



**Frost Art
Museum**

For Immediate Release

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TARGET WEDNESDAY AFTER HOURS

Event Explores Healing and the Arts With Artist Xavier Cortada, Art Therapy Exhibition by M-DCPS Students and Afro- Peruvian Jazz Pianist Kiki Sanchez

Miami, (Jan. 21, 2009) FIU's Frost Art Museum presents an evening devoted to healing and the arts with its second Target Wednesday After Hours event, Wednesday Feb. 4 from 6-8 p.m. The event features internationally recognized artist Xavier Cortada, the opening of *Exploration of Self*, an art therapy exhibition by students from Miami-Dade County Public Schools, a lecture by Enid Garber, board certified art therapist, and music by Afro-Peruvian jazz artist Kiki Sanchez. Sponsored by Target, these unique educational initiatives showcase and celebrate the interdisciplinary connections among the visual, performing and liberal arts. All events are free and open to the public.

Xavier Cortada

At 7:30 p.m., internationally recognized artist Cortada will discuss his worldwide installations that address issues of healing, be they environmental, physical or the cause of peace in the world. One of the first sights to greet visitors to The Frost is a stunning 40-foot tapestry created by Cortada. The piece entitled "ignis" which hangs in the museum's soaring atrium, is the second of four commissioned works that the artist describes as "digital tapestries." The works are inspired by the four elements of water, air, fire and earth, and will be rotated throughout the year. The first, "aer" debuted at the opening of the new Frost Art Museum in November 2008. Cortada's work was chosen from among 80 artists who submitted proposals to the Frost for an installation as part of the state's Art in State Buildings program.

Cortada has created art installations in the North Pole (2008) and South Pole (2007) to address environmental issues and in many locations in between. Cortada has worked with groups across the

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world to produce numerous collaborative projects including eco-art interventions in Finland, Latvia and in his hometown of Miami, as well as peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Bolivia and Panama and AIDS murals in Geneva and South Africa. Cortada has also been commissioned to create art for the White House, the World Bank, the Florida Supreme Court, the Florida Governor's Mansion, Miami City Hall, the Miami Art Museum and the Museum of Florida History.

Exploration of Self

Exploration of Self, a powerful exhibition of work by (MDCPS) students opens at 6 p.m. The show features symbolic self portraits by students in the MDCPS art therapy program, who confront their feelings and the challenges of their daily lives through the process of art therapy.

The Miami-Dade County Public School System has one of the largest and most comprehensive art therapy departments in the country. M-DCPS art therapists work with students identified with emotional behavioral disabilities.

The program began as a pilot program in 1979, but its success in improving student behavior and emotional functioning, led to an expansion to a broader range of students with special needs. Art therapy combines the process of art making with an individual's verbal associations to improve and enhance physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Art therapy uses the creative process to reconcile emotional conflicts and foster self-awareness. It is based on evidence that the creative process involved in artistic expression helps people to resolve conflicts and problems, develop interpersonal skills, manage behavior, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and self-awareness and strengthen learning skills.

At 7 p.m., Garber will discuss the process and results of art therapy.

On Friday, Feb. 13 from 11 a.m. to noon, the Frost will also host a workshop featuring two art therapists who will discuss "Personal Animal Shields".

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Kiki Sanchez: Music and Healing

Internationally known Peruvian jazz pianist Kiki Sanchez will present an interactive show with the melodica and other instruments. Sanchez has used his music as a source of healing in his performances for groups including the elderly in nursing homes and children in hospitals.

Known as the Afro-Peruvian jazz maestro, Sanchez has recorded his own music and played with and collaborated with a who's who of jazz greats. "Blown Away" with Arturo Sandoval and Frankie Marcos was nominated for a Grammy for Best Instrumental Album. Sanchez has also collaborated with Grammy winning producer, Glen Kolotkin in numerous projects. His new CD *Dreams* is a fusion of Peruvian-folkloric rhythms with modern jazz melodies.

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. 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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