

SOUTH FLORIDA'S  
FIRST  
ART + LIGHT EXHIBITION

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CORAL GABLES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12 – MARCH 14, 2021

ARTWORKS: 24/7

ART PROJECTIONS: WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY AT SUNSET-10 PM

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**#illuminatecoralgables**

<http://illuminatecoralgables.org/>



# ABOUT



The City of Coral Gables is turning on the lights. *Illuminate Coral Gables* (ICG), a new public art initiative focusing on the intentional use of light and technology to transform public art by day into magical and mysterious work at night, will be on view Feb 12- March 14, 2021. Curated by chief curator Lance M. Fung with Catherine Cathers, Jennifer Easton and Rosie Gordon-Wallace, ICG, has been created for specific outdoor locations throughout Coral Gables. ICG's eight projects include video projections, sculpture and art installations by a stellar group of local, national and international artists including Kiki Smith and Cai Guo-Qiang. Seven of the artworks are new site-specific commissions. "It's such an honor to be working with an amazing group of artists to bring relevant, thought-provoking and meaningful art to the general public through ICG," said Fung. "The commitment, vision and passion of these creatives are only matched by my dedicated and professional colleagues on the ICG team."

ICG's educational component, through a partnership with Florida International University's Art and Art History Department and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools is robust. Children are invited to participate in ICG through online art making workshops and competitions with hopes of having in person activities next year.

# 2021 EXHIBIT LOCATIONS



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ILLUMINATECORALGABLES.ORG  
#ILLUMINATECORALGABLES



*Blue Night* depicts 42 suspended elements created by Kiki Smith. The mirrored renderings will reflect light through a transparent blue background; holographic vinyl denotes the stars that comprise the actual constellations. The artist was inspired by the constellation drawings from the late 17th century by Johannes Hevelius and others.

Smith is embracing augmented reality (AR) as an artistic tool. Upon gazing at her skyscape, viewers are invited to view an AR element through their own devices. Ghosted images of her works will appear on screen followed by the stars and asterism that compose each animal constellation. A special feature will allow visitors to bring the image up to the sky or to the ground for selfies by moving their device while on Giralda Plaza.

# KIKI SMITH

## ***Blue Night, 2021***

- Giralda Plaza

“In ancient times it was believed that the sky was somewhere between heaven and earth,” said Smith. “It’s great to be able to present light, hope, and joy for so many to experience.”

Coral Gables is creating a printed and free downloadable version of a *Blue Night* coloring book of Smith’s drawings. As *Illuminate Coral Gables’* education and promotional partners, the Coral Gables Community Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Greater Miami Visitors Convention Bureau will share the link for the public to download. Additionally, local restaurants will have coloring pages for patrons of all ages to enjoy.

This work was sponsored by the City of Coral Gables, FL.

# CAI GUO-QIANG

## *Fireflies, 2017-2021*

-Downtown Coral Gables

When invited to curate and produce *Illuminate Coral Gables*, Chief curator Lance Fung made two immediate calls: Cai Guo-Qiang and Kiki Smith. Both art luminaries agreed to participate. “*Fireflies* is one of the most successful and historic public artworks I have been a part of. It is about bringing people together, sharing stories, reinforcing the value of community, all while being a deeply conceptual artwork by embracing different cultures and the actual general public it is meant to serve,” states Fung.

Twenty-seven American-made pedicabs are transformed into kinetic and interactive sculptures through 1000 handmade silk Chinese lanterns and the brilliance of Cai Guo-Qiang. These interactive sculptures are visible in the evening and in all cases do what great art should do – provide an experience. Although the viewer from afar or rider from within may have varying interpretations, *Fireflies* maintains the impossible balance of the spectacle and



Jeff Fusco Photography © 2017

introspection. Coral Gables’ unique downtown setting creates a memorable backdrop for the roaming fireflies that take visitors for free rides to rediscover themselves and the city they call home.

