UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS

THE PATRICIA AND PHILLIP FROST ART MUSEUM

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus has served as an arts resource for the university and surrounding communities in South Florida for over 35 years. The Frost Art Museum enriches and educates diverse audiences through the language of art with its collection of a broad range of over 6,000 works of art from around the world and exhibitions and public programs which enhance the collections. The collection includes a strong representation of paintings by important American artists including Hans Hofmann, William Merritt Chase and Roy Lichtenstein; American printmaking from the 1960s and 70s; a growing number of artworks by contemporary Caribbean and Latin American artists. The non-Western collections include Pre-Columbian objects, Japanese netsukes and prints, and Benin bronzes and other African pieces. In addition, through the Betty Laird Perry Emerging Artist Awards, works by graduating art students at FIU are collected. An important part of the Frost collection is the Sculpture Park installed throughout the Maidaque Campus.

The Frost was founded in 1977 as a gallery to introduce FIU students to original works of art. As interest grew, it expanded to an active display space in an administrative building in the heart of campus. The Museum’s exhibition program, along with associated public programs, drew audiences and acclaim from all of South Florida. In 2008, after 10 years of planning, it moved to its own dedicated, world-class museum building. The Frost Art Museum offers a robust series of changing exhibitions to the public throughout the year. Since its opening, the Museum has organized exhibitions of Modern Masters from the Smithsonian Institution; Taiwan Art; The Missing Peace: A Tribute to the Dalai Lama; Volf Roitman; Modernism from Venezuela; a Baroque Selection from Dutch and Flemish Masters; The Figure, Past and Present – a Permanent Collection exhibition, and many others. Other smaller changing galleries allow for the display of the Museum’s permanent collections, collaborative exhibitions with The Wolfsonian-FIU: video installations and site-specific works. Student and faculty exhibitions are an important component of the Museum’s academic function. They present the work of student and faculty artists and alumni, many of whom have gone on to receive state and national recognition, including National Endowment for the Arts, MacArthur Foundation, Cintas Award, Guggenheim Fellowship Award and Florida Visual Artist grants and fellowships.

The Frost Art Museum presents a significant series of public programs in conjunction with the major exhibitions it borrows and organizes each year. The Steven & Dorothea Green Critics’ Lecture Series brings art world luminaries and renowned artists, critics, curators, designers and scholars to South Florida’s diverse audiences. Other on-going programs provide visitors the chance to engage with the contemporary and confront the controversial with talks, films, live music and art.

The Museum’s varied educational programs nurture and increase each participant’s knowledge of art for groups of all ages and backgrounds, including the culturally diverse FIU community and residents of, and visitors to, South Florida. More than 12,000 students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools participate in tours and hands-on activities at the Museum annually. The Museum also offers guided tours of the current exhibition and the Sculpture Park. Another aspect of the Museum’s education programs is the Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies, offered in conjunction with the Department of Art & Art History. This program prepares individuals for employment in museums, historic preservation, and collection management. Students in the program curate an exhibit every spring from the Museum’s permanent collection.

Please visit the Museum’s website at http://thefrost.fiu.edu or call (305) 348-2890.

THE WOLFSONIAN–FIU

Located in the heart of Miami Beach's Art Deco District, The Wolfsonian–FIU is a museum 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. It encourages people to see the world in new ways, and to learn from the past as they shape the present and influence the future. The Wolfsonian achieves its mission through exhibitions, publications, educational programs, and individual scholarship.

The Wolfsonian became part of FIU in July 1997 when its founder, Mitchell Wolfson Jr., donated his extraordinary collection, as well as the museum building and an off-site storage annex, to the University. The core of The Wolfsonian’s holdings consists of decorative arts, fine arts, propaganda, architectural materials, and industrial and graphic design from the period 1885–1945. The United States, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands are the countries most extensively represented. There are also smaller but significant collections of materials from a number of other countries, including Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. The collection includes works on paper, furniture, paintings, sculpture, glass, textiles, ceramics, lighting and other appliances, and many other kinds of objects, as well as a rare books library with more than 45,000 items.

In addition to its permanent collection galleries, The Wolfsonian presents temporary exhibitions that address broad themes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, such as nationalism, political persuasion, industrialization, architecture and urbanism, consumerism and advertising, transportation, and world’s fairs. Although drawing primarily on its own holdings, The Wolfsonian also features exhibitions and objects on loan from other collections.

Through its public programs, The Wolfsonian offers a range of lectures, films, symposia, tours, and workshops geared to visitors of all ages. It has paired with Miami-Dade County Public Schools to develop activities and interpretive materials for students and teachers in the arts and social sciences. To inquire about an exhibition (present, past, upcoming), program, or the general calendar, please visit http://www.wolfsonian.org or call (305) 531-1001.

The Wolfsonian offers important resources to the FIU community. The museum hosts classes in its classrooms, offers tours of its galleries to student groups and courses,
and makes the collection of its rare books library (305-535-2641) available to students and faculty members for research projects. Students interested in learning more about these resources should contact the museum’s academic programs coordinator, (305) 535-2627, peter@thewolf.fiu.edu.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA

The Jewish Museum of Florida-Florida International University (JMOF-FIU) became part of the FIU’s collection of museums in 2014. Located at 301 Washington Avenue, Miami Beach, Florida. As a museum that is accredited by the American Association of Museums, JMOF has achieved a standard of excellence in its methodology for research, collecting, conservation, archiving, storing and interpreting its holdings. JMOF-FIU has an extensive collection of more than 100,000 items in its archives, whose main focus is to preserve the material evidence of the Jewish experience in Florida since 1763. It draws crucial links between the social, political, economic, cultural and religious aspects of Jewish life in Florida and the relationship of Jews to the dominant non-Jewish population. The collection consists of artifacts, ephemera, documents, photographs and oral histories from every region of the state and records the histories of individuals, businesses, synagogues and communities through the following themes: immigration, family/synagogue/institutions, community relations and contributions.