



Pérez Art Museum Miami
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Miami's New Icon, *Looking Into My Dreams, Awilda*, Makes its Home in Museum Park

**Artist Jaume Plensa to Discuss Sculpture with Art Talk
March 18, 2pm at Pérez Art Museum Miami**



MIAMI – March 8, 2017 – This winter, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) received a new neighbor – *Looking Into My Dreams, Awilda* by world-renowned artist **Jaume Plensa**. Installed by entrepreneur and philanthropist Jorge M. Pérez, the massive 39-foot-tall sculpture sits on the east end of Museum Park, gazing into Biscayne Bay and visible for miles. In celebration of welcoming the colossal sculpture to its new home, PAMM will host an art talk by Plensa on **Saturday March 18, 2017 at 2pm**.

Monumentalizing everyday individuals, as well as youth and femininity, *Awilda* presents the artist's large-scale portrait of a young girl from his native Barcelona. The piece was initially shown in Rio de Janeiro by the sea, where it took on additional references, particularly Plensa's interest in the Yoruba female deity of the sea, Lemanjá. The piece then traveled to Chicago's Millennium Park, where it was part of the larger **1004 portraits** exhibition and played a significant role in the park's reinvention. As a promised gift to PAMM, *Awilda's* new, permanent home in Miami returns her to a seaside location, as her serene face, and closed eyes, contemplate the Port of Miami.

"My team and I are constantly on the lookout for those pieces that not only speak to us on an emotional level, but also have the power to help in our city's growth and evolution. As soon as I saw *Awilda* in Chicago I knew she was exactly that," said Pérez. "Public installations play a key role in establishing a city's unique identity and I strongly believe *Awilda* will be embraced as a beloved landmark; a sort of lighthouse for Miami."

The Art Talk is free with museum admission (\$16 adults, members free). Select interviews with Plensa and Pérez are available upon request. For more information, visit pamm.org/plensa-talk.





About the Artist

Jaume Plensa was born in 1955 in Barcelona, where he studied at the *Llotja School of Art and Design* and at the *Sant Jordi School of Fine Art*. Since 1980, the year of his first exhibition in Barcelona, he has lived and worked in Berlin, Brussels, England, France and the United States, as well as the Catalan capital.

He has been a teacher at the *École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts* in Paris and regularly cooperates with the *School of the Art Institute of Chicago* as a guest professor. He has also given many lectures and courses at other universities, museums and cultural institutions around the world.

Plensa regularly shows his work at galleries and museums in Europe, the United States and Asia. The landmark exhibitions in his career include one organised at the *Fundació Joan Miró* in Barcelona in 1996, which travelled to the *Galerie nationale du Jeu de Paume* in Paris and the *Malmö Konsthall* in Malmö (Sweden) the following year. In Germany, several museums have staged exhibitions of his work. These include *Love Sounds* at the Kestner Gesellschaft in Hannover in 1999 and the recent *The Secret Heart*, which was shown at three museums in the city of Augsburg in 2014. During 2015 and 2016 the exhibition *Human Landscape* has travelled by several North American museums: *Cheekwood Botanical Gardens and Museum of Art* and *Frist Center of the Visual Arts* in Nashville, TN, the *Tampa Museum of Art in Tampa FL* and the *Toledo Museum of Art* in Toledo, OH.

A very significant part of Plensa's work is in the field of sculpture in the public space. Installed in cities in Spain, France, Japan, England, Korea, Germany, Canada, USA, these pieces have won many prizes and citations, including the *Mash Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture*, which the artist received in London in 2009 for his work *Dream*.

Organization and Support

Into My Dreams, Awilda is sponsored by Jorge M. Pérez of the Related Group and organized by Related Group curators, Patricia Garcia-Velez Hanna and Anelys Alvarez-Muñoz. With additional support from Museum Park and the Bayfront Park Management Trust. In-kind support is also gratefully acknowledged from Timothy Schmand, Executive Director of the Bayfront Park Management Trust

About PAMM

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) promotes artistic expression and the exchange of ideas, advancing public knowledge and appreciation of art, architecture and design, and reflecting the diverse community of its pivotal geographic location at the crossroads of the Americas. A 33-year-old South Florida institution formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM), Pérez Art Museum Miami opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, in Downtown Miami's Museum Park on December 4, 2013. The facility is a state-of-the-art model for sustainable museum design and progressive programming and features 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor program space with flexible galleries; shaded outdoor verandas; a waterfront restaurant and bar; a museum shop; and an education center with a library, media lab, and classroom spaces. For more information, please visit www.pamm.org, find us on Facebook (facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami), or follow us on Twitter/Instagram (@pamm).

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