

PULSE Miami Beach taps Anne Spalter for inaugural commissioned installation series

The first PULSE PROJECTS Special Commission, Miami Marbles is a mixed augmented reality (AR) installation combining AR components, via a custom app, with nine physical spheres—ranging from seven to 16 feet in diameter—printed with digitally manipulated footage of Miami Beach

New York, NY and Miami, FL — September 22, 2016 — Brooklyn-based digital mixed media artist Anne Spalter, academic pioneer and founder of Brown's and RISD's original digital fine arts programs in the 1990s, has been selected as PULSE Miami Beach's inaugural PROJECTS Special Commission recipient. *Miami Marbles*, Spalter's large-scale mixed reality installation created site-specifically for the fair, will mark the entranceway of PULSE Miami Beach 2016 with additional physical and virtual components throughout and beyond the fair grounds in locations including the COMO Metropolitan Miami Beach hotel.



Rendering of Miami Marbles; source footage (pre-manipulation) of rendering's leftmost sphere

Shot with a Hasselblad medium format camera, the vivid, high-resolution imagery that comprises the source footage of the helium-filled orbs' kaleidoscopic exteriors has been captured during previous Miami Arts Weeks to create a resonant public artwork embodying the cultural fabric of its surroundings. The name itself, *Miami Marbles*, comes from the visual of a freeze frame if one were to throw down a set of giant marbles in front of the fair tent.

Miami Marbles' augmented reality component, facilitated by a custom app created through generous sponsorship from Halifax-based Current Studios, will bring the works to life; when viewers look at each sphere through the custom Marbles app on a phone or tablet, the

sphere will swirl with Spalter's kaleidoscopic video work of the same source footage as that of each unique sphere's graphic exterior. In addition, virtual spheres (viewable only through the app) will be visible at certain locations indicated around the fair. For example, if you look out over the ocean at a marked hotspot just outside the PULSE tent, a swirling sphere will appear to float over the waves.

The largest sphere, 16 feet in diameter, will be anchored to a ground element created in collaboration with acclaimed textile designer Liora Manné. The custom textile, reminiscent of a puddle reflecting the sphere's graphic exterior, will provide a tethered base over which the kaleidoscopic sphere will levitate several feet.

Following a VIP reception on Thursday, December 1 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Miami Marbles at PULSE will be on view at Indian Beach Park (4601 Collins Avenue) during public fair hours: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Thursday December 1; 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on December 2 and 3; and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Sunday, December 4. Two additional spheres will be on view for the duration of the fair at the COMO Metropolitan Miami Beach hotel, 2445 Collins Avenue.

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ABOUT ANNE SPALTER

Digital mixed-media artist Anne Spalter is an academic pioneer who founded the original digital fine arts programs at Brown University and The Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in the 1990s. In her studio practice, Spalter uses custom software to transform source footage—captured by the artist during multisensory experiences such as riding the Coney Island Cyclone; walking through an open-air flower market in Bangkok; and dangling from a helicopter over downtown Dubai—into kaleidoscopic, algorithmically manipulated Modern Landscapes.

Spalter, who studied mathematics as a Brown undergraduate before receiving an MFA in painting from RISD, has a longstanding goal of integrating art and technology. With additional cross-disciplinary masteries including a 2011 Sensei designation in Kenpo Karate, Spalter's influences in the studio are as diverse as Buddhist art, pure mathematics, Futurism, and Action Painting.

Spalter's work is housed in the permanent collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, UK); the Albright-Knox Museum (Buffalo, NY); the Rhode Island School of Design Museum (Providence, RI); and others. In March 2016, Spalter received accolades from *Forbes*, *Surface*, *Whitewall*, and others for her large-scale installation *Precession* at SPRING/BREAK Art Show. Spalter currently sits on the board of the New York Foundation for the Arts. For more information about her work, visit www.annespalter.com.

ABOUT PULSE CONTEMPORARY ART FAIR

Founded in 2005, PULSE Contemporary Art Fair is an established part of the annual art calendar and is recognized for providing its international community of emerging and established galleries with a dynamic platform for connecting with a global audience. PULSE offers visitors an engaging environment in which to discover and collect the most compelling contemporary art being produced today. For further information about PULSE Contemporary Art Fair, please visit www.pulse-art.com.