



ARTiculating Sustainability: Resilience in the Climate Crisis?
2019 IKT Congress Symposium
Sunday, April 14, 2019, 11:00am-2:00pm
Pérez Art Museum Miami, 1103 Biscayne Blvd, Miami, FL

IKT, the International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art, hosts its annual gathering in the U.S. for the first time in the 45-year history of the organization. “ARTiculating Sustainability: Resilience in the Climate Crisis?”, the main public event of the IKT annual Congress, brings together diverse artists, curators, and writers to consider the role that art and visual culture can play in changing public perception of the pressing climate change issues. It is organized by IKT Miami Executive Committee Member, Susan Caraballo.

The **opening remarks** will be presented by artist **Xavier Cortada**, who also serves as the Chair for Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs. Cortada’s practice is oriented toward social engagement and the environment, and he often collaborates with scientists. Currently, he is working with scientists at Hubbard Brook LTER on a water cycle visualization project driven by real-time data collected at a watershed in New Hampshire’s White Mountains.

The **keynote address** will be given by **T.J. Demos**, an art historian, critic, and curator who is internationally recognized for his study of how artists and activists negotiate crises associated with globalization, including biopolitical conflicts around ecology, sustainability, and climate change. Drawing from ideas presented in his book *Decolonizing Nature: Contemporary Art and the Politics of Ecology* (Sternberg Press, 2016), Demos will investigate how the concern for the current ecological crisis has entered the field of contemporary art. He uses a creative range of critical resources to consider the intersection of economic, socio-political, and environmental crises. Demos is currently a Professor in the Department of the History of Art and Visual Culture at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Founder and Director of its Center for Creative Ecologies.

Three Miami-based artists working with topics related to these issues will introduce their work in short presentations that reveal the spectrum of creative resilience in South Florida. The three artists are **Cara Despain**, **Felice Grodin**, and **Misael Soto**. Landscape, especially the iconic deserts of the western US where she is originally from, plays a significant role in Despain’s work that incorporates drawings, sculpture, and video. She seeks to illustrate and unearth relationships between environmental issues such as resource extraction and sea level rise. Grodin is an Italian-born artist whose work focuses on developing speculative strategies for modeling our present conditions and making meaningful imprints upon them. Grodin is also part of the collective, Alliance for the Southern Triangle (A.S.T.), that uses art to conceive possible futures that are both reactive and propositional to the shifting set of legal, economic, cultural and environmental forces. Puerto Rican-born Soto is currently the Art in Public Life Resident Artist with Oolite Arts and the City of Miami Beach. Soto’s creative practice involves time-based and ephemeral work which interrogates and disrupts space, systems, and frameworks.

A closing conversation will feature **T.J. Demos**, with **Lydia Platón Lazaro**, an independent scholar and cultural producer based in San Juan, Puerto Rico; **Allison Schifani**, Assistant Professor in Digital Humanities at the University of Miami and author of the upcoming book, *Catastrophe City: Speculative Urban Practice and Play in the 21st Century Americas*; and **Meryl Shriver-Rice**, Director of the Master’s program in Environment, Culture, & Media at the University of Miami. **Stephanie Wakefield**, an urban geographer whose work explores resilient urbanism as both technical phenomenon and potential catalyst of new life in the Anthropocene, will moderate the conversation. Wakefield is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies at Florida International University.

Ambient art experiences expanding on the subject of the symposium will include **Felice Grodin’s** *Invasive Species* project at PAMM; **Laurencia Strauss’s** *The Bubble Pops*, an interactive installation that connects memory and possible futures; appearances of **The Climate Crusader**, AKA Alexander Zastera; a disappearing world map drawn in chalk by **Alice Raymond**; a fashion show featuring sustainable workwear and utilitarian accessories created by **Lucinda Linderman** and **Kim Yantis**; and a preview of film and video works by a selection of artists participating in the *Screen City Biennial 2019 – Ecologies Lost, Found and Continued*, to take place in Stavanger, Norway, curated by Daniela Arrado and Vanina Saracino.

The **IKT Miami Congress** is supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Miami Beach Visitor & Convention Authority, Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau, Miami Downtown Development Authority, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Institute of Contemporary Art Miami and Oolite Arts, with additional support from the Art in Public Places Trust, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and Cultural Affairs Council, Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners. Media partners: Cultured Magazine and Fresh Art International.

About IKT:

IKT is the International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art, a network that brings together curators from across the world, to meet, share knowledge, exchange ideas and broaden their professional relationships. Founded in 1973, IKT's early members included prominent curators such as Eberhard Roters, Eddy de Wilde and Harald Szeemann. The organization's mission is to stimulate and extend debate concerning curating and also to offer opportunities to find partners for the co-production of exhibitions, publications, events, and special initiatives. IKT represents the professional interests of over 700 curators and artistic directors of non-profit exhibition spaces and museums as well as freelance curators from Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas. By holding its 2019 annual Congress in Miami, IKT hopes to expand its network across the United States, as well as to Central America, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

www.iktsite.org

About Pérez Art Museum Miami:

Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM) promotes artistic expression and the exchange of ideas, advancing public knowledge and appreciation of art, architecture and design, and reflecting the diverse community of its pivotal geographic location at the crossroads of the Americas. Led by Director Franklin Sirmans, 35-year-old South Florida institution formerly known as Miami Art Museum (MAM), Pérez Art Museum Miami opened a new building, designed by world-renowned architects Herzog & de Meuron, in Downtown Miami's Museum Park on December 4, 2013. The facility is a state-of-the-art model for sustainable museum design and progressive programming and features 200,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor program space with flexible galleries; shaded outdoor verandas; a waterfront restaurant and bar; a museum shop; and an education center with a library, media lab and classroom spaces.