

**EXCERPT**

**CITY OF CORAL GABLES  
ARTS ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Wednesday, June 24, 2020 9:00 a.m.**

**Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>
	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
Nelson de León*			P	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	P
Dr. Jill Deupi	E	-	E	-	P	E	E	-	-	-	P
Emily MacDonald-Korth	P	-	P	-	P	E	P	-	-	-	P
Jacek Kolasiński	P	-	P	-	P	P	E	-	-	-	P
Marijean Miyar*		-	P	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	P
Juan Roselione-Valadez	P	-	E	-	P	P	P	-	-	-	P
Manny Mato*					P	P	P	-	-	-	P

**LEGEND:** A = Absent; P = Present; E = Excused; \* = New Member; ^= Resigned Member;  
- = No Meeting    + = Special Meeting

**STAFF:**

Kara Kautz, Interim Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Director  
Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist  
Carlos Mindreau, City Architect

**MEETING RECORD / MINUTES PREPARATION:** Catherine Cathers, Arts & Culture Specialist,  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Department

Dr. Deupi called the Arts Advisory Panel meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

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**e. ART BASEL 2020 ARTIST & PROPOSAL**

Dr. Deupi welcomed Lance Fung of Fung Collaboratives and artist Kiki Smith. She stated that the Panel reviewed the proposal materials in advance. Mr. Fung shared a PowerPoint as he talked through the proposed concept.

Ms. Cathers stated that this is a project proposed for the City’s annual temporary exhibition aligned with Art Basel and as a project in support of Illuminate Coral Gables inaugural year.

Mr. Fung presented images demonstrating the scope of the proposed 42 (forty-two) works by Kiki Smith. A site layout of the installation area was shown, depicting an area of approximately 20 (twenty) feet wide by 191 (one hundred ninety) feet long. The artworks would be suspended, he said, within the architectural structure currently in place in the middle section of Giralda Plaza. Each work is a large-scale image based on historical renderings of animal constellations with Swarovski crystals embedded at the locations of the key stars making up the constellation. To enhance the project and lessen distraction, the artist proposes to temporarily switch out the existing (icicle) lights with smaller bulbs to reflect and represent stars.

Mr. Fung described the project as a hybrid between a public artwork, a museum exhibition, and an art installation. He went on to describe the idea of working with the tree canopy and the concept of constellations; to have viewers look up and experience the work as it provides a sense of discovery and experience for individuals, families, and art collectors to take time, meander and experience the exhibition as a whole.

The presentation included a list of the 42 different animal constellations which the artist is currently working on. Examples of the drawings were shown, with special markings representing the stars and the largest stars comprising the constellation forms. Mr. Fung described Kiki Smith's process of making a cyanotype, which the color was based on for this installation. A prototype was made to explore fabricating the work on blue plexiglass with laser-cut vinyl to see how it would translate from the 12-18 inch renderings enlarged to approximately 4 feet in length. The materiality was further explored, he said, to address sustainability in South Florida weather. Ultimately, Mr. Fung said, a mirrored vinyl was decided on to be more visible and reactive in the day and evening. A video clip was shown demonstrating proportion of the work and the reflective quality.

Mr. Fung further described the installation, saying the artworks will hang at a height where they can't be touched or pulled down; and at a height where people can easily view the imagery as if looking at the stars. Further development of the project, he said, will be the creation of an augmented reality application to function in the day and night. Mr. Fung described visitors looking at the work, shifting from the imagery of Kiki Smith's pieces to the actual constellations where viewers can identify the stars in each constellation.

Dr. Deupi asked for confirmation that the works will be perpendicular, rather than parallel, to the ground. Mr. Fung responded yes.

Mr. Fung then shared a full-size prototype of one of the pieces, a rabbit, to get a better sense of the scale. He said Kiki Smith is continuing to work on the scale to achieve a delicate balance of pieces large enough to maintain the shape and rigidity of the work, but not be overwhelming. He continued, saying a sense of scale to a real constellation is desired with enough open space amongst the trees and between each animal to support the sense of constellations (filling the sky).

Dr. Deupi asked how the pieces will be suspended, if they will be static, rotate with the wind, or be in a fixed position hanging down from the structure. Mr. Fung responded that (the method of connection) will be determined once a structural engineer is engaged. He stated a preference for the work rotating and said the mirrored lines will be on both sides of the plexiglass (allowing both sides to shine) with no front or back. Understanding that the location can get quite windy, he said the pieces are extremely lightweight,

under 3 pounds each, allowing for lightweight cables to maintain stability with no additional structure necessary.

Dr. Deupi invited Kiki Smith to speak about the work, conveying the importance of hearing directly from the artist to have a sense of the vision and aspiration. Ms. Smith stated that for a very long time she has made images of the animal constellations as a direct connection between heaven on earth. She spoke about her interest in the space where the sky touches the earth and the concept of the animals in the sky being the continuation between the two. Ms. Smith elaborated on the drawings themselves, saying they are based on historical drawings, etchings, and engravings of the constellations.

The Panel expressed their delight with the proposal and their interest in seeing how the engineering progresses. Dr. Deupi commented that the concept maintains a high aesthetic and intellectual quality while being a great photo opportunity.

Mr. Fung said the full-scale prototype shows the sculptural quality of the piece. In addition, he said, the right fabricator has been found with a guarantee on the plexiglass for 10 years and the vinyl for 3 years based on 24/7 outdoor installation. Ideally, he said, the piece will be re-installed in January 2022 for the second year of Illuminate when more out of town visitors will be able to see the work.

Kiki Smith shared her enthusiasm for the project, saying it aligns with her work as a stained-glass artist, etcher, and low-relief sculptor. She emphasized the reflective quality of the work and how it changes throughout the day and night.

The Illuminate Coral Gables partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools was mentioned and Mr. Fung stated the possibility of doing a children's coloring book for students, giving them intimate access to the work of Kiki Smith, on-line remote learning opportunities about the art, and inspiration to learn more about the constellations.

The Panel thanked Mr. Fung and Kiki Smith for presenting to the Panel. They, in turn, thanked the Panel and left the meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine J. Cathers  
Arts & Culture Specialist