



**JEWISH MUSEUM OF FLORIDA-FIU
Exhibit Schedule 2017-2018**

**MOSAIC: Jewish Life in Florida
(Core Exhibit - Ongoing)**

More than 500 photos and artifacts depict the Jewish experience in Florida since 1763, reflecting a thematic presentation of immigration, community development, discrimination, earning a living, acculturation and identity. Personal artifacts, films, photos, timeline and contemporary art attract a universal audience by telling the universal story of immigration as the example of the acculturation process of every family and provide an engaging, up close museum experience. The Museum is housed in two former synagogues that served as the first congregation on Miami Beach. The primary building