



Project Description

We are pleased to present a new, site-specific installation by American artist Kiki Smith for the City of Coral Gables. We would like to unveil the artwork at Giralda Plaza for the annual Coral Gables Art Basel Miami Beach commission in December 2020, highlight the artwork at the inauguration of *Illuminate Coral Gables* January 15 – 17th and de-install the piece after President's Day weekend 2021. The installation will be re-installed for the period of January and February 2022.

After being selected to curate *Illuminate Coral Gables*, Kiki Smith was one of the initial artists we contacted to discuss the possibilities of working together. The visible location of Giralda Plaza and the significant day and evening visitors seemed like a good place to start. Kiki intuitively wanted to further her creative exploration of constellations for this commission after learning of the promotional campaign "Giralda Under the Stars" as well as seeing the canopy of palm fronds. The notion of having people "look up" to discover her artwork dovetailed with the pre-existing, permanent pole & electrical structure in the middle of the plaza that we could suspend her artwork from. The artwork would transform the visitor experience through a unique and beautiful new work by Kiki. Her singular aesthetic always challenges the most seasoned art follower while providing a family friendly experience with a true sense of magic and discovery.

Over the past 6 months, the temporary public artwork has evolved into a wonderful fusion of a proper museum exhibition, art installation, and a relevant and memorable single public artwork. Kiki is proposing 42 individual artworks that when installed together will result in an immersive and imaginative outdoor experience for all to see. With proper evening lighting, the artwork will provide a different experience causing visitors to return to see the artwork. In fact, as the natural light changes throughout the day it creates an alive and ever-changing experience. There will also be an Augmented Reality component.

The complete budget including fabrication, installation, de-installation, documentation, promotions, etc. is \$ 200,000

Inspiration

Kiki's art process and life are one. There is no division and what intrigues and excites her usually somehow ends up in her work. As a person interested in life, spirituality, and nature, these themes manifest themselves in all her artwork ranging across all media.

Kiki has long been interested and inspired by the heavens and of constellations. Her fascination with 17th century constellation drawings was the starting point for her newest public art proposal for Coral Gables. However, precedents like *Skypool*, 2004 with architect Lebbeus Woods allowed Kiki to realize an ephemeral reflection / mirror of the above Lapland sky for *The Snow Show* exhibition.

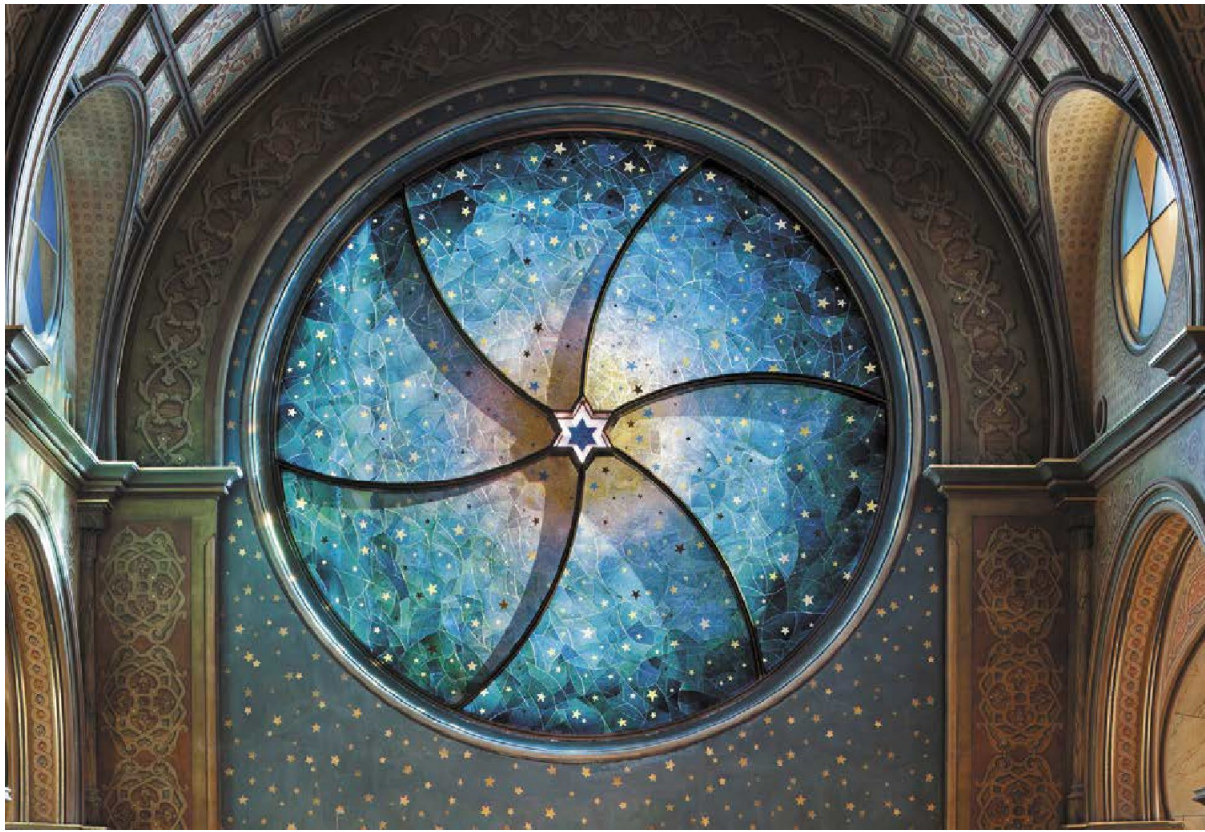
Embedded within her constellational reflection were star covered silhouettes of women that flew. Kiki's innate ability to fuse fantasy and reality is done with grace and whimsy.



