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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CoralGablesMuseum.org

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## ***Cross-Pollination: Artist Judi Harvest draws parallels between Honeybees and Murano glass in Museum solo exhibition***



The Coral Gables Museum Invites artist Judi Harvest as the next feature for the Museum's International Artist Series. This solo exhibition entitled, ***Cross-Pollination: Honeybees and Murano Glass***, will feature a series of works previously exhibited at the Venice Biennale. Having worked with seven Murano glass masters, Harvest draws parallels between the fragility of two communities affected by encroaching urbanism and growing industrial economies – the honeybees and the Murano glass-making families.

The exhibition will be on view from **March 2 through May 20, 2018**

Public reception in conjunction with Coral Gables Gallery Night, **March 2, 2018 6pm-10pm**

### **ABOUT THE EXHIBIT:**

For this exhibition, Harvest created over 1500 different glass seeds, plants and flowers.

"I created these seed and plant works in Murano glass to further emphasize the sense of the fragility of life and the search for beauty that underlies all my work." ***Cross-Pollination: Honeybees and Murano Glass*** is a rumination on seeds, bee pollination and plants as metaphors for life and renewal. Most of the seeds are rendered in luscious colored Venetian glass, while clear glass "frozen" seeds are inspired by seed banks, like the world's largest, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway.

Harvest worked with seven Murano glass masters, employing three ancient and challenging Murano glass techniques: cera persa (lost wax), lume (flame work), and soffiato (blown). The Murano glass artist's community and their complex glass art is an elemental part of Harvest's work. But the Murano glass factory that she worked in for over 28 years, owned by Giorgio Giuman and his family, has gone from employing 75 people to a mere four. She began to see parallels between the disappearing bees, victims of Colony Collapse Disorder, and the declining populations of Murano islanders and glass-making families. Her work began to focus on the frailness and strengths of the two communities, making connections between the Murano glass artists and the bees. This exhibition will include a selection of this work.

### **ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ARTIST SERIES**

The role of any museum is to promote a cultural and intellectual exchange with the immediate community they represent and other communities, whether they be national or international. As an institution in the heart of a city known for its international outreach programs, it is important that the Coral Gables Museum upholds this vision and aids in maintaining the city's international identity.

The Coral Gables Museum will invite international visual artists to present a three-month solo exhibition in a way that most accurately represents the artist and their work. During their stay in Coral Gables they will have the opportunity to explore all that the City Beautiful has to offer, participate in various public events, and engage with the community. The objective of the international Artist Series is to promote cultural exchange, not only with Coral Gables' sister cities, but with other international cities that may be under-represented in our own community. With this in mind, we hope that the series will act as a conduit to open discussions that address the world topics that unite us as a people, give our communities the opportunities to celebrate the cultural differences that make us special, and to bring accessible, thought-provoking contemporary art to Coral Gables

### **IMAGE CAPTIONS:**



*Murano glass seeds*  
Dimensions variable

Photo by Matthew Klein



*Pomegranate*, 2017  
Murano glass, soffiato, 13 x 10 x 10 cm

*Pomegranate Seeds*, 2017  
Murano glass, lume, 1.3 x 1 x 0.5 cm each

Photo by Francesco Allegretto



*Frozen Seed Universe*, 2017  
Murano glass  
Dimensions variable

Photo by Francesco Allegretto



Garlic I, 2017  
Murano glass, soffiato, 6 x 6 x 15 cm

Garlic II, 2017  
Murano glass, soffiato, 9 x 9 x 9 cm

Zucchini Blossom, 2017  
Murano glass, lume, 18 x 6 x 6 cm

Sage Leaves, 2017  
Murano glass, lume, approx. 1.5 x 5 cm each

Garlic Cloves, 2017  
Murano glass, lume, 3 x 2 x 2 cm each

Photo by Francesco Allegretto



Judi Harvest with *Monumental Hive*

### **Museum Season Partners**

Withers Transportation  
Abraham Foundation  
Batchelor Foundation  
City of Coral Gables  
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs  
State of Florida Cultural Affairs

### **Additional sponsors**

Societa Dante Alighieri

### **RELATED PROGRAMS:**

**Gallery Night Live and public reception**  
March 2, 6pm-10pm

Sponsored by Mercedes Benz of Coral Gables

Public opening for **Cross-Pollination: Honeybees and Murano Glass**. Live music and a cash bar tonight and every first Friday of the month in conjunction with Coral Gables Gallery Night.

FREE

### **ABOUT JUDI HARVEST**

Originally from Miami, FL, for over forty years, Harvest has lived, worked and exhibited her art in Venice, which she saw for the first time in 1973 while studying at the Tyler School of Art in Rome. Since 1987 she has had 15 exhibitions in Venice, including 2015's Room of Dreams (part of Dialogue of Fire) and her massive 2013 solo exhibition DENATURED: Honeybees + Murano, for which she created 100 amber-toned glass Honey Vessels, other honeybee-related paintings and sculptures, and the permanent installation *Honey Garden*, a bee-friendly garden which has transformed the grounds of Giuman's glass factory. The garden is home to eight healthy honeybee hives which produce the only Murano honey.

### **ABOUT HONEY GARDEN**

*Honey Garden* is a permanent installation created by the artist in an abandoned field of 250 square meters, on the grounds of Giorgio Giuman's glass factory on the island of Sacca Serenella, Murano. During the month of March 2013, Harvest brought in 6 boat loads of soil, planted 30 fruit trees and 500 different types of fragrant flowers, including lavender, jasmine, roses, sage, rosemary and wisteria with the intention of creating a suitable environment for the bees. In April 2013, she installed the 4 fully functional beehives which now, in 2017, have naturally increased to eight healthy beehives.

Currently the *Honey Garden* is active and produces over 60 kilos of honey twice a year. The glass factory has seen the benefits of increased business and awareness, and continues to work with artists from around the world.

### **ABOUT THE MUSEUM:**

*The Coral Gables Museum celebrates the 1920s planned community of Coral Gables and presents exhibits and programs that examine the built environment.*

The Museum's mission is to celebrate, investigate and explore the civic arts of architecture and urban and environmental design, including fostering an appreciation for the history, vision, and cultural landscape of Coral Gables; promoting beauty and planning as well as historic and environmental preservation for a broad audience, including children, families, and community members, as well as local, regional, national and international visitors. The museum optimizes its mission by cultivating effective partnerships, and providing programming that includes exhibitions, collections, educational offerings, lectures, tours, publications and special events.

The Museum is a true public/private partnership between the City of Coral Gables and the Coral Gables Museum Corp., a private, not for profit 501.c.3 corporation operating an educational cultural institution within a City owned facility. The Museum raises its own operating budget to fund the exhibitions and educational programs it provides, through memberships, private and government grants, admissions, earned income and, most importantly, with contributions from community members who believe in our mission.

### **Museum Hours:**

Tuesday – Friday: 12pm-6pm

Saturday: 11am-5pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Monday: CLOSED

**Admission fees:**

Adults - \$10

Seniors and Students - \$8

Children ages 3-12 - \$3

Members - FREE



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