The true test for success is not the accolades of the art critics but rather the general public who encounter public art. The overwhelming recognition of *Fireflies*’ uniqueness and accessibility in providing a childlike sense of joy establish this ephemeral experience as the benchmark of what great public art should do.

Cai Guo-Qiang’s *Fireflies* was commissioned by the Association for Public Art with Fung Collaboratives and was first presented in Philadelphia in 2017. The project was curated by Lance M. Fung for the centennial celebration of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Major support was received from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

# CARLOS ESTÉVEZ

## *Urban Universes, 2021*

- Coral Gables City Hall:  
405 Biltmore Way



*Urban Universes* is the most exciting project of my career. The work consists of the animation of various passers-by or characters that I portray in my paintings. This work pays homage to the City of Coral Gables and its inhabitants. Coral Gables is one of the oldest and both culturally and historically rich cities in South Florida, especially the street of Miracle Mile and its surroundings. The heart of the city is a center of leisure for locals and tourists. My work will be projected on the entire City Hall facade. The images will be imaginary representations of people passing by, walking, and conversing amongst themselves, projecting their goals and dreams, just like the people that inhabit this city. These people are portraits of different individuals that come across one another fortuitously. I wanted to imagine the inner world of people, their identities, and emotions, which I translate with lines and colors. Each person that walks by the city will see their reflection in some of the characters in this piece, identify with the characters will make them feel included, and also feel like a part of this city.

*Urban Universes* is the work that I am presenting for the Illuminate Coral Gables exhibition. It is orchestrated by curator Lance Fung whose vision is to take the artworks of individual artists to an urban community. It is going to be a fascinating experience that reverses the ordinary dynamic of art. Rather than going into museums, galleries, or art institutions, the art will find and amuse you on the streets of your city.

- Carlos Estévez



# DAVID GUMBS

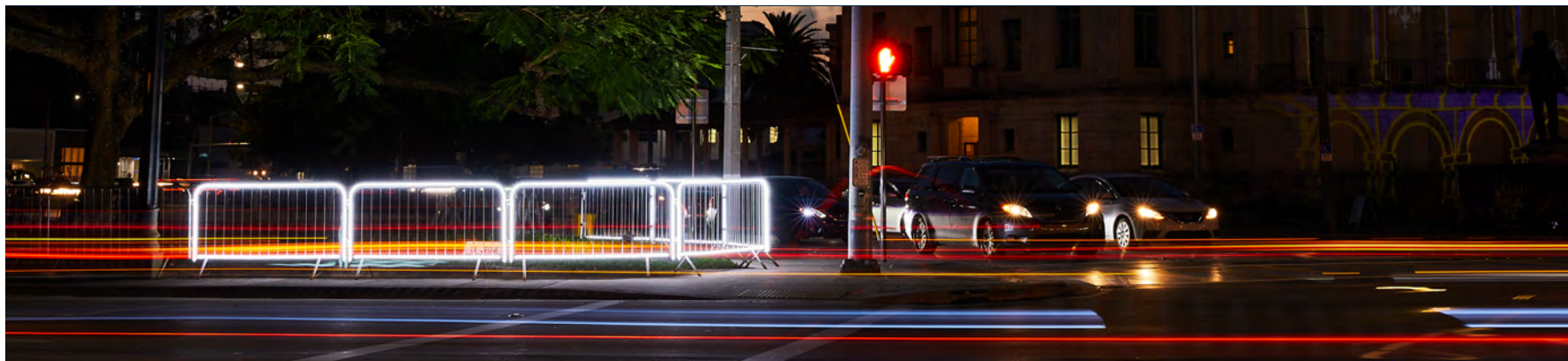
## *Echos of Souls, 2021*

- 2655 S. Le Jeune Rd

## *Echos of my skin, 2021*

- 280 Miracle Mile

David Gumbs's diptych interactive video installations will speak about his Black Creole and French identities, environmental flux, and global migrations. By presenting two large-scale' real-time video projections on the Davidson's building and on the Actor's Playhouse. Coral Gables' street and viewer's movements will trigger random computer-generated animations and patterns inspired by David Gumbs's Caribbean cultural, fauna and flora heritage. These new media innovative videos will be the bridge between nature, science, technology, cultural heritage, and art. Beyond their colorful aesthetics David Gumbs's work is a token to lost souls due to the Covid pandemic, and to social injustices.



