Pérez Art Museum Miami Announces Acquisition of Artwork by Ebony G. Patterson at Sixth Annual Art + Soul Celebration

*PAMM Raised More than $1,000,000 for the Fund for African American Art with Matching Grant from Knight Foundation*

(Miami, FL — February 11, 2019) — On Saturday, February 9, Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) welcomed nearly 500 guests for the sixth annual *Art + Soul Celebration*, which supports and celebrates the museum’s *Fund for African American Art* and ensures that PAMM represents the diversity of the community it serves, while elevating the appreciation of African diaspora art and culture.

During the celebration, PAMM Director **Franklin Sirmans** revealed the fund’s newest acquisition, a large-scale tapestry by Jamaican visual artist **Ebony G. Patterson**, whose first museum solo exhibition, *…while the dew is still on the roses…* is on view at PAMM through May 5, 2019. Also, the night honored **Dr. Lowery S. Sims**, longtime curator of 20th Century art at the Met, scholar and early advisor to PAMM’s Fund for African American Art.

“Our mission as a 21st century museum, dedicated to modern and contemporary art, is to represent that wide terrain in a way that is unique and reflects the constituents of the Miami community while creating a museum environment unlike any other,” said **PAMM Director Franklin Sirmans**. “Our collection is informed by the local as much as the global, and we are very grateful for Knight Foundation’s recent $1 million challenge and constant contribution to our Fund for African American Art, and to have acquired an incredible artwork by Ebony G. Patterson. Celebrating art and the growth of our diverse collection at this annual event is a hallmark of our museum. A three-tiered affair with dinner, programming and a party, Art + Soul, under the leadership of Deryl McKissack and Curb Gardner, has
furthered the goal of the fund to bring guests together in Miami for a great cause."

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Alberto Ibargüen, president and CEO of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, welcomed art supporters and reaffirmed that Knight Foundation would match every dollar raised this year in an effort to support the growth of PAMM’s powerful collection of African American Art, up to $1,000,000. Throughout the evening, more than $500,000 was raised towards the match—resulting in more than $1,000,000 raised total, ensuring that works by African American artists will always be represented in PAMM’s permanent collection for generations to come.

“The fund started with a million dollars. In just these few years, PAMM, has raised an additional $1.1 million to endow the fund, and bought 14 major works in addition to acquiring several important donations of works by African diaspora artists for our permanent collection,” said Alberto Ibargüen, CEO of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. “Tonight, we created a new record all in the name of the Fund.”

The evening’s intimate dinner featured a special menu by celebrity chef Amaris Jones in collaboration with Constellation Culinary Group and entertainment by Guitars Over Guns, a nonprofit that offers students from disadvantaged backgrounds a powerful combination of music education and mentorship. Following the dinner, guests toasted PAMM and danced to music by Jillionaire and A.Randolph and The Smash Room Project.

Corporate sponsors of the evening included: Ciroc, Grove Trust Bank, Greenberg Traurig, Bilzin Sumberg, and Congress Wealth Management.

PAMM has a 35 year history of presenting modern and contemporary art from underrepresented communities and diasporas, from Africa and Latin America, to the Caribbean. PAMM’s Fund for African American Art allows the museum to purchase and showcase contemporary art by African American
artists for its permanent collection. In December 2018, PAMM received a $1 million matching grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for the Fund. Through PAMM’s Fund for African American Art, the museum has acquired works by artists Terry Adkins, Romare Bearden, Kevin Beasley, Ed Clark, Leonardo Drew, Sam Gilliam, Leslie Hewitt, Rashid Johnson, Al Loving, Lorraine O’Grady, Ebony G. Patterson, Faith Ringgold, Tschabalala Self, Xaviera Simmons, Lorna Simpson, Marine Syms, James Van Der Zee, Juana Valdes, Carrie Mae Weems, Nari Ward, Kehinde Wiley and Purvis Young.

For more information about the PAMM Fund for African American Art, or to join the PAMM Ambassadors for African American Art, visit pamm.org/artfund.

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. Led by Director Franklin Sirmans, the 35-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 pamm.org, find us on Facebook (facebook.com/perezartmuseummiami), or follow us on Instagram/Twitter (@pamm).

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