

**THE NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION
WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE RELATED GROUP WELCOMES THREE
ARTISTS TO ITS SPRING 2015 YOUNGARTS RESIDENCY IN VISUAL ARTS**

New York-based sculptor Emma Fee in residence March 23 – June 1, 2015

**Los Angeles-based multimedia artist and YoungArts Master Teacher
Sarah Rara in residence April 6 – May 1, 2015**

**Miami-based painter and YoungArts Master Teacher Michael Vasquez in
residence April 6 – May 31, 2015**

**All three artists to participate in ARTtuesdays/MIAMI panel at Ted's at YoungArts
on April 14, 2015**



Emma Fee, "Ripeness," 2014,
woven reeds



Sarah Rara, "The Pollinators," 2014, video with sound,
runtime 65 minutes, sound by Luke Fischbeck.



Michael Vasquez, "Neighborhood
Legends - Control, Power," 2014
Acrylic and acrylic spraypaint on
canvas, 84 x 51.25

Miami, FL (April 13, 2015) – The [National YoungArts Foundation](#) (YoungArts), with the generous support of **The Related Group**, announces New York-based sculptor **Emma Fee**, Los Angeles-based multimedia artist and YoungArts Master Teacher **Sarah Rara**, and Miami-based painter and YoungArts Master Teacher **Michael Vasquez** as the next participants in the [YoungArts Residency in Visual Arts](#) program. Fee is in residence on the YoungArts Campus in Miami from March 23 through June 1, 2015,

and will overlap with both Rara, who is in residence from April 6 through May 1, and Vasquez, who is in residence from April 6 through May 31. The YoungArts Residency program offers emerging and mid-career artists time, space and resources; helps them forge key relationships; and gives them the chance to work in Miami and engage with its community. Previous participants in the residency program include **Suzanne McClelland**, the program's inaugural artist in residence, and **James Weingrod**, who participated in the program in December 2014.

"YoungArts is dedicated to supporting artists at critical junctures in their careers, and that includes providing invaluable resources for emerging and mid-career artists to develop new work within a residency setting," stated **Esther Park-Clemetson**, Director of Campus Programming, National YoungArts Foundation. "Through this program, and the generous support of Jorge Pérez and The Related Group, we are bringing new art, culture and ideas to the Miami community and filling an important need for residency support in the country."

Fee, Rara and Vasquez were nominated and selected by a jury of esteemed advisors including: **Agnes Gund** (President Emerita, The Museum of Modern Art), **Thom Collins** (Executive Director and President, The Barnes Foundation), **Bonnie Clearwater** (Director and Chief Curator of Nova Southeastern University's Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale), **Carol Jazzar** (Director and Curator of Carol Jazzar Contemporary Gallery in Miami), **Patricia Hanna** (Art Director, The Related Group) and **Anelys Alvarez** (art historian).

Inspired by drawings in Henrick Drescher's book *Turbulence*, Emma Fee plans to use her residency to explore the Miami area to source local materials to create a large scale sculpture. The work will focus on the nature and origin of fire. Fee is particularly excited about the opportunity to work alongside other artists. "Having this opportunity through YoungArts has challenged me as an artist," she said. "I am working in a new environment, with different materials, and I couldn't be more excited to see how my work and relationships progress through this challenge."

Sarah Rara is also looking forward to spending time in Miami and working in a new environment. "Traveling east from Los Angeles, I'll shift from the Pacific to the Atlantic," she stated. "I'm interested to see what changes will occur given new resources, new landscape, new materials, new community...I want to see where Miami takes me, to look for inspiration for new work when I arrive there. It's an exciting leap into the unknown, and I am looking forward to a productive adventure."

Michael Vasquez noted, "I am both honored and thrilled over this opportunity. The YoungArts Residency will provide me with the space and resources to create my work and realize my vision without limitations. I look forward to interacting with the other studio residents and taking advantage of all the enriching programming that happens on the YoungArts campus." During his residency, Vasquez will focus on the completion of eight large new paintings for his "Neighborhood Reclamation," exhibition, which opens May 29, 2015 at the MDC Museum of Art and Design.

New to the program this spring, local Miami arts leaders will serve as ambassadors for the artists in residence. These ambassadors will be paired with the artists and help guide them as they navigate the Miami art scene and interact with some of its key players.

The YoungArts Residency in Visual Arts provides artists with an honorarium of up to \$10,000; a stipend to cover travel, projects and other related expenses; 3 to 12 weeks of housing provided by The Related Group and studio workspace on the YoungArts Campus; and the opportunity to meet and work with

some of the international art community's most noteworthy master artists, collectors, gallerists and curators. While in residence, the artists will create an original work that will be exhibited at the end of their residency or with the work of other resident artists at a future date. During the residency, each artist will also offer at least three public engagement sessions.

The first of these public events will take place on April 14 at Ted's at YoungArts, when Fee, Rara, and Vasquez will be featured on **ARTtuesdays/MIAMI's** panel "YoungArts: Rising Focus on Visual Arts." During the event, which begins at 6pm, they will discuss the purpose, impact, and future of the Residency program along with **Patricia Hanna**, Art Director for The Related Group, and YoungArts' **Esther Park-Clemetson**. The panel will be moderated by **Dr. Carol Damian**, Professor of Art History in the School of Art and Art History and former Director and Chief Curator (2008-2014) of the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University.

The YoungArts Residency in Visual Arts is made possible through the generous support of The Related Group. The program has grown out of a longstanding relationship between YoungArts and The Related Group, which both continue to contribute to the cultural vitality of Miami.

