

THE BASS

THE BASS MUSEUM OF ART
2100 Collins Avenue
Miami Beach, FL 33139
www.thebass.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BASS OPENS TO THE PUBLIC ON OCTOBER 8, 2017

Opening season to include solo exhibitions by Ugo Rondinone, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Mika Rottenberg in newly transformed space, with an accompanying series of opening programming and events



MIAMI BEACH, FL (May 23, 2017) - The Bass, Miami Beach's contemporary art museum, will open its newly transformed space to the public on Sunday, October 8, 2017 with solo exhibitions by Ugo Rondinone and Pascale Marthine Tayou. A self-titled solo exhibition by Mika Rottenberg will open in December, aligning with Art Basel Miami Beach. In addition, for October, a large gallery will be dedicated to a display of recent contemporary acquisitions and gifts to The Bass' permanent collection. These exhibitions debut following a major renovation of the museum, which has increased programmable space by nearly 50 percent within the existing footprint, creating a new internal structure with four additional galleries, a museum shop, café and designated education facility.

"Our vision for The Bass has always expanded beyond our walls to the city of Miami Beach. We are delighted that our transformed space will allow us to offer an enhanced experience to the visitors and residents who have long supported us throughout the years, as well as national and international first-time guests," says Executive Director and Chief Curator Silvia Karman Cubiñá. "The three exhibitions we chose to inaugurate the new space this fall reflect The Bass' commitment to presenting international contemporary art by established and mid-career artists. We are proud to present Ugo Rondinone's solo exhibition *good evening beautiful blue* and newly commissioned work by Pascale Marthine Tayou, as well as to debut several pivotal works by Mika Rottenberg in the United States."

George Lindemann, President of The Bass Board of Directors, says, "As Miami Beach's contemporary art museum, we are fortunate to have the support of the Miami Beach Commission, who make art and culture a priority in our city. More than just a building renovation, The Bass' transformation brings the physical museum to the level of its curatorial ambition. The museum's walls hold a historic legacy as the first public exhibition space in South Florida, and a bright future as the platform for presenting the most intriguing and inspiring contemporary artists of today and tomorrow."

UGO RONDINONE, *good evening beautiful blue*
On view October 8, 2017 – February 19, 2018

Spanning the entirety of the museum's newly designed second floor, *good evening beautiful blue* by Ugo Rondinone is a part of a major multi-institution retrospective comprising works that span three decades of Rondinone's

practice, from the late 1990s to the present. From poetic installations in public spaces to life-size drawings, Rondinone's work balances on the edge of euphoria and depression. The exhibition centers on the work, *vocabulary of solitude* (2014), an installation of 45 life-size clown figures, each engaged in a different everyday activity, such as sleeping, daydreaming, waking up, sitting and running. Marking its first appearance in the U.S. in nearly two decades, a separate gallery presents an immersive six-channel video installation titled *It's late...* (1999–2000), displaying slow-motion loops of people doing various isolated mundane tasks. On view in the third space, *clockwork for oracles II* (2008) is a multi-wall installation comprised of 52-mirrored windows (one for each week in the year) set against a backdrop of whitewashed pages from a local newspaper.

Ugo Rondinone (b. 1964, Brunnen, Switzerland) is a renowned mixed-media artist who lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include: *let's start this day again* at Contemporary Art Center (Cincinnati, United States), *giorni d'oro + notti d'argento* at Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma (Rome, Italy), *Seven Magic Mountains* organized by Art Production Fund and the Nevada Museum of Art (Nevada, United States), *vocabulary of solitude* at Museum Boijmans van Beuningen (Rotterdam, Netherlands), *i love john giorno* at Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France), *artists and poets* at Vienna Secession (Vienna, Austria), *breathe walk die* at Rockbund Art Museum (Shanghai, China), *human nature* organized by Public Art Fund in Rockefeller Plaza, (New York, United States), *we run through a desert on burning feet, all of us are glowing our faces look twisted* at Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, United States), *thank you silence* at M - Museum Leuven (Leuven, Belgium). His work is in the collections of MoMA (New York, ICA (Boston), SFMOMA (San Francisco), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), The Bass (Miami Beach) and Dallas Museum of Art, among others.

