



Miami Art Museum

**MIAMI ART MUSEUM PRESENTS THE UNITED STATES DEBUT OF
SCHNEEBETT BY ENRIQUE MARTÍNEZ CELAYA**

Installation Transports Viewer into the Final Hours of Ludwig van Beethoven's Life

Enrique Martínez Celaya: Schneebett
(October 14, 2011 – January 1, 2012)

Miami – September 20, 2011 – Miami Art Museum will present the United States debut of Enrique Martínez Celaya's *Schneebett*, a major installation inspired by Ludwig van Beethoven's convalescence and death in Vienna, Austria in 1827, originally created for the Berliner Philharmonie. **Enrique Martínez Celaya: *Schneebett*** will be on view from October 14, 2011 through January 1, 2012 in the Museum's Anchor Gallery, a space dedicated to large-scale works from the permanent collection. The exhibition opening will take place October 13, 2011 from 6 to 8pm and feature a performance by members of the Miami Symphony Orchestra.

Schneebett, which reflects on and transports the viewer into the final hours of Ludwig van Beethoven's life, was the first work of art commissioned for and exhibited at the Berliner Philharmonie since its founding in 1882. It was presented in 2004, and was shown in juxtaposition to the music of the Berliner Philharmoniker with special programming at the American Academy in Berlin. *Schneebett* was presented again in 2006 at the Museum der bildenden Künste in Leipzig where it offered a counterpoint to Max Klinger's statue of the heroic Beethoven as the creative genius. The title, *Schneebett* ("Snow-bed"), is from a poem by Holocaust survivor Paul Celan, a meditation on death. To re-animate the spirit of those celebrated exhibitions, Martínez Celaya created a new version of the installation for Miami Art Museum, which opens with a performance of Beethoven's late quartets by the Miami Symphony Orchestra. A video of the performance will be on view for the duration of the exhibition.

The three-part installation conveys Beethoven's final moments in Vienna, far away from his native Bonn. In one room is a bronze bed, its surface covered in a thick layer of frost created by an elaborate compressor system. Behind it is a large tar-and-feather painting of a dense, snow-covered forest. The entry to the room is blocked by a pile of sticks and branches. On the other side of the blocked doorway is an "ante-chamber" with a solitary chair from which a viewer can peer into the inaccessible "bedroom," and experience the environment as a memory of what was, or what might have been. *The Leipziger Volkszeitung* remarked that Beethoven's presence "literally hovers in the air as sound."

Schneebett is a promised gift to the museum from German collectors Dieter and Si Rosenkranz. "*Schneebett* is a major work by an internationally-renowned artist," said MAM Senior Curator Peter Boswell. "It will have a special resonance here in Miami since Martínez Celaya, who was born in Cuba, was inspired in part by the thought of Beethoven's passing away far from Bonn, the city of his birth, which he left at age 21 never to return."

About Enrique Martínez Celaya

Born in Habana in 1964, Enrique Martínez Celaya worked primarily as a scientist until 1992, when he decided to be an artist, an endeavor he had been pursuing since an early apprenticeship during his teenage years. Marie Louise Knott, editor of *Le Monde Diplomatique*, which dedicated an entire issue to the artist, stated, "Martínez Celaya's work reinvents the original magic of art."

Martínez Celaya studied applied physics at Cornell University and, supported by a fellowship from the Brookhaven National Laboratory, pursued a Ph.D. in Quantum Electronics at the University of California, Berkeley. As a scientist he worked on superconductivity, lasers and laser delivery systems, research for which he was issued an often-cited patent. He attended the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture in Maine and received a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His work is represented in such public collections as the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts,

Houston; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. He has been the recipient of numerous distinguished awards, including most recently, the honor of being the second Visiting Presidential Professor in the history of the University of Nebraska, and the prestigious Anderson Ranch National Artist Award. Recently, the University of Nebraska Press released *Enrique Martínez Celaya: Collected Writings & Interviews, 1990-2010*, which traces the development of the artist's thought throughout his twenty-year career as an artist, writer, and lecturer.

For a comprehensive archive that documents the making and reception of the work, please see www.schneebett.com.

Exhibition Organization and Support

Enrique Martínez Celaya: Schneebett is organized by Miami Art Museum.

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Miami Art Museum

Miami Art Museum, a modern and contemporary art museum located in downtown Miami, FL, is dedicated to collecting and exhibiting international art of the 20th and 21st centuries with an emphasis on the cultures of the Atlantic Rim—the Americas, Europe and Africa—from which the vast majority of Miami residents hail. Miami Art Museum's educational programming currently reaches more than 30,000 children and adults every year, with the largest art education program outside the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The new Miami Art Museum in Museum Park, designed by Herzog & de Meuron, is scheduled to open to the public in 2013. The new facility will provide room to showcase growing collections, expanded exhibition space to bring more world-class exhibitions to Miami-Dade County, and an educational complex. For more information about Miami Art Museum, visit miamiartmuseum.org or call 305.375.3000.

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Miami Art Museum is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners. Miami Art Museum is an accessible facility. For sign language interpretation or assistive listening devices please call Miami Art Museum's education department 305.375.4073 at least two weeks in advance. Materials in accessible format may be requested.

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RELATED PROGRAMS

Opening Reception: Artist Talk and Miami Symphony Orchestra Performance

Thursday, October 13, 2011 / 7-9pm

MAM members free / non-members \$10

Parking at 50 NW 2nd Ave. - \$5 with Museum validation

rsvp@miamiartmuseum.org or 305.375.1704

Miami Art Museum marks the U.S. debut of *Schneebett*, a major installation which reflects on and transports the viewer into the final hours of Ludwig van Beethoven's life, with an artist talk by Enrique Martínez Celaya and performance of Beethoven's late quartets by members of the Miami Symphony Orchestra. *Schneebett*, originally created for the Berliner Philharmonie in 2004, will be on view in the Museum's permanent collection installation from October 14, 2011 through January 1, 2012.

Public Tours

Sundays / 2pm

Museum tours, free with museum admission, are offered Sundays at 2pm. Museum visitors meet in the lobby. Thematic tours are offered periodically to correspond with current exhibitions.

Second Saturdays are Free for Families presented by MetLife Foundation

Second Saturdays / 1-4pm, tour at 2pm

Every second Saturday of the month, drop in to enjoy fun, interactive programs for visitors of all ages. Explore the Museum, find inspiration to create works of art and participate in hands-on activities led by education staff. Presented by MetLife Foundation. Additional support provided by Salon Miami, Inc.

MetLife Foundation

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday, 12pm - 5pm
Closed Mondays and some holidays

Admission

Free for MAM members, children under 12 & students with ID
Free admission every second Saturday
Adults \$8
Seniors \$4

Parking

\$5 (with museum validation) at 50 NW 2nd Ave.
Metro: Government Center Station.

Miami Art Museum | 101 W Flagler St., Miami, FL 33130 | 305.375.3000 | miamiartmuseum.org