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**PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM TO HOST MAJOR KEITH HARING EXHIBITION
FROM THE RUBELL FAMILY COLLECTION IN MIAMI**

Collaboration is the First of Future Projects



Keith Haring, *Untitled*, 1982
Acrylic on vinyl tarpaulin
Courtesy of Rubell Family Collection, Miami
© Haring Estate



Keith Haring; *Untitled (Against All Odds)*, 1989
Sumi ink and gouache on handmade linen paper
Courtesy of Rubell Family Collection, Miami
© Haring Estate



Keith Haring, *Untitled*, 1981
Ink on vellum
Courtesy of Rubell Family Collection, Miami
© Haring Estate

Palm Springs, CA (August 6, 2008) – The Palm Springs Art Museum announced today that it will be the exclusive venue for the major exhibition *Against All Odds: Keith Haring in the Rubell Family Collection*. Organized in collaboration with the Palm Springs Art Museum by Mark Coetzee, Director of the Rubell Family Collection and adjunct curator for the exhibition, it will run from November 8, 2008 to January 18, 2009. This marks the first of other future partnerships between the two museums involving a range of initiatives.

The exhibition presents work Haring produced after the period of his early mural and graffiti art. Included in the exhibition are 70 paintings, drawings and one sculpture spanning from works he created for his first gallery exhibition in 1982 to others made closer to his death in 1990 at the age of 31. The exhibition also includes 33 works by other artists who were important friends and artistic peers in Haring's life, such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Francesco Clemente, George Condo, Tseng Kwong Chi, and Andy Warhol. Contextualized by the art of his associates, Haring's colorful and playful, yet equally powerful, acidic work records the lively engagement of art and culture that represented a key aspect of the New York art scene of the 1980s.

“Keith Haring began a very close relationship with the Rubell family early in his career and the Rubell Family Collection was able to acquire one of the most significant

collections of Haring's work in the world," said Mark Coetzee. "Drawn exclusively from our collection, the exhibition celebrates a new and exciting relationship between the Palm Springs Art Museum and the Rubell Family Collection."

"We are honored to be the exclusive venue for this exhibition from the great Rubell Family Collection," said Steven Nash, Executive Director of the Palm Springs Art Museum. "The Rubell family has an amazing collection of work by Haring and his friends. Their staff in consultation with ours have put together an excellent exhibition that we are privileged to make available to west coast audiences."

Education programs scheduled with the exhibition include a series of films about the artists, including *The Universe of Keith Haring* [November 9] and *Conversations with Jean-Michel Basquiat* [November 23]. The museum's Teen Art Group will also work with members of Gay Associated Youth to create an in-gallery collaborative experience centered on viewing the works in the exhibition and responding through writing and personal interaction as a means of empowerment.

Additionally, the art museum will offer a series of lectures and private tours of the exhibition to art students of Palm Desert's College of the Desert. A panel discussion at the opening night reception will be held with the Rubell Family and members of museum staff, centering on the Rubells' history of collecting and especially their involvement with Keith Haring. An audio tour of the exhibition will be available on an iPod platform. And on January 6, Mark Coetzee will present a formal lecture elaborating upon themes established in the exhibition.

A fully illustrated catalogue for the exhibition will be available, with introductory essay by Mark Coetzee. Co-published by the RFC and Palm Springs Art Museum, it will be the first publication to examine in depth the full range of works by Haring in the Rubell collection.

About the Exhibition

The deep representation of Haring's work in the Rubell Family Collection allows the assemblage of an exhibition with an unconventional perspective. It strives to deconstruct the traditional view of Haring as a Pop artist who created memorable but somewhat superficial graphic icons in favor of an exploration of Haring as an accomplished draftsman concerned with line and mark-making as a metaphor and practice to address weighty themes that are too often overlooked in his art, including environmental destruction, consumerism and capitalism, poverty, religious dogma, aids, violence, and racism. What emerges is a recalibrated picture of an artist strongly engaged with the social and political issues of his era. Preeminent in the exhibition are works in which linear qualities and expressiveness are dominant over color and other compositional elements. Similar graphic concerns can be seen in certain of the works by Haring's friends, and also apparent are parallelisms of social and humanistic subject matter. Haring attempted to bring different distressful elements of his era into focus and educate us about our social and natural environments. In one of the works in the

exhibition he wrote, “These drawings are about the Earth we inherited and the dismal task of trying to inherit it – against all odds.”

About the Rubell Family Collection

The Rubell Family Collection is one of the leading collections of contemporary art in the world. Started in 1964, soon after Don and Mera Rubell were married, the collecting group expanded some years later when their children Jason and Jennifer, then quite young, joined their parents in buying and collecting art. Recently Jason’s wife Michelle joined the collecting team alongside her husband. The family’s extensive collection of works dates from the 1960s to the present and is made available to the public through rotating curated exhibitions organized by the Contemporary Arts Foundation in Miami, Florida.

The collection is housed and exhibited in a converted 45,000-square-foot former Drug Enforcement Agency (D.E.A.) confiscated-goods warehouse. Open to the public since 1996, the collection features rotating exhibitions of work by such prominent artists as Maurizio Cattelan, Marlene Dumas, Keith Haring, Damien Hirst, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons, Paul McCarthy, Takashi Murakami, Neo Rauch, Charles Ray, Gregor Schneider, Cindy Sherman and Luc Tuymans. The museum features 27 galleries, a research library with over 30,000 volumes, a film and lecture theatre, a new media room, a bookstore, a gift shop and a sculpture garden.

About the Palm Springs Art Museum

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant E. Stewart Williams-designed building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features exciting exhibitions of contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian art in spacious galleries. It features two sculpture gardens, stimulating lectures and educational programs for all ages, and offers diverse performances at its Annenberg Theater. The Art Museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for adult students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 17 and under. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit www.psmuseum.org.

THIS EXHIBITION IS ORGANIZED BY ADJUNCT CURATOR MARK COETZEE, DIRECTOR, THE RUBELL FAMILY COLLECTION, MIAMI IN CONJUNCTION WITH PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM. PRESENTING SPONSORS: HELENE & LOU GALEN ART EXHIBITION FUND. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE MUSEUM’S CONTEMPORARY ART COUNCIL, SOTHEBY’S, HEATHER JAMES FINE ART, AND DONNA & CARGILL MACMILLAN.

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