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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned Artist and Activist Shepard Fairey Named Recipient of the 2026 Art Miami Lifetime Visionary Award

MIAMI, FL — August 28, 2026 — Art Miami, America's longest-running international contemporary art fair, running December 1 – 6th is proud to announce street art pioneer, graphic designer, and activist Shepard Fairey as the recipient of the 2026 Art Miami Lifetime Visionary Award.

The prestigious award recognizes visionary figures whose groundbreaking contributions have permanently transformed the landscape of contemporary art, culture, and social discourse. Fairey will officially accept the honor during Miami Art Week in December 2026. He is the third recipient of the award, following past honorees Jorge Pérez and Dennis + Debra Scholl.

Over a career spanning more than four decades, Shepard Fairey has dissolved the boundaries between fine art, street culture, and political activism. From his iconic 1989 "Andre the Giant Has a Posse" sticker campaign—which evolved into the global OBEY movement—to his historic 2008 Barack Obama "HOPE" portrait (now housed in the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery), Fairey's visually striking work has continuously challenged public perception and empowered social change.

"Shepard Fairey is a dynamic force whose work transcends traditional gallery walls to ignite conversations on justice, equality, and humanity. His vision, relentless activism, and undeniable impact on visual culture make him the ideal honoree for the 2026 Lifetime Visionary Award. We are thrilled to celebrate his legacy and ongoing influence here in Miami."

— Nick Korniloff, Director of Art Miami

In addition to receiving the award, Fairey's presence will span across the Art Miami fair family throughout Miami Art Week. His work will be highlighted in a curated presentation inside the **VIP Lounge at Art Miami**, featuring key monumental moments, print editions, and fine art works from his global portfolio. Highlighting his multidisciplinary practice, Fairey will perform **exclusive DJ sets during the VIP Previews for both CONTEXT Art Miami and Aqua Art Miami**. Leaving a lasting physical imprint on Miami's visual landscape, he will also install a **new exterior facade mural at the iconic Aqua Hotel in Miami Beach**.

"I've always believed that art should be accessible, provocative, and serve as a tool for dialogue. To be recognized by Art Miami with the Lifetime Visionary Award is a deep honor. Miami has long been a vibrant canvas for public art and urban expression, making this recognition especially meaningful."

— Shepard Fairey

Entering its milestone 36th edition, Art Miami reaffirms its position as an indispensable pillar of the global art market and the cornerstone of Miami Art Week. As the city's original and longest-running international contemporary art fair, it remains a premier destination for acquiring investment-grade works spanning the 20th and 21st centuries. Set against its iconic waterfront location at One Herald Plaza, the fair convenes a prestigious network of internationally renowned galleries showcasing a rigorously curated cross-section of primary and secondary market masterpieces—from Post-War and Pop icons to groundbreaking contemporary practices. Recognized for its high-volume commercial energy and deep institutional engagement, Art Miami is an essential fixture for discerning collectors, museum directors, advisors, and tastemakers.

Fairey's contributions will be celebrated at a private cocktail reception and dinner on Thursday, December 3rd, at Boulud Sud (located inside the JW Marriott Marquis in downtown Miami). The menu will be personally prepared by Michelin-Star Chef Daniel Boulud. A portion of the proceeds from the evening will benefit the Perry J. Cohen Foundation, supporting its core pillar dedicated to the arts – an organization for which Fairey personally designed the official logo.

For more information regarding the award dinner, fair hours, and VIP preview access, please visit www.artmiami.com.

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About Shepard Fairey

Shepard Fairey was born in Charleston, South Carolina, and received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1992. In 1989, he created the "Andre the Giant Has a Posse" sticker campaign, which morphed into OBEY GIANT and sparked worldwide interest in street art and pop surrealism. His work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Smithsonian, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and many others.

About Art Miami

Art Miami is the premier international contemporary and modern art fair taking place annually during Miami Art Week. Known as one of the most important art events in the United States, Art Miami showcases iconic 20th- and 21st-century works in collaboration with world-renowned galleries, attracting collectors, curators, museum directors, and art enthusiasts from across the globe.