MIAMI BEACH, FL (April 24, 2023) – Announcing the latest exhibition at The Bass, Kerry Phillips: *Between the mundane and the miraculous* from August 17 to October 22, 2023. The exhibition of newly commissioned work represents a career milestone as the Miami-based artist’s first solo museum exhibition.

*Between the mundane and the miraculous* explores the precarious intersections of materials—from the natural to the manufactured—that define humanity’s ongoing negotiations with industrialization, technology, the environment, and material culture.

For her exhibition at The Bass, Phillips will construct a large-scale, site-specific enveloping sculptural installation using myriad materials including dressers, lamps, jars, the contents of junk drawers, fabric and scavenged objects “by the truckload.” Central to the installation will be a landscape of salvaged carpet arranged into compositions on the walls and placed onto the floor. The floor will have a mound of carpet piled high—to visitors’ eye level—with edges revealing the stratified layers beneath, composed of parts of dressers, lamps, old televisions and other appliances, jars, fabrics and yarn, table leaves, cushions, extension cords, and more.

Phillips’ large-scale, sculptural and architectural creations are known for “making do” with scavenged or already-owned materials and using common objects in unexpected ways. The artist has a deep fascination with her own families’ and others’ domestic spaces and materials and as such, her work with found objects is intuitive and steeped in remembrance and storytelling. Long fascinated with what many people would consider useless or meaningless objects—junk—the artist sees her works as revealing an exchange of value, an understanding of
the importance and limitations of memory and representing the vitality of playfulness. Art becomes a means for remembrance and connectivity.

Phillips’ parents grew up on farms where one of her grandmothers "collected/kept things" and the other was known for her masterful storytelling. Phillips says that both grandmothers had a tremendous influence on her, inspiring her approach to creating contemporary art sculptures and installations using materials available at a specific place and time—ranging from things found to collected experiences and retold stories.

It is in this spirit of collectivity and storytelling that during the month leading up to the opening of Between the mundane and miraculous, on Sunday, August 5, 2023, the artist will create an in-house interactive "laboratory," welcoming community members of all ages, demographics and abilities to engage with her, the space and materials, to contribute to making this large-scale monumental exhibition. The exhibition will, thus, develop and reveal its own narrative specific to Miami, throughout the duration of that part of the installation, related to the diversity of the museum’s audiences.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, the museum will present a schedule of auxiliary in-house programs that build upon conversations within Phillips’ work. Programs will be designed to reach Miami-Dade’s diverse, multi-abled community of residents and tourists of all ages. Tentative planned activities include free tours for school groups and museum visitors, the incorporation of Phillips’ art creation methods in family-oriented art-making education programs, an after-hours program led by the artist aligned with monthly free admission to Miami Beach Culture Crawl, and a talk and tour led by Curator Dr. James Voorhies.

For more information, please visit www.thebass.org/art/

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ABOUT KERRY PHILLIPS
Kerry Phillips uses common objects in unexpected ways, working collaboratively with viewer-participants to reveal an exchange of value, the importance and limitations of memory, and the vitality of play. Phillips earned an MFA from University of Arizona and has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including at the Orlando Museum of Art, Locust Projects, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Boca Raton Museum of Art, and Bridge Red Projects. She has exhibited and completed residencies in Ohio, Vermont, New York, North Carolina, and internationally in Berlin, Krakow, Mexico and France. Her work is held in the collections of the Orlando Museum of Art, The Girls’ Club and Mosquera Collections.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Kerry Phillips: Between the mundane and the miraculous is part of the Knight Art Commissions Program funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. Generous support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Additional support provided by Miami Salon Group. This exhibition is curated by Dr. James Voorhies.

The Bass is generously funded by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council, the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and The Bass membership.

ABOUT THE JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION
Knight Foundation is a national foundation with strong local roots. We invest in journalism, in the arts, and in the success of cities where brothers John S. and James L. Knight once published newspapers. Our goal is to foster informed and engaged communities, which we believe are essential for a healthy democracy. For more, visit KF.org.

ABOUT THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
Generous support for this exhibition is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. In accordance with Andy Warhol’s will, the mission of The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the advancement of the visual arts. The foundation manages an innovative and flexible grants program while also preserving Warhol’s legacy through creative and responsible licensing policies and extensive scholarly research for ongoing catalogue raisonné projects. To date, the foundation has given nearly $260 million in cash grants to over 1,000 arts organizations in 49 states and abroad and has donated 52,786 works of art to 322 institutions worldwide.

ABOUT THE BASS

The Bass is Miami Beach’s contemporary art museum. Its mission is to create connections between international contemporary art and its diverse audiences. The museum shares the power of contemporary art through experiences that excite, challenge and educate. Recognized for organizing major exhibitions and commissioned art projects by mid-career and established contemporary artists, its exhibition and education programs encompass a wide range of media and artistic points of view, that bring fresh perspectives to the diverse cultural context of Miami Beach, as well as to international audiences.

Founded in 1964 by the City of Miami Beach, the museum was established after the donation of a private collection of Johanna Bass and opened in what was formerly the Miami Beach Public Library and Art Center, a 1930s Art Deco building designed by Russell Pancoast. It is currently housed in this historic building, which later added an Arata Isozaki/David Gauld expansion. 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.

CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

Kerry Phillips: Between the miraculous and the mundane
July 16, 2023 – October 22, 2023

Carola Bravo: Between Absence and Presence
March 16, 2023 – January 2024

Adrián Villar Rojas with Mariana Telleria: El fin de la imaginación
Nov 27, 2022 – May 14, 2023

Phraseology
July 30, 2022 – July 30, 2023

Open Storage: Selections from the Collection & Works on Loan
On view through August 27, 2023

Art Outside
On Long Term View

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[Caption: “My childhood red carpet,” an image detail of the red carpet from Kerry’s childhood room – this actual carpet will be used in the installation as is. Image courtesy of the artist.]