"This program is yet another important step in solidifying our legacy of bringing art into the community, building better cities, and supporting the growth of emerging artists," says The Related Group's Chairman and CEO Jorge Pérez, who is himself a prominent art collector and namesake to the Pérez Art Museum Miami. "Collaborating with YoungArts will give us a wider reach in supporting artists around the country, and it will enrich the local cultural landscape by creating a platform conducive to dialogue."

The Related Group has a history of bringing art into the community through its developments, from creating the art wall along the Miami Riverwalk tied to its first downtown residential development One Miami, to bringing world-class pieces, such as a Botero sculpture, to public view outside SLS Lux; donating land to the city to save and protect the Miami Circle by Icon Brickell; to earlier collaborations with YoungArts to promote the emerging neighborhood and cultural community of East Edgewater, where the company is currently developing Icon Bay, Paraiso Bay, ONE Paraiso and Paraiso Bayviews.

The investment that The Related Group has dedicated to YoungArts further adds to their commitment to building better cities and Mr. Pérez's personal passion for the arts.

The YoungArts Residency in Visual Arts is the first of several residency programs in the visual, literary, design and performing arts that YoungArts is developing as it expands its support of the next generation of artists in the United States and strengthens its place as a creative-catalyst for Miami's growing cultural landscape.

About Emma Fee

A native of New York City and a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Emma Fee's work has been included in over six exhibitions in cities spanning the globe including Shanghai, New York, and Boston. A sculptor, drawer, book maker, and curator, Fee is interested in the use of form, light and texture to capture the spirit and imagination of the viewer by attracting through the senses.

About Sarah Rara

Sarah Rara is a Los Angeles-based artist working with video, film, and performance. She is a contributing member of the group Lucky Dragons. Her work, solo and in collaboration, has been presented at such institutions as the Whitney Museum of American Art (as part of the 2008 Whitney Biennial), the

Hammer Museum, Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, London's Institute for Contemporary Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, MOCA Los Angeles, and the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, among others. She received a Masters in Fine Art from the University of Southern California in 2011.

About Michael Vasquez

Born and raised in Florida, Michael Vasquez grew up in St. Petersburg, graduated cum laude from the New World School of the Arts in 2005, and has had three solo exhibitions at the Fredric Snitzer Gallery. His work draws from his upbringing by a single mother in which he learned about masculinity, pride and community through interactions with a neighborhood street gang. Vasquez's work has been shown at the Saatchi Gallery in London and has also presented nationally in solo and group exhibitions at institutions such as the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and Bass Museum of Art. He is currently included in an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery and has an upcoming solo exhibition at Miami Dade College's Museum of Art and Design in the Freedom Tower as well as a group exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami.

About the National YoungArts Foundation

The National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison to identify and support the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assist them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raise appreciation for the arts in American society. Each year, there are approximately 11,000 applications to YoungArts from 15-18 year old (or grades 10-12) artists, and from these, approximately 800 winners are selected.

YoungArts provides these emerging artists with life-changing experiences and validation by renowned mentors, access to significant scholarships, national recognition and other opportunities at critical junctures throughout their careers to help ensure that the nation's most outstanding emerging artists are encouraged to pursue careers in the arts. To date, YoungArts has honored more than 20,000 alumni, including Doug Aitken, Josh Groban, Jenji Kohan, Desmond Richardson and Kerry Washington, with over \$12 million in monetary awards; facilitated in excess of \$60 million in college scholarship opportunities in the past two years; and enabled its participants to work with master teachers who are among the most distinguished artists in the world, such as Marina Abramović, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Plácido Domingo, Zaha Hadid, Jeff Koons, Robert Redford and Bruce Weber.

YoungArts is working with world-renowned architect and YoungArts Artistic Advisor Frank Gehry to transform the former Bacardi Tower and Museum buildings and three-and-a-half acre campus into its national headquarters, which will support expanded local activities in Miami and across the country. The new campus will feature a Gehry-designed performing arts center and park with state-of-the-art sound and video capabilities. Since opening the campus for programming in November 2013, YoungArts has held salons sponsored by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation with Marina Abramović, Robert Redford, Justin Peck & Sufjan Stevens, Joshua Bell, Ben Folds and Lil Buck; hosted Olafur Eliasson and his *Little Sun* installation in partnership with MoMA PS1 and Fondation Beyeler; launched a Visual Artist in Residency program supported by The Related Group; held master classes for local music students with jazz icon Wynton Marsalis and opera star Plácido Domingo; produced an interdisciplinary performance on the campus with Robert Redford and Sibylle Szaggars Redford, Living Colour's Will Calhoun, and YoungArts alumni Dave Eggar and Desmond Richardson; premiered HBO's *Joshua Bell: A YoungArts MasterClass*; and hosted a concert series in partnership with III Points Presents featuring FKA twigs, James Blake and SBTRKT.

For more information, visit youngarts.org, facebook.com/YoungArtsFoundation or twitter.com/YoungArts. To watch a brief video about YoungArts, [click here](#).

About The Related Group

Since its inception in 1979, the privately held Related Group, founded by Chairman Jorge M. Pérez, has built and managed more than 80,000 condominium and apartment residences in major markets throughout Florida. Today more than 350 people throughout South Florida are employed by The Related Group.

An award-winning company, Related has received a host of accolades, including the prestigious Honor Award from the National Building Museum given in recognition of its commitment to architecture and design excellence in new development. Related's landmark project on Brickell Avenue, Icon Brickell, has won 18 BEST awards from the BASF (Builders Association of South Florida).

In addition to its core business of real estate development, the Company operates its own real estate financing, sales and property management subsidiaries. Using its South Florida formula for success, The Related Group is broadening its reach and expanding to other markets in the United States, Latin America and abroad.

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