The final collaborative iteration was realized in 2006 for the 20th Winter Olympics *The Snow Show: Torino*. In this case, Kiki shifted the narrative and imagery. Continuing with wisps of fiber optic lights embedded in the manmade pools of water, Kiki replaced the flying women with a silhouette of a bouquet of flowers encased in the ice while her emblematic and self-referential "Alice" figure gazed into the magical pond.



A more recent and permanent commission for the Eldridge Street Synagogue resulted in a moving and spiritual masterpiece by Kiki and architect Deborah Gans. The duo illustrated their sensitivity to place & history and with 1,200 pieces of stained glass, a sixteen-foot diameter window is on view in the east end of the sanctuary.



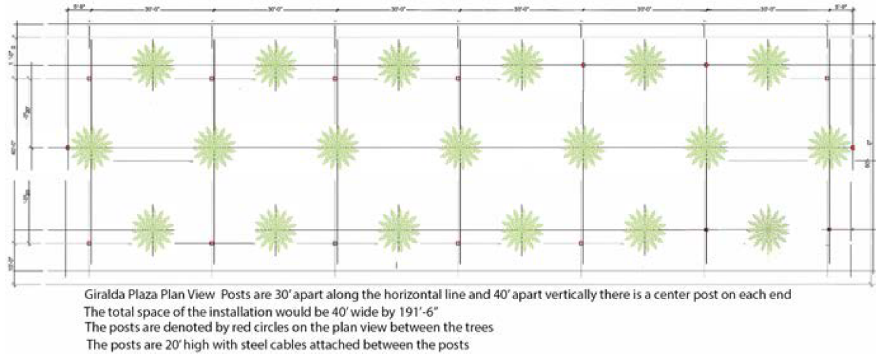


Kiki has worked with the star image for gallery exhibitions and public art projects.



Constellation Concept for Giralda Plaza

Kiki is currently creating 42 drawings of animal constellations which are artwork unto themselves and destined to become prints. However, the drawings were the starting point for her focus on creating a massive public artwork that would fill the 30 foot wide x 192 foot long center section of Giralda Plaza.

