



First Solo US Museum Exhibition for Brazilian Artist Paulo Nazareth Opens at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami On May 16

Melee Features Several Monumental Newly Commissioned Series



Paulo Nazareth, *Untitled*, from “Mi Imagen de Hombre Exotico” series, 2011. Photo on cotton paper. Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo/New York/Brussels.

Miami, FL – March 19, 2019 – The Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA Miami) announces the first solo US museum exhibition for **Paulo Nazareth** (b. 1977), on view this spring. Opening May 16, *Melee* spans Nazareth’s work across mediums, including monumental and ephemeral sculpture, photography, video, and installations. Drawing on his Afro-Brazilian and Indigenous heritages, Nazareth brings the histories of marginalized groups into focus in an exhibition that is relevant to both the global and local Brazilian diaspora, while speaking to broad political conversations on issues of injustice and oppression. Organized by **Alex Gartenfeld, Artistic Director**, and **Gean Moreno, Curator of Programs**, and on view through October 6, the exhibition builds on ICA Miami’s history of providing the first US museum platform for both emerging and established contemporary artists and engaging audiences with the most innovative artists of today.

“ICA Miami’s exhibitions and programs explore untold histories and important topical issues through the methods of the most innovative contemporary artists working today,” said Gartenfeld. “Nazareth’s work is multidisciplinary, ambitious, and offers a distinct point of view that is not only relevant to Miami’s diaspora community, but also across the U.S. and internationally. With this first U.S. solo museum exhibition of Nazareth’s work, we invite audiences to engage with challenging, but important issues and ideas, and aim to advance critical scholarship on the artist and the ways that contemporary art can address key social and political questions.”



“As an artist with a focus on the Afro-Brazilian and Indigenous legacies, Paulo Nazareth’s work evokes issues, from rigid socioeconomic divisions to prevailing injustices, that chronically plague both Brazil and the rest of the Americas, including the US,” said Moreno. “In his ongoing investigation into common historical narratives, Nazareth opens a space of discussion and critique around contemporary societal fissures and systemic oppression.”

With *Melee*, Nazareth highlights overlooked historical figures of Latin America and explores ways to expand the conversation on cultural production. The exhibition features several new works, including new commission series made specifically for the exhibition. The first presents 49 bronze medals depicting marginalized figures in Latin America, including Indigenous leaders and guerilla fighters. Displayed atop 50 pedestals, with one left empty to signify a continuing history yet to be written, the medals unearth a new perspective on Latin America. The second series features 13 flags of utopian countries who maintained social and political arrangements that managed to avoid the rigid polarizations of the Cold War. Alongside these two new bodies of work, Nazareth will show eleven newly-created portraits of Brazil’s embattled ex-president Lula— bringing focus to the recent Right turn in Brazilian politics.

In addition to these monumental commissions, *Melee* features Nazareth’s recent work in painting, sculpture, photography, and video that examine areas in culture across the Americas where prejudices have emerged, from the consumer realm to the swimming pool. Works on view include four new additions to Nazareth’s existing “Genocide Products” series. The new works are the largest and most ambitious in this series to date. Visitors also encounter recent works exploring the long history of segregation in the Americas, particularly in relation to access to public institutions and resources. The drawings and photographs that comprise “Blacks in the Pool” demonstrate how discriminatory practices have emerged around public swimming pools and other bodies of water. Additionally, the artist presents an installation that reprises his project *The Red Inside* (2016-2018), which was first generated for Prospect New Orleans. Beginning in Louisiana and traveling all the way to Canada, the project involved the artist following the route of the Underground Railroad. Alongside this voyage, Nazareth cast concrete watermelons— sacred fruits in a number of African contexts—using water drawn from the Mississippi River as his material.

Paulo Nazareth: *Melee*

May 16, 2019 – October 6, 2019

2nd Floor, Special Exhibitions Galleries

Exhibition Support

Exhibitions at ICA Miami are generously supported by the Knight Contemporary Art Fund at The Miami Foundation.

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Also on view at ICA Miami:

Ettore Sottsass and the Social Factory

April 18, 2019 – October 6, 2019

3rd Floor, Special Exhibitions Galleries

ICA Miami launches its new exhibition series dedicated to exploring significant advances in postwar and contemporary design with *Ettore Sottsass and the Social Factory*. Organized by Alex Gartenfeld, Artistic Director, and Gean Moreno, Curator of Programs, the exhibition will consider the work of radical designer Ettore Sottsass (1917-2007) in relation to the social and economic context in which it was produced, from Italy's postwar economic prosperity to the social upheaval of the 1960s and 70s, to our contemporary conditions.

Encompassing over 40 works, the exhibition will feature objects, furniture, drawings, and photographic works divided into four distinct chronological sections. Each section will present significant objects that embody the concerns that occupied Sottsass at the moment, while serving as vehicles through which to understand the transformative social conditions in which he was immersed. The exhibition will include the artist's utopian projects from the 60s, including ceramic totems and superboxes, as well as his ephemeral and photographic works from the 1970s, and collaborations with brands focusing on cybernetics.

Ettore Sottsass and the Social Factory will be accompanied by a robust series of public programs and a 300-page catalogue with 10 commissioned scholarly essays.

Ground Floor

ICA Miami's ground floor exhibition space will feature solo exhibitions of work by artists across generations, including **Robert Grosvenor**, **Purvis Young**, and **Guadalupe Maravilla**. ICA Miami's Project Space will feature ***Eric Paul Riege: Hóló--it xistz***, the first institutional exhibition dedicated to the work of the emerging Navajo artist, and a newly commissioned project, in collaboration with the Miami Design District, by **Yona Friedman** will be presented in the sculpture garden.

About Paulo Nazareth

Paulo Nazareth (b. 1977, Governador Valadares, Brazil) is one of Brazil's most compelling emerging artists. He lives in Belo Horizonte and works throughout the world. Nazareth has had solo exhibitions at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Museu de Arte de São Paulo; and Tanzhaus NRW, Dusseldorf. He has participated in group exhibitions at Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin; Museum Folkwang, Essen; Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon; Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin; and the New Museum, New York. He has participated in numerous biennials, including Prospect New Orleans, the Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art, and the Venice Biennale.

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About the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami (ICA Miami) is dedicated to promoting continuous experimentation in contemporary art, advancing new scholarship, and fostering the exchange of art and ideas throughout the Miami region and internationally. Through an energetic calendar of exhibitions and programs, and its collection, the ICA Miami provides an important international platform for the work of local, emerging, and under-recognized artists, and advances the public appreciation and understanding of the most innovative art of our time.

Launched in 2014, ICA Miami opened its new permanent home in Miami's Design District on December 1, 2017. The museum's central location positions it as a cultural anchor within the community and enhances its role in developing cultural literacy throughout the Miami region. The museum offers free admission, providing audiences with open, public access to artistic excellence year-round. www.icamiami.org

The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami is located at 61 NE 41st Street, Miami, Florida 33137.

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