Rudy Duboué Photography © 2021

# ANTONIA WRIGHT + RUBEN MILLARES

## *Yes/No, 2021*

- various corners in Downtown Coral Gables

At this historic moment where our country has erupted protesting racial injustice, the image of the barricade has become ubiquitous on our streets. Previously an innocuous symbol demarcating “no access,” barricades were mainly associated with providing safety and crowd control at celebratory events like parades or creating a queue for sporting and music events. In the current political environment in the U.S. where the right to a peaceful protest is being threatened, we believe a metal barrier conjures anxiety and is used as architecture to separate and control bodies in public space.

Using barricades as a symbol of our global climate of resistance, we offer our new work, a site-specific sculptural light installation entitled *Yes/No*. By lighting the barricades being used by the Illuminate Coral Gables exhibition throughout, we aim to highlight the ubiquitous nature of these objects and their ambiguous intent to protect and control. By transforming a utilitarian object into a light work, the glowing objects will create a line throughout the streets of the city, evoking the divide and connection between our bodies.

- Ruben Millares & Antonia Wright

# JOSEPH CLAYTON MILLS

## *The Passage, 2021*

- 200 Miracle Mile & 257 Miracle Mile



Miracle Mile is a high-end shopping district but has also played an important role in shaping the identity of the city. As I learned more about the history of Coral Gables, I saw how the street has acted as a public forum—a place for celebrations, parades, and political protests, but also shopping, working and simply living side by side.

The glass storefront windows along Miracle Mile reflect and frame each individual who passes, acting as a kind of mirror held up to the passing life of the city. I wanted to evoke how that parade of passersby connects individual lives to a larger community, including not only Coral Gables but also the surrounding neighborhoods, and stretching beyond the present into both the past and the future.

When I began to explore the history of Coral Gables with the help of local librarians, curators, archivists, and members of the community, I soon discovered that it was important to include other neighborhoods in that story, such as Liberty City, Little Haiti, and Overtown, and to bring images from those communities into dialog with the history of Miracle Mile. I uncovered many wonderful resources, such as the Florida Memory Project, the Digital Library of the Caribbean, and the archives at the History Miami Research Center, Miami Dade College, and the University of Miami, that preserved and made available remarkable documents, photographs, and films. Drawing on these materials, I selected, reconfigured, and altered the footage I discovered to construct a dynamic portrait of the community—people moving through the street, together across time.

My hope is that these shifting and unstable traces of the city's past and present will raise implicit questions of visibility, opacity, and representation. Who is shown, and who is not? What is remembered, and what is forgotten? Who is reflected, and who disappears?

-Joseph Clayton Mills



# JONATHAN PEREZ WITH FIU ART STUDENTS:

**Ari Temkin, Emily Silverio-Williams,  
Heather Kostrna, Jennifer Hudock,  
L'nique Noel, Maria Daniela Maldonado,  
Tara Remmen**

## ***You Are Here, 2021***

-Coral Gables Museum: 285 Aragon Ave.  
(east side)

*You Are Here* is offered as a way to think through the entangled connections between history, geology, ecology, and climate as they relate to the west-facing wall of what is currently called the Coral Gables Museum. We wanted to offer our collective perspective on the history of South Florida by tracing connections between seemingly disparate historical events. We wanted this piece to authentically reflect our individual skills and interests as artists. At the same time, it was important that these individual threads be tied together in such a way that our several individual points of view became one collective perspective. This video essay represents our collaborative research, reflection, interpretation, and above all, hope.

- Jonathan Perez with FIU Students: Ari Temkin, Emily Silverio-Williams, Heather Kostrna, Jennifer Hudock,  
L'nique Noel, Maria Daniela Maldonado, Tara Remmen

# SANDRA RAMOS

## *90 Miles: De-construction, 2021*

-Salzedo St.



