

NAM JUNE PAIK: *THE MIAMI YEARS*
AT THE BASS OCT 4, 2023 - AUG 16, 2024



MIAMI BEACH, FL (July 10, 2023) – Beginning Wednesday October 4, 2023, and on view through August 16, 2024, The Bass Museum of Art presents Nam June Paik: *The Miami Years*, a new exhibition featuring works by the Korean American visual artist that explore his connection to Miami Beach and the surrounding South Florida community.

Nam June Paik (b. 1932, Seoul, d. 2006, Miami Beach) was a pioneer in the development of electronic moving images and digitized compositions as a form of creative expression. Credited with originating the term “electronic superhighway” in 1974, Paik’s complex works demonstrated enormous prescience for the influence and proliferation of digital media as an artistic medium, the global expansion of social networks, and the growing enmeshment between modern life and technology.

Organized around The Bass’ recent acquisition of Paik’s *TV Cello* (2003), Nam June Paik: *The Miami Years* offers a close examination of the artist’s connection to Miami. The exhibition uncovers the little-known history of the artist’s life in Miami Beach while exploring the innovative ways he used communication and media technologies in his work.

In the early 1990s, people arriving at Miami International Airport had the opportunity to encounter two extraordinary sculptural installations by Paik. *WING*, located in the Concourse B lobby, greeted viewers with almost 100 television monitors assembled in a biplane-shaped, neon frame, punctuated by a propeller. *MIAMI*, in front of the Customs exit doors in the lobby of Concourse E, featured 74 monitors arranged to spell out M-I-A-M-I in block letters.

In both works, the TV screens presented a mesmerizing flow of iconic images of South Florida interspersed with recognizable glimpses from around the world: palm trees, flamingos, bathers at the beach, traffic jams, Buddhist temples, molten earth, sailboats and molecules. Thousands of images, along with Paik's unique form of "electronic painting," combined into a dynamic cacophony flashing before travelers' eyes.

Commissioned in 1985 by the Miami-Dade Art in Public Places Trust, *WING* and *MIAMI* were dedicated on November 29, 1990, yet in the years to follow both works suffered a series of unfortunate mishaps including vandalization, tampering, and fire and water damage. While Paik made Miami Beach his home until his death in 2006, by the late 1990s, *WING* and *MIAMI* were no longer on public view. Plans for their restoration and reinstallation never came to fruition. .

With original research into Paik and South Florida, including a timeline account of the making and display of *WING* and *MIAMI*, *Nam June Paik: The Miami Years* will offer fresh insights into the acclaimed artist's personal engagement with our region.

This exhibition will also include *Notations*, a series of installations and performances by three contemporary artists whose practices engage with and further the experimental uses of technology found in Nam June Paik's work. Over the course of 2024, *Notations* will transform the gallery into a group exhibition where each artist steps into a dialogue with Paik's legacy, and with each other. The first *Notation*, featuring artist, composer and performer Aki Onda, will be unveiled in February 2024.

Additional programming related to the exhibition includes "Curating Nam June Paik: *The Miami Years*, A Conversation with John Hanhardt and James Voorhies," taking place on October 7 for museum members. This conversation between John Hanhardt, art historian, curator of film and media, and authority on Paik, and James Voorhies, Curator of The Bass, will delve into the artist's life in Miami Beach, offering new insight into the acclaimed artist's Miami-based installations.

For more information regarding current and upcoming exhibitions, museum programs and special events, please visit www.thebass.org.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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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 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.

UPCOMING & CURREN EXHIBITIONS AT THE BASS

Kerry Phillips: *Between the mundane and the miraculous*
August 17 – October 22, 2023

Nam June Paik: *The Miami Years*
October 4, 2023 – August 16, 2024

Selections from The Collection
Opening October 4, 2023

Etel Adnan: *Painting into Space*
November 24, 2023 – March 17, 2024

Social Assembly
Opens November 24, 2023

Hernan Bass: *The Conceptualists*
December 4, 2023 – May 5, 2024

Anne Duk Hee Jordan: *I will always weather with you*
December 4, 2023 – June 23, 2024

Carola Bravo: *Between Absence and Presence*
On view through January 2024

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

MEDIA CONTACTS

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[Caption: Nam June Paik, *Bakelite Robot*, 2002. One channel video installation with 5 5.6" LCD monitors and 2 4" LCD monitors, electric lights, with additions of Permanent oil marker. 50 x 54 x 7 in. Courtesy of Paik Estate, Jon Huffman, Curator.]