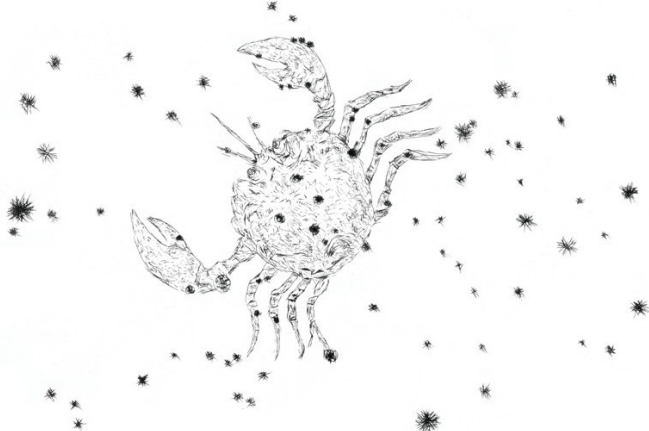
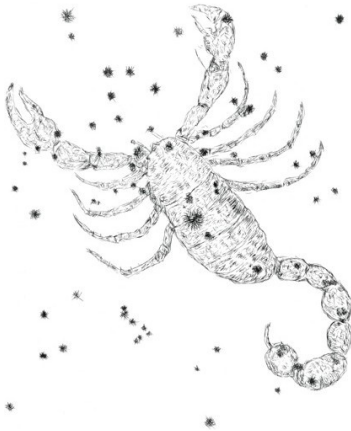
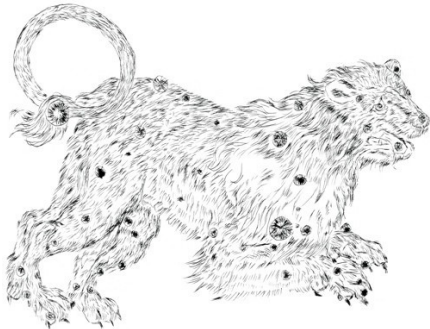


In recognizing that downtown Coral Gables is surrounded by amazing nature, she wants to bring animals into the town through her constellations. Her work often comments on environmental stewardship and one's relationship with nature. She hopes that viewers will begin to see themselves differently as well as their town by transforming Giralda Plaza with the 42 unique artworks hung in tandem. They are made from dark blue transparent plexiglass sheets with permanent vinyl drawings bonded to the surface. These figures will also incorporate Swarovski crystals which will be embedded on both sides relating to stars and constellation patterns they suggest.



Photo of existing condition. Icicle lights to be changed with smaller bulbs to appear as stars.

Kiki's Drawing Examples





Plexiglass Prototype



Prototype: View of animal constellations with mirrored drawing

Educational & family opportunities

By partnering with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, children will meet the artist via zoom and to learn about the artwork. They will also learn about astronomy and constellations via an augmented reality component of the actual artwork. We imagine individuals and families will visit the installation many times to search through the stars via this unique art installation. MDCPS also plans to bring art, dance and music students to Coral Gables to participate and visit the artworks for *Illuminate Coral Gables*. Busses will bring students from all nine districts.

We are also hoping to print a coloring book of the artwork for children living in Coral Gables and also provide individual coloring sheets for the restaurants to provide their diners.

Concept Rendering



View of animal constellations concept

Histories & Relationships

We have worked with Kiki Smith on exhibitions and special public art commissions since 1990 and not only recognize her genius but also her humanity. She possesses an innate ability to listen and connect. She embraces collaboration, people, and an immense ability to give. Her outlook on the modern world is visionary while also looking to the past as she glides through the present.

All these characteristics results in personal + universal art that is positive, reflective, and thought provoking.

We are thrilled with each and every collaboration; Kiki embraces the team, site, and audience while she maintains her unwavering aesthetic and need to story tell. Her respect of nature and her fellow human beings provides an inclusive energy and process that invites everyone to enjoy life, contemporary art, and her gift of public art.

Kiki has wholeheartedly conceived this project and is dedicated to realizing this important public artwork about unity, peace, and embrace while the world struggles to learn, grown and combat negative forces.

We want to open our circle by collaborating with you in Coral Gables, so that others can share the in joy we have of knowing Kiki Smith and experiencing her artwork.

Lance M. Fung, June 2020



Red Garden, 2012 for Artlantic, Atlantic City, NJ