

**The Betsy-South Beach Announces Exhibitions Opening for Art Week Miami Beach
to include work by Iké Udé, Michael Halsband, Pete Turner, Andy Sweet,
Ricardo Cavolo, Robert Zuckerman, and Sevan Bicakci**

The Betsy Hotel (thebetsyhotel.com) announces **FACING OURSELVES: PAST AND PRESENT**, curated by The Betsy's co-owner, Lesley Goldwasser in 25,000 sq ft of exhibition space. The show opens on December 2, 2019, with a property wide opening on December 6 at 9 PM that includes a poetry reading by Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco.

FACING OURSELVES: PAST AND PRESENT for Art Week Miami Beach 2019 @ The Betsy Hotel includes work by:

- Ike Ude (1962)– images from the Sartorial Anarchist, *including a portrait of curator, Lesley Goldwasser.*
 - Ude focuses on issues of representation and construction of identity.
- Michael Halsband (1956) – images from the Basquiat/Warhol series, and more.
 - The world's leading portrait artist curates a collection from his storied career
- Pete Turner (1934-2017) – images from a collection called The Color of Jazz
 - Turner was recognized as a pioneer in color photography.
- Andy Sweet (1953-1982)– images from The Last Resort collection; words by Inaugural Poet, Richard Blanco (b. 1968)
 - Sweet immortalized the life of Holocaust survivors on Miami Beach.
- Andrew Kaufman's archival presentation about Muhamed Ali's as a Miami Beach Champ
 - Kaufman developed and compiled this collection by iconic historic peer artists.
- Sevan Bicakci (1972) –sculpture within gemstones from Turkey's most famous artisan/craftsman.
 - Bicakci produces signature one-of-a-kind wearable Byzantine and Ottoman style works of art.
 - One of his iconic works (featured in the show) is an inverted self-portrait carved into a ring.)

In addition, throughout The Betsy's hallways, and stairways, the hotel will feature the celebrity and art photographs of Robert Zuckerman, and a collection of more than 250 seldom seen images of The Beatles and Rolling Stones from the Bob Bonis Collection. Illustrations by Ricardo Cavolo from his collection, 101 Musicians to Listen to Before You Die are presented in 26 light boxes. A new permanent installation of iconic Andy Sweet images will be installed in one of the hotel elevators, mirroring and remembering guests who might have frequented elevators at The Betsy Ross Hotel in earlier years – when Miami Beach was a post war haven for Holocaust survivors enjoying their golden years in sun and sand.

In the breezeway between Ocean Drive and Collins are The Betsy's two public art installations – The Betsy Orb and The Betsy Poetry Rail. forfreedom.org, founded by Hank Willis Thomas and Eric Gottesman, will be projecting a collection called 'It is a Miracle that We Are Standing Here' onto The Betsy Orb from sundown to 11 PM, December 4 through 8. And finally, dog-loving guests are invited to an underground gallery located behind the hotel check-in desk to see images by global dog photographer, Carlos Andres Cruz, that immortalize The Betsy's Canine Executive Officers, Katie and Betsy.

Dr. Deborah Willis, MacArthur Genius Winner and Chair of the Photography Department at New York University will host two art salons is planned during Art Week Miami Beach, to include conversations with participating artists Ike Ude, Michael Halsband, Ed Cristin and Andrew Kaufman – to take place at 2 PM on December 5 and 6, 2019. Additionally, two invitation only round-tables will feature conversations about the links between artisan craft and fine art, as exemplified in the work of featured sculptor Sevan Bicakci. Artists Ike Ude and Michael Halsband will all be in residence, in partnership with The Betsy Writers Room, the hotel's ongoing artist in residence program (thebetsywritersroom.com).

ABOUT THE BETSY-SOUTH BEACH

The Betsy-South Beach is a luxury boutique hotel located on Ocean Drive, with a globally regarded photography exhibitions program, as well as many other arts and culture programs. Over the past ten years, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and charitable community conscience, and is now the home of both the O, Miami Poetry Festival and the Miami Classical Music Festival. The Betsy is the only Forbes' 4 Star, 4 Diamond, AAA-rated Boutique Hotel in Florida, and is consistently rated one of the top literary hotels in the world (CNN, USA TODAY, Wall Street Journal). Co-owner, Lesley Goldwasser curates the Exhibitions program at The Betsy Hotel. The hotel is located at 1440 Ocean Drive, in Miami Beach, and is family owned and operated. Jonathan Plutzik is Chairman. Zachary Plutzik is Managing Director. Lesley Goldwasser Plutzik is curator of visual art and ambient music. Deborah Plutzik Briggs is VP for Arts – and is the property media-contact for arts, culture, and community @ The Betsy Hotel – dbriggs@thebetsyhotel.com. Betsy@jpublicrelations.com for more information.