PASCALE MARTHINE TAYOU, *Beautiful*

On view October 8, 2017 – April 2, 2018

Born in Cameroon and based in Ghent, Belgium, Pascale Marthine Tayou will bring his itinerant practice to Miami Beach for his exhibition, *Beautiful*, creating an organic and collaboratively formed presentation of work made in the last decade. Visitors will navigate between stacked arabic pots, *Colonne Pascale* (2012), and encounter Tayou's colorful *Fresque de Craies* (2015), constructed of hundreds of chalk pieces arranged beneath West African *colon* tourist figures, gold foil, and plastic eggs. Tayou, whose practice spans media and subject matter, is an alchemist of sorts. His work fluidly transforms and recasts the viewer's understanding of materials, objects, and narratives. Mediating between cultures, while setting man and nature in ambivalent relation to each other, his works are created in the knowledge that they are products of social, cultural, or political constructions. Tayou's work is deliberately mobile and heterogeneous, elusive of pre-established schema.

Beautiful will also include an intervention with the museum's permanent collection where Tayou presents his work alongside his own selection of objects from The Bass' founding collection. The dialogue between contemporary artworks and objects from the past speak to his overall practice and material considerations for incorporating objects encountered by chance or from his immediate surroundings into the installation. Further, Tayou's concern for the decolonization of histories and territories aligns with the international and transient nature of Miami Beach and the impact tourism continues to have in shaping the city. A newly commissioned, site-specific work by Tayou called *Welcome Wall* (2017), composed of animated LED signs that read "welcome" in over 70 languages, broadcasts a message of profound inclusion from the lobby of the museum.

Pascale Marthine Tayou (b. 1966, Yaoundé, Cameroon) lives and works between Belgium and Cameroon. Tayou has contributed to many major international exhibitions and art events, such as documenta 11 (2002) and the Venice Biennale (2005 and 2009). He has had solo shows at Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma (Rome, Italy, 2004 and 2013), Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (Ghent, Belgium, 2004), Malmö Konsthall (Malmö, Sweden, 2010), Mudam (Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, 2011), Kunsthaus Bregenz (Bregenz, Austria, 2014), Fowler Museum at UCLA (Los Angeles, United States, 2014), the Serpentine Sackler Gallery (London, United Kingdom, 2015), Bozar (Brussels, Belgium, 2015), Musée de l'Homme (Paris, France, 2015) and CAC Malaga (Malaga, Spain, 2016).

MIKA ROTTENBERG

On view December 7, 2017 – April 30, 2018

Mika Rottenberg's self-titled solo exhibition presents a selection of work from various series created within the past seven years. Rottenberg's work focuses on elucidating the mechanics of late-stage, global capitalism by way of absurd and poetic comparisons. The exhibition occupies all galleries comprising the historic building of the museum. Works on view will include *NoNoseKnows (Artist Variant)* (2015), a video and sculptural installation that

combines fact and fiction, documenting a group of Chinese laborers who harvest pearls from oysters in Zhuji, China, empty high rises near Shanghai and a set built in the artist studio in New York. The work first debuted at the 56th Venice Biennale (2015). In a parallel gallery, a new variant of the artist's recent commission for Skulptur Projekte Münster (opening June 2017) titled *Cosmic Generator*, will punctuate the space alongside *Seven* (2011), a work commissioned for Performa 11 (New York) and produced in collaboration with Jon Kessler. *Seven* will be activated by performances throughout the duration of the exhibition (schedule forthcoming).

Mika Rottenberg (b. 1976, Buenos Aires, Argentina) currently lives and works in New York. Rottenberg's work has been exhibited internationally at: Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France), the Venice Biennale (2015), the Israel Museum (Jerusalem, Israel), Magasin III (Stockholm, Sweden), FRAC Languadoc-Roussillon (Montpellier, Canada), Nottingham Contemporary (Nottingham, United Kingdom), M - Museum Leuven (Leuven, Belgium), De Appel Arts Centre, (Amsterdam, Netherlands), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco, United States), La Maison Rouge (Paris, France), KW Institute for Contemporary Art (Berlin, Germany), and MoMA PS1 Contemporary Art Center (New York, United States).

THE BUILDING

Breaking ground in 2015, The Bass embarked on a \$12 million project to transform the visitor experience and significantly increase programmable space. From a more dynamic interior to a new visual identity including name, logo and website, The Bass unveils a newly transformed space dedicated to more ambitious exhibitions and robust public programs. David Gauld serves as principal architect alongside Arata Isozaki, architect of the 2001 expansion. The renovation expands the internal structure to create an almost 50 percent increase in programmable space, including four new galleries, a museum store and café, and the Creativity Center, a designated, multi-generational education facility to better serve expanded programs and increased attendance.

