



**The Wolfsonian–Florida International University Presents
Artist Roberto Lugo’s *Street Shrines*, Debuting Miami Art Week 2022**

*New works by Roberto Lugo in conversation with the Wolfsonian collection
include an external mural depicting South Florida stories of the Caribbean community*

MIAMI BEACH (October 3, 2022) — The Wolfsonian–Florida International University presents *Street Shrines*, debuting Miami Art Week 2022 and on view November 28, 2022 through May 28, 2023. Artist Roberto Lugo’s first museum presentation in South Florida, *Street Shrines* combines new work by Lugo with examples of political and commemorative ceramics pulled from The Wolfsonian’s storied collections to shine new light on the forces of power, memory, culture, and community.

Artist, activist, and educator Roberto Lugo is driven by the twin forces of form and narrative. A multidisciplinary artist whose practice crosses boundaries between pottery, graffiti, and poetry, Lugo mines the legacy of European and American ceramic production to challenge historical narratives and uplift largely overlooked individuals and stories. Juxtaposing traditional pottery forms with portraiture and imagery inspired by his North Philadelphia roots, Afro-Latino heritage, and love of hip hop and popular culture, Lugo’s work explores broad themes ranging from inequality to racial injustice.

For *Street Shrines*, Roberto Lugo will activate both the Wolfsonian galleries and building exterior with a sense of contemporary urgency. Reflecting on the history, experience, and heroics—grand and everyday—of often-ignored Black and Brown communities, *Street Shrines* places the artist’s work in dialogue with The Wolfsonian’s collections, investigating ideas of culture, community, and resistance. The exhibition will showcase both new works by Lugo inspired by the museum’s significant collection of 19th- and 20th-century European and American ceramics as well as recent works that address historic and contemporary abolition efforts, police violence, musical icons, and his own family’s connection to the Caribbean diaspora.

An exterior mural will wrap the building and animate the streetscape of both Washington Avenue and 10th Street, weaving together South Florida stories of Caribbean communities. Connecting gallery to street, and collection to present-day life, Lugo’s work invites us to reconsider who and what is worthy of commemoration in Miami’s history and in the broader world.

“Lugo’s work is resonant and immediate,” said curator Shoshana Resnikoff. “It speaks to the here and now, but is deeply rooted in the past, engaging with both political history and the legacy of ceramics production—an approach that could not be more fitting for The Wolfsonian, where we continually grapple with questions of historical ‘truths’ and contested narratives.”

Image

Run DMC design drawing for *Street Shrines* mural, 2022.

Exhibition Support

Street Shrines is made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and Funding Arts Network. Additional support by Dr. David and Linda Frankel and Brown Harris Stevens.

About Roberto Lugo

Roberto Lugo is a Philadelphia-based artist, ceramicist, social activist, poet, and educator. He utilizes classical pottery forms in conjunction with portraiture and surface design reminiscent of his North Philadelphia upbringing and hip hop culture to highlight themes of poverty, inequality, and racial injustice, reimagining traditional European and Asian ceramics with a 21st-century street sensibility. Lugo holds a BFA from the Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from Pennsylvania State University. His work has been featured in exhibitions at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, and the Museum of Arts and Design in New York, among others. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a 2019 Pew Fellowship, a Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsky Rome Prize, and a United States Artists Fellowship. His work is found in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art, The High Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Museum, Walters Art Museum, and more. He is currently an Assistant Professor at Tyler School of Art and Architecture in Philadelphia, PA.

About The Wolfsonian–Florida International University

The Wolfsonian–FIU is a museum, library, and research center that uses objects to illustrate the persuasive power of art and design, to explore what it means to be modern, and to tell the story of social, political, and technological changes that have transformed our world. The collections comprise more than 200,000 items from the period 1850 to 1950—the height of the Industrial Revolution to the end of the Second World War—and include fine arts, decorative arts, graphic design, industrial design, architectural drawings, rare publications, and ephemera.

The Wolfsonian is located at 1001 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, FL. The museum is open Wednesday–Sunday, 10am–6pm (Fridays open late and free, 6–9pm). Contact us at 305.531.1001 or visit us online at wolfsonian.org.

The Wolfsonian receives generous and ongoing support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; and City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council.

About FIU

Florida International University is a top public university that drives real talent and innovation in Miami and globally. Very high research (R1) activity and high social mobility come together at FIU to uplift and accelerate learner success in a global city by focusing in the areas of environment, health, innovation, and justice. Today, FIU has two campuses and multiple centers. FIU serves a diverse student body of more than 58,000 and 290,000 Panther alumni. U.S. News and World Report places dozens of FIU programs among the best in the nation, including international business at No. 2. Washington Monthly Magazine ranks FIU among the top 20 public universities contributing to the public good.