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EXHIBITION PREVIEW

Monday, November 29, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

1620 Washington Ave, Miami Beach. FL 33139.

[rsvp@lynwinter.com](mailto:rsvp@lynwinter.com)

***SKIN IN THE GAME***

**A 35-ARTIST EXHIBITION CURATED BY ZOE LUKOV POSITS SKIN AS A FRAMEWORK  
TO EXPLORE TOUCH AND TRANSMISSION**

**OPENING FOR MIAMI ART WEEK FROM NOV 29–DEC 10, 2021 AT 1620 WASHINGTON  
AVENUE, MIAMI BEACH**



Images L to R\*: Hank Willis Thomas, Isabelle Albuquerque, Zhang Huan.

(November 10, 2021)—*Skin in the Game*, an exhibition of work by 35 diverse artists, curated by Zoe Lukov and presented by Palm Heights, is a collective offering. The exhibition is about touch, transmission, and skin—the potential, vulnerability and risk contained therein—as a boundary to protect from danger or as a porous border to receive. It seeks to establish a dialogue with the erotic and has through lines that touch on game, color, race, the hunt, sport,

religious iconography and competition. The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, will be on view from November 29–December 10, 2021.

“Having skin in the game is about power, danger, currency, play, joy, indulgence as well as the taboo, the voyeuristic and the hedonistic,” said Lukov, an independent curator based in Los Angeles on her inspiration for the exhibition. “There is an inherent violence and vulnerability, as well as a promise of pleasure, that comes with being in one’s skin. This is an opportunity to explore skin as a site of potential transmission, of hand-sanitized stickiness, of lost contact. There is a desire to understand what touch can be now—the ecstasy after global isolation.”

An international roster of artists from Argentina, Barbados, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Japan, Mexico, Syria, U.K. and USA, whose work is diverse in terms of genre, trajectory, and perspective include Derrick Adams, Isabelle Albuquerque, Tosh Basco, Lynda Benglis, Carlos Betancourt, Raúl de Nieves, Jen DeNike, Jane Dickson, Amir H. Fallah, Gonzalo Fuenmayor, Nicholas Galanin X Merritt Johnson, Theaster Gates, Generic Art Solutions, Clarity Haynes, Micol Hebron, Camille Henrot, Zhang Huan, Jesse Krimes, Marilyn Minter, Maynard Monrow, Carlos Motta, Paul Pfeiffer, Elizabeth Prentis, Gabriel Rico, Erin M. Riley, Florencia Rodriguez Giles, Sheena Rose, Moises Salazar, Eduardo Sarabia, Hank Willis Thomas, Urara Tsuchiya, Juana Valdes, Kennedy Yanko and Jwan Yosef.

Taking over an unlikely Art Deco space in the heart of South Beach, where Lincoln Road meets Washington Avenue, where anesthetized urban mall shopping meets bikini-clad bombshells and boxing buffs, amidst the vestiges of a bygone south beach-past of tattoo parlors, sex shops and strip clubs, the exhibition presents a multiplicity of interpretations on skin.

Among the historic works on loan to the exhibition like Lynda Benglis’s *Eat Meat* (1969/1975), Jane Dickson’s *Peep* series (1992-96) and Zhang Huan’s  $\frac{1}{2}$  (*Meat + Text*) (1998), are new pieces created specifically for the exhibition by Raúl de Nieves, Gonzalo Fuenmayor, Sheena Rose, Moises Salazar and Eduardo Sarabia. Early and rarely-seen works by Carlos Betancourt and Carlos Motta will be presented, as well as new works by Gabriel Rico and new, never-before-seen photographs by Tosh Basco. Works on loan from major private collections will be on view such as Theaster Gates’s *Reliquary*, Clarity Hayne’s *Genesis*, Marilyn Minter’s *Pamela Anderson* and works from the iconic series *Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* by Paul Pfeiffer as well as his *Caryatid* (*Rios*).

“The artworks included are a proposal to exfoliate the exoskeletons of our collective desire and fear, to circumnavigate the edges of our hungering, our wanting”, continued Lukov. “This is about indulgence amidst scarcity. There is pornography with sanctity, hedonism with decadence, but there are also tidal waves of swelling climactic joy.”

The exhibition is presented by Palm Heights, a hub for arts and culture. Founded in 2019 by Creative Director Gabriella Khalil, Palm Heights maintains a rigorous year-round arts and choreography residency that provides space for diverse cultural practitioners to create without limits and explore the hybrid cultural currents of the Caribbean.

Gabriella Khalil stated, “In keeping with our commitment to provide alternative formats for contemporary culture around the world, we support programs that are aligned with our mission and encourage cross-cultural collaboration. We are excited to support for the first time a major exhibition during Miami Art Week. Now, more than ever we need to come together around arts and culture that bucks the general norms and opens up new dialogue.”