ABOUT THE ARCHITECTS

The Bass has reengaged Arata Isozaki of Tokyo as the design consultant for the project. Isozaki was the architect of the first museum expansion, in 2001, which added a new addition of 16,000 square feet to the original historic structure. Other major projects by Isozaki include the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, the Team Disney Building in Orlando, the Guggenheim Museum SoHo, Tokyo University of the Arts, the National Cultural-Art Museum Complex in Kiev, Ukraine and the Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha.

David Gauld, who was an integral part of Isozaki's design team for the 2001 museum expansion, is the principal architect of the current transformation. Gauld has collaborated with Isozaki on several notable projects, including the Brooklyn Museum of Art Auditorium and West Wing Galleries, the Guggenheim Museum SoHo, and the Center of Science and Industry in Columbus, Ohio.

ABOUT THE BASS

The Bass is Miami Beach's contemporary art museum. Founded in 1964 by the City of Miami Beach, the museum was established after the donation of a private collection by residents John and Johanna Bass. The museum opened in what was formerly the Miami Beach Public Library and Art Center, a 1930s Art Deco building designed by Russell Pancoast, which already had a rich history on Miami Beach as the first public exhibition space for art in South Florida. In 2001, the museum conducted its first major renovation, designed by Tokyo-based architect Arata Isozaki, adding a new wing and second level to house a total of 16,000 square feet of exhibition space. In 2015, The Bass embarked on its current transformation. It reopens to the public on October 8, 2017.

Recognized for organizing the first solo museum exhibitions in the United States of international artists such as Erwin Wurm, The Bass also presents major exhibitions by influential artists such as Ei Anatsui, Isaac Julien, Eve Sussman and Piotr Ukiński. The exhibition program encompasses a wide range of media and artistic points of view, bringing fresh perspectives to the diverse cultural context of Miami Beach. The Bass is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. For more information, please visit www.thebass.org, or follow The Bass on social media at www.facebook.com/TheBassMoA or Twitter and Instagram @TheBassMoA.

SUPPORT

The Bass recognizes the generous public support and private donations that have made the transformation possible, including a \$7.5 million grant from The City of Miami Beach, a \$1 million gift from the Lindemann family, a \$1 million gift from the Cejas family, an anonymous gift of an undisclosed amount, two grants from The State of

Florida totaling over \$700,000, and a total of \$500,000 in other donations.

Mika Rottenberg is sponsored by: The Artis Grant Program, Funding Arts Network, and Citizens Interested in Arts, Inc. (CIA).

PRESS PREVIEW

The museum will host a press preview open-house on Monday, October 2, 2017 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. To access press materials, please visit www.thebass.org/press. To register for the press preview kindly RSVP to victoria.kung@suttonpr.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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| <p>Thursday, October 5, 2017
7 – 11 p.m.</p> | <p>The Bass' Grand Re-Opening Party, open to members at the \$250-Affiliate level and above. Members at the \$1,000-Benefactor level and above are invited to a pre-event cocktail hour from 6-7 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to view the transformed museum and inaugural exhibitions while enjoying celebratory drinks and culinary delights.</p> |
| <p>Saturday, October 7, 2017
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> | <p>Member Preview Day, open to all museum members, all levels. The day will be filled with special programming for members at all levels including, tours, lectures, hands on activities and other surprises along the way.</p> |
| <p>Sunday, October 8, 2017
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.</p> | <p>Opening Day Celebration, open to the public. A celebratory ribbon cutting will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. with remarks from The Bass' Board of Directors, special guests and civic leaders. The entire community is invited to attend and share in this momentous occasion and celebration. Doors to the museum open at 10 a.m. and admission to the museum is free for the duration of the day.</p> |

To become a member and for more information about these events, please visit www.thebass.org/membership, or contact *Daphna Starr* at membership@thebass.org.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

<p>Ugo Rondinone, <i>good evening beautiful blue</i> Pascale Marthine Tayou, <i>Beautiful</i> Mika Rottenberg</p>	<p>October 8, 2017 – February 19, 2018 October 8, 2017 – April 2, 2018 December 7, 2017 – April 30, 2018</p>
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