



For Immediate Release

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***Breakfast In The
Park with
Joel Shapiro
The New Frost Art Museum
Celebrates Art Basel Miami Beach***

Miami- (December 2, 2008)- The new Frost Art Museum at Florida International University presents the sixth annual Breakfast In The Park featuring renowned modernist sculptor Joel Shapiro on Sunday, December 7. The event, which is part of Art Basel Miami Beach, takes place from 9:30 a.m. to noon, and features a continental breakfast, tours of the Sculpture Park at FIU and an informal talk by Shapiro. Visitors can also see two pieces of Shapiro's work now on loan from the Pace Wildenstein Gallery in New York City.

This year, Breakfast in the Park is the culmination of more than a week of events for the new museum, which began with a public grand opening Nov. 29, when about 600 people visited the new building and its six debut exhibitions including *Modern Masters from the Smithsonian American Art Museum*. In addition to tours of the Sculpture Park, visitors are welcome to visit the Frost, which will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Breakfast in the Park draws hundreds of visitors each year, many of whom travel by bus from the Miami Beach Convention Center. County buses will be offered as free transportation again this year for Art Basel patrons and the general public. Buses will leave the convention center for the Frost at 9 a.m. and return at 11:30 a.m.

In Shapiro's elegant works, human moods and movement are reduced to a geometric essence that is open to the viewer's perception and speculation. As one walks around each sculpture, the changing vantage points offer views of the work that look very different. When asked if his work was figurative or purely abstract, Shapiro said "I'm interested in form. Form is a surrogate for the individual artist, and form as a reflection of the artist is always there, even in the most abstract work. There is a figural component in all work, even the most arch-minimalism. Maybe you don't see it, but I do. I see it as a metaphor for the artist's mind and body and sense of self."

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Since his first one-person exhibition in 1970, Shapiro's work has been the subject of more than 100 solo exhibitions and retrospectives. His sculptures have been regularly exhibited in prestigious group exhibitions such as the Whitney Biennial, Documenta in Germany and the Venice Biennale. His work can be found in more than 80 public collections including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Centre Georges Pompidou, Tate Gallery, National Gallery of Art, Walker Art Center and Philadelphia Museum of Art. He lives and works in New York City.

For more information on Breakfast in the Park please contact Amy Pollack at 305-348-0401 or pollacka@fiu.edu.

About the Frost Art Museum - Florida International University

The Frost is an AAM accredited museum and Smithsonian affiliate. The museum is located at 10975 SW 17th St. across from the Blue garage and adjacent to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on the University Park campus. Its hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10-5 and Sunday noon-5. The Frost is closed on all legal holidays. For more information, please visit www.frostartmuseum.org or call 305-348-2890.

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