\*Image left to right: Hank Willis Thomas, *Scarred Chest*, 2003, Lambda photograph, © Hank Willis Thomas, courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York; Isabelle Albuquerque, *Orgy for 10 people in One Body: 5*, 2020, courtesy of the artist and Nicodim Gallery; Zhang Huan, *1/2 (Meat + Text)*, 1998, chromogenic color print, courtesy of the artist and Pace Gallery.

### **Exhibition**

*Skin in the Game*

Curated by Zoe Lukov

Presented by Palm Heights

**Address:** 1620 Washington Avenue (between Lincoln Road & 16th Street), Miami Beach, FL 33139.

### **Dates open to the public**

November 30–December 10, 2021

Hours: 12–8 p.m.

### **Exhibition Preview**

Monday, November 29, 2021 at 11 a.m. [rsvp@lynwinter.com](mailto:rsvp@lynwinter.com)

### **ARTIST BIOS**

**Derrick Adams** is a Brooklyn-based, multidisciplinary artist, whose practice is rooted in deconstructivist philosophies, such as the fragmentation and manipulation of structure and surface, and the marriage of complex and improbable forms.

**Isabelle Albuquerque** is a Los Angeles-based artist, who works in sculpture and performance, utilizing her own body to create depictions which flip the narrative of vulnerable female sexuality into a story of power.

**Tosh Basco** is a Zürich-based, American-born, movement-based performance artist whose practice employs improvisation as mode of survival and world-building.

**Lynda Benglis** is an American sculptor, whose wax paintings and poured latex sculptures result in metaphorical and biomorphic shapes, exploring the physicality of form and how it affects the viewer.

**Carlos Betancourt** is an American artist, whose work in performance, installation, photography, and video explores issues of memory and personal experience by recycling and reinterpreting fragments of the past.

**Jen DeNike** is an American artist based in New York, whose work spanning video, photography, and performance negotiates a distinctly feminine perspective on gender roles.

**Raúl de Nieves** is a Mexican artist based in New York, whose opulent and joyful sculpture, installation, and performance pieces borrow from religious iconography, mythology, and BDSM to reference both traditional Mexican carnival and queer drag ballroom culture.

**Jane Dickson** is a New York-based artist who has been exhibiting her nocturnal paintings of peep shows and porn parlors internationally for two decades. Her work was pivotal in defining the city's downtown cultural scene in the 1980s.

**Amir H. Fallah** is an Iranian-born, American sculptor and painter, whose work utilizes personal history as an entry point to discuss race, representation, the body, and the memories of cultures and countries left behind.

**Gonzalo Fuenmayor** is a Colombian artist based in Miami, whose drawing practice utilizes charcoal to consider the symbolism and mythology of Latin America via common tropes of "tropicalia."

**Nicholas Galanin X Merritt Johnson** are multidisciplinary artists living and working in Sitka, Alaska. Their collaborations, rooted in indigenous histories, are vessels of knowledge, consciousness, and technology which carry close engagements with contemporary culture.

**Theaster Gates** is an American sculptor and performance artist, whose interventions contend with contemporary land development, drawing from his own training in urban planning and preservation.

**Generic Art Solutions** is a collaboration between New Orleans based artists Matt Vis and Tony Campbell, whose work re-imagines Classical, Baroque, and Romantic iconography as modern scenes, illuminating the thread that connects past histories to contemporary events.

**Clarity Haynes** is a queer feminist American artist and writer, whose painted portraits of queer, trans, cis female and nonbinary bodies fixate on themes of survival, self-definition, and self-determination.

**Micol Hebron** is an artist, educator, and organizer based in Los Angeles, whose multidisciplinary work displays a strong commitment to feminist activism.

**Camille Henrot** is a French artist, whose video, sculpture, and drawings reference self-help, second-hand online marketplaces, cultural anthropology, literature, psychoanalysis, and social

media as a means of questioning what it means to be at once a private individual and a global subject.

**Zhang Huan** is a Chinese painter, photographer, sculptor, performance artist, and opera director whose work engages with Buddhist philosophy and his own conflicted feelings toward it. Huan is best known for his time-intensive performances that have tested his own physical and mental endurance.

**Jesse Krimes** is an American artist, whose multidisciplinary work spotlights criminal injustice and contemporary perceptions of criminality.

**Marilyn Minter** is an American artist, whose work blurs the line between commercial and fine art through gaudy and hyper-realistic paintings and photographs that examine desire and sexuality as cultural anxieties placed on the female body.

**Maynard Monrow** is an American artist informed by his interest in art history, critical theory and culture. His text-based works feature witticism, bon mots, and maxims ranging in tone from the quotidian to the extraordinary, from the polemical to the uncontroversial.

