

## Art in Plein Air

Written by Anne Tschida, BT Arts Editor  
July 2017

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### **PAMM reproductions have been turning up in unexpected places**



On the banks of the Snake Creek Canal in North Miami Beach, on a patch of tended grass plotted with trees in bloom, an artwork is also planted: a reproduction of a 2002 abstract painting from Odili Donald Odita.

As ducks and geese waddle around and the water slaps the embankment at what is actually a small park, the painting takes on a life of its own. Freed from the confines of a museum or gallery, it seems to have become part of the natural environment.

That is the intentional effect, the purpose of a project called “Inside/Out,” in which reproductions of art from the Pérez Art Museum Miami are put on view throughout Miami communities, many of them with limited access to art, and placed in public areas.

The idea is to encounter them as part of everyday life, not as works exclusive to an Ivory Tower or austere museum. The reproductions range from high-profile names such as Roy Lichtenstein, Ed Ruscha, and Robert Rauschenberg, to newer international artists like Guillermo Kuitca and Kiki Smith, and to locals, including Christina Pettersson and Glexis Novoa.

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The project began last year, and has moved to three communities at a time, for three months at a time. Thirty reproductions were first placed in Homestead, Hialeah, and West Kendall. The second installment, from February through April of this year, added 20 more pieces and moved to Opa-locka, Overtown, and Biscayne Park.

In June, “Inside/Out” rotated to Surfside, Little Haiti, and North Miami Beach.

The concept originated with the Detroit Institute of the Arts in 2010, and with Knight Foundation funding expanded to Philadelphia, Akron, and now Miami.



Once the communities were chosen, “we arranged an on-site plotting and planning meeting with each community individually,” as to where the art should be displayed, says Anita Braham, manager of Adult Programs and Community Partnerships at PAMM.

“Selecting the exact locations of the works was a group effort, and we encouraged the community to take the lead,” says Braham. “The final deciding factor of installation locations

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was securing permission from each property owner to install on their land.” So, for example, most of the artworks used for Opa-locka were placed within the historic city center, where paintings from Hernan Bas, Carlos Alfonzo, and Wangechi Mutu mixed with the quirky, Moorish-themed architecture and streets named Ali Baba and Aladdin.

In Surfside, all of the pieces are lined up in the space between Collins Avenue and the ocean, from 88th Street north to 95th Street, where walking-path strollers may encounter a Lichtenstein and Kuitca, plus locals Mette Tommerup and Loriel Beltran.

In North Miami Beach, aside from the works set along the Snake Creek, people can stumble over a piece from Ruscha and a rare painting from Fernando Botero on the grounds of the beautiful Ancient Spanish Monastery.

“PAMM’s permanent collection of international modern and contemporary art aims to reflect the diversity of Miami-Dade’s population and represent our singular position in the world, at the crossroads of Latin America and the Caribbean,” says Braham in an e-mail exchange with the *B T*

. “We like to find a balance between local Miami artists and artists that are nationally and internationally renowned to create a well-rounded collection that can fit the context of the many culturally rich communities of Miami-Dade County.” Once the PAMM committee decided on specific works, the artists then had to agree to have their work reproduced.



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