is partnering during the run of the exhibition with Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida. The community organization is recognized as one of



the nation's leading advocacy groups of its kind, especially for its cutting-edge programs for Latinx, Hispanic and people of color who are LGBTQ, and for spearheading innovative cultural initiatives for the Transgender, gender non-conforming, queer, millennial and centennial communities. Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida will integrate its programming with the museum's exhibition, during its 9th annual Celebrate ORGULLO Festival, Miami's premier Hispanic LGBTQ Pride Festival offered every October. The Frost is part of **Florida International University, home to one of the country's most diverse student populations**. The Frost is also working closely to integrate the exhibition with <u>FIU's LGBTQA Initiatives</u>. The on-campus group promotes educational, social, and resource programs and services to meet the needs of LGBTQ students.

Miami's Contributions to the Movement

Scholars today recognize that **just like New York's Stonewall Riots, Miami was also ground-zero to an equally significant chapter in the LGBTQ civil rights movement, and this is also represented in the exhibition**. In 1977, Anita Bryant led her notorious campaign to overturn a Miami-Dade County ordinance that banned discrimination against gays and lesbians. This sparked a turning point for the movement that experts in the fields of civil rights and LGBTQ studies emphasize as equally important to Stonewall.

It was the first time the national media covered LGBTQ rights in this way. The story about Bryant's crusade in Miami was the cover of *TIME* and *Newsweek* magazines, made headlines in newspapers across the country and on network television news. **Before this Miami political battle to protect LGBTQ rights, no other LGBTQ news event had been covered nationally. This mobilized activists in cities and towns nationwide for the first time in history.** A major component of that grassroots activism against Bryant's campaign featured creative advertising, posters and graphic art. Now,



forty-two years after the Anita Bryant crusade, things have changed in Miami. **The museum has received a groundswell of community support to bring this exhibition to South Florida**. This exhibition has been made possible at the Frost Art Museum FIU by Bank of America and the Funding Arts Network. Additional support has been generously provided by Our Fund, an LGBT Community Foundation, and the *Art after Stonewall* Circle of Friends.



At the national level, major support for the exhibition is provided by: The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the Keith Haring Foundation, Inc. Additional support provided by Jeff Chaddock & Mark Morrow; Envisage Wealth; Tom W. Davis; Equitas Health; Prizm; Lynn Greer & Stevie Walton & the Women's Collective; John & Michaella Havens and Parker Havens & Dean Panik, in honor of Barbara Havens; D. Scott Owens & Kevin Kowalski; Harlan Robins & Shawn Shear; Dickinson Wright PLLC; and John L. Wirchanski. The show is accompanied by a 300page catalogue with essays by more than 20 established and emerging scholars as well as entries by artists.







Captions for artworks in this press release:

(Page 1): Gay Liberation Front Poster Image (detail), by Peter Hujar, 1970, silver gelatin print; Stephen Varble at the 12th Annual Avant-Garde Festival, by Greg Day, 1975/2018, digital print. (Page 2): Gay Pride, by Leonard Fink, 1970, silver gelatin print; The Government has Blood on its Hands, by Gran Fury, 1988, poster/offset lithograph; Celebration after Riots Outside Stonewall Inn, Nelly (Betsy Mae Koolo), Chris (Drag Queen Chris), Roger Davis, Michelle and Tommy Lanigan-Schmidt, June 1969, by Fred W. McDarrah, silver gelatin print; Kissing Doesn't Kill, by Gran Fury, 1989, color offset lithograph. (Page 3): Journey to Romance: A White Party at Vizcaya, by Martin Kreloff, 1985, acrylic and colored pencil; Sylvester as Lady Day (#1), by Rob Hugh Rosen, 1970, silver gelatin print. (Page 4): Audre Lorde, by JEB (Joan E. Biren), 1980/2018, digital silver halide C-type print; Sylvia Rivera (Cynthia) Was One of Stonewall Patrons Arrested in the Stonewall Inn in June 1969. She has Been a "Remember Stonewall" Member Since 1970, by Bettye Lane, 1973, silver gelatin print, ©Bettye Lane Estate, courtesy of Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University: Lesbian Physique, Gay Games II / Triumph in '86 San Francisco, CA, by Ann Patricia Meredith, 1986, from the series A Different Drummer, 1970-1990, silver gelatin print; Safe Sex, by

Keith Haring, October 20, 1985, acrylic on canvas tarp. (Page 5): *Divine*, by David Hockney, 1979, acrylic on canvas; *Ladies and Gentlemen* (*Marsha P. Johnson*), by Andy Warhol, 1975, screenprint; *Grace Jones at the Saint*, by Marc Lida, 1982, watercolor on paper, private collection, © Estate of Marc Lida.

MEDIA CONTACTS: News Travels Fast

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About the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum FIU

One of the largest free-standing art museums in Florida, the Frost Art Museum at Florida International University was founded in 1977 and is the Smithsonian Affiliate in Miami. The museum's new lakeside building debuted in 2008, designed by Yann Weymouth (the chief of design on the I.M. Pei Grand Louvre Project). With 46,000 square feet of energy efficient exhibition, storage, and programming space, the museum was honored with LEED silver certification. The museum's mission is threefold: 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 the 15 million visitors to one of the world's most vibrant cultural destinations - home to global cultural events including Art Basel. The Frost offers programming that complements its exhibitions with a wide range of educational initiatives. The Steven and Dorothea Green Critics' Lecture Series has featured internationally renowned speakers including: Laurie Anderson, Christo, Susan Sontag, Frank Stella, Helen Frankenthaler, John Cage and



Marina Abramović. The Kenan-Flagler Family Discovery Gallery serves as an innovative programming space that encourages children's involvement in art through hands-on exploration. Admission to the museum is always free. The Frost is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, More info at frost.fiu.edu or 305-348-890.