I created and have re-imaged *90 Miles* over the past ten years through several iterations such as: *90 Miles Habana/Miami* at the Museum of Fine Arts, during the 11th Havana Biennial and *50 Miles Venice/The Balkans* at the Archaeological Museum of Venice as part of the 55th Biennial in 2013.

*90 Miles* is an interactive work that invites the viewer to ascend the bridge and travel, illusively in a few minutes, over the waters of the Florida Strait connecting the two; so-close and yet-so-far extremes, of a complicated and variable mental geography that embodies the critical sociopolitical relationship between the USA and Cuba. This work was originally conceived in 2011 during the process of rapprochement and normalization of USA - Cuba relations. *90 Miles* was a work that celebrated the opening, establishing this bridge of hope between the populations and families of both countries.

Unfortunately, ten years later we are in a different situation, separated more than ever due to the political situation and COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions. It is also a big challenge because I feel that the artwork needs to respond to the current difficult and historical moment we are in. For this reason, it was imperative that I reinterpret and deconstruct my installation again by turning the bridge back into a representation of utopia versus a functional bridge. The new iteration of a divided and impassable bridge through its isolated and fragmented elements aims to provide my feelings of frustration and sadness. I look forward to reinstalling a metaphorical bridge over blue waters linking beautiful cities, connecting family and friends with images of clouds and dreams. I hope one day soon we can all rebuild and walk again.

- Sandra Ramos

# SANDRA RAMOS

## ***Series: Perpetual movement of the Cuban Worm between two shores, 2018***

- Hotel Colonnade: 180 Aragon Ave  
(Located in the lobby)



The kinetic installation: *Perpetual movement of the worm between two shores*, updates the use of suitcases as an artistic object mutated in travel Duffel Bags, called worms in Cuban slang. This gives the object with a double interpretation since the word worm defines in Cuban slang the type of soft great capacity luggage used more recently to carry large amounts of merchandises. But also, worm is the derogatory way in which the government and the official Cuban press have named the Cuban emigrants who settled in the United States and other countries since the beginning of the revolution and during all these years have been considered opponents of the regime. The rotating installation invokes the baggage carousel at airports. In the upper part of which we see the aerial views of the cities of Miami and Havana, dynamically intertwined by the constant mobility of Cuban migration to the USA and the eternal deprivations suffered by the population on the island.

The logo for ILLUMINATE CORAL GABLES. The word "ILLUMINATE" is written in a tall, thin, outlined font, stacked vertically. Below it, "CORAL GABLES" is written in a smaller, solid, sans-serif font. The entire logo is centered within a circular area defined by concentric dotted lines.

CORAL GABLES

## SUPPORT NOW

To become a sponsor of *Illuminate Coral Gables* is to play an active role in the reimagining of our City.

*Illuminate Coral Gables* is grateful for the support we have received from so many local businesses, charitable foundations, and individuals. We will forever remember the critical role you have played in our inaugural year.

Please consider joining our sponsors by contributing a small Patron Gift in the amount of \$2,000. These additional funds will allow us to make ICG even brighter and your support will be recognized on our website and any press, social media and print advertising possible.

**Please call Co-Founder Patrick O'Connell at 305-742-6932  
or email [info@illuminatecoralgables.org](mailto:info@illuminatecoralgables.org)**



# VOLUNTEER NOW

We are pleased to have a robust volunteer program for all ages over 18 years. Whether you want to ride a Fireflies pedicab, help educate our visitors, or guide people to each of the artwork sites, please contact our illustrious Volunteer coordinator:

**Nicolas Cabrera:** [Fireflies@illuminatecoralgables.org](mailto:Fireflies@illuminatecoralgables.org).

Volunteer opportunities for ICG 2022 will include planning and administration support, working with our visiting artists, etc. We will be able to reduce the age of our volunteers to supervised children groups and clubs too.