**Carlos Motta** is a Colombian artist whose film, photography, and sculpture challenge ideas about sexuality and gender using a myriad of archival material, art historical references, and the body.

**Paul Pfeiffer** is an American artist working in video, sculpture, and photography, whose work samples, dissects, and edits scenes from mass media as a way of exposing the eerie emptiness that lies beneath contemporary existence.

**Elizabeth Prentis** is a UK-born, Lisbon-based artist, whose work merges painting and performance in an exploration of sexual pleasure and patriarchal power dynamics in heterosexual encounters.

**Gabriel Rico** is a Mexican artist, whose sculptures ironically and poetically combine natural and unnatural forms in order to investigate the relationships between humans and the natural environment.

**Erin M. Riley** is a New York based artist, whose hand-woven tapestries serve as both violent and sexy explorations of webcam documentation.

**Florencia Rodriguez Giles** is an Argentine artist, whose drawing and performance practices employ dreams and illusions to explore the meaning possessed by ritualistic and religious customs in society.

**Sheena Rose** is an emerging artist from Barbados, whose paintings explode with emotion and celebration of their Black subjects while exploring themes of victory, play, and hope.

**Moises Salazar** is a first generation, nonbinary queer artist working in the U.S., whose practice selects marginalized and neglected bodies as its subject, providing them with a safe space to exist on the canvas.

**Eduardo Sarabia** is an American-born artist working in Guadalajara, whose work uses materials that bridge tradition and popular culture to explore the complex cultural and economic exchanges between Mexico and the U.S.

**Hank Willis Thomas** is an American conceptual artist, whose work addresses how systems of popular culture perpetuate inequality, especially as it relates to race.

**Urara Tsuchiya** is a Japanese artist whose playful ceramics cleverly couch disturbing scenes in humor, toying with the sexual boundaries between human and animal relations.

**Juana Valdes** is an Afro-Cuban artist based in Miami, whose works in ceramics explore issues of identity and race in the Caribbean.

**Kennedy Yanko** is an American sculptor, painter, and installation artist working in found metal and paint skin to explore the limitations of optic vision.

**Jwan Yosef** is a Syrian-born, Swedish-patriated conceptual artist, whose work queers modernist principles of abstraction to release entredres towards a plurality of perspectives.

## **ABOUT ZOE LUKOV**

Zoe Lukov is a curator, producer and writer. Formerly chief curator of Faena Art in Miami Beach and in Buenos Aires, Lukov conceived of and produced both the first and second Faena Festivals in 2018 and 2019. In addition, she organized major solo exhibits by internationally recognized artists throughout the Faena Districts. She is a founding board member of Desert X, the non-profit site-specific exhibition based in California and recently produced a documentary about Desert X 2021 that made its premiere at the Getty Museum and broadcasts on PBS in November. She produces independent curatorial projects, among them the well-received *Fair*, an alternative, all-women, non-commercial art fair that took place in Miami at Brickell City Centre in 2017. She got her start in the art world working for Rashida Bumbray at The Kitchen in New York, Jeffrey Deitch at MOCA Los Angeles and Franklin Sirmans on Prospect 3, the New Orleans biennial. She is a Fulbright scholar and a graduate of Oberlin College. Follow @zoelukov.

## **ABOUT PALM HEIGHTS**

Founded by creative director Gabriella Khalil, Palm Heights is the first all-suite boutique hotel on Grand Cayman—a lush and luxurious beachfront restorative estate. Bringing a dose of

sophistication and polychromatic whimsy to the white sands of Seven Mile Beach, this 52-suite hideaway has earned exalted status among culture and design lovers seeking respite in the Caribbean. The 1970s charm and aesthetic, wellness and cultural offerings are all nourished by the year-round arts and choreography residencies—a program that nurtures and accommodates international creators by providing space for them to create without limits and explore the multiplicity of cultural currents within the Caribbean. Palm Heights showcases and hosts artists, athletes, musicians, writers, academics and other individuals who are actively contributing to the development of narratives in contemporary culture as part of the Open Palm Residency Program. The program builds on an existing multicultural base in Grand Cayman, an island that is home to a population of only 60,000 but over 130 nationalities. The cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural program hosts a calendar of dinners and performances that explore dialogues and influences on the Caribbean identity, culture and its natural environment and important global matters as well as offering residency spaces and support. Palm Heights supports arts and culture around the world by funding exhibitions, performances and new commissions that align with their mission to encourage cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary collaboration and conversation. Follow [@palmheightsgc](#).

This press release was updated November 15, 2021 with the addition of artists Jen DeNike, Nicholas Galanin X Merritt Johnson and Micol Hebron.

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