



The Frost Art Museum Presents *Gran Torino: Italian Contemporary Art*

MIAMI, FL (January 6, 2011)— The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University (FIU) presents *Gran Torino: Italian Contemporary Art* opening January 26, 2011. *Gran Torino*, curated by Paolo Facelli and Francesco Poli. The exhibit presents works from a selected group of Torino artists that are representative of not only the local but Italian situation, with their own national characteristics, in an open and stimulating debate with the international scene. *Gran Torino* will feature artists who have established themselves during the past 15 years along with works by artists representative of generations that emerged during the 60s, 70s, and 80s. It begins with Torino exponents of the renowned *Arte Povera* movement, such internationally acclaimed artists as Mario Mertz, Alighiero Boetti, Giulio Paolini and Michelangelo Pistoletto, and introduces significant trends and movements of contemporary Italian art to American audiences.

The *Gran Torino* artists focus on the concepts of duration and continuity and the relationship between art and time. While tracing different worlds and visions over a period of 40 years, each artist displays singular intentions, reflections and experimentations within a common social, political and cultural matrix.

A founding force in the *Arte Povera* movement, Michelangelo Pistoletto has created works during the last sixty years that unwaveringly reinvented the contemporary art aesthetic. Pistoletto is perhaps most regarded for his *Mirror Paintings*, which directly include the viewer and real time in the work. Interestingly these works embraced perspective, much as it had been during Renaissance, thereby countering the twentieth-century avant-garde aversion to such artistic devices.

Gran Torino will provide visitors to the Frost Art Museum a significant opportunity to view and experience the Italian avant-garde of the latter part of the 20th century. It will allow visitors to hopefully gain a richer understanding and appreciation of twentieth-century Italian avant-garde and the *Arte Povera* style, which continues to significantly impact the city of Turin and the art world.

About The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University

The Frost Art Museum opened its current 46,000-square-foot state of the art building in November 2008. Over **60,000** people have visited The Museum in its new building since its opening in November, 2008. Admission to The Museum is always free. The Frost is an AAM accredited museum and Smithsonian affiliate and is located at 10975 SW 17th St across from the Blue garage and adjacent to the Wertheim Performing Arts Center on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday noon-5 p.m. Closed on Mondays and most legal holidays. For more information, please visit thefrost.fiu.edu or call 305-348-2890. Find The Frost Art Museum on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/frostartmuseum>) and Facebook (<http://facebook.com/frostartmuseum>).

About FIU

Florida International University is one of the 25 largest universities in the nation, with more than 42,000 students. Nearly 130,000 FIU alumni live and work in South Florida. Its [colleges and schools](#) offer more than 200 [bachelor's, master's and doctoral](#) programs in fields such as engineering, international relations and law. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU is worlds ahead in its local and global engagement, finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. The opening of the [Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine](#) in August 2009 has enhanced the university's ability to create lasting positive change in our community. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>.

About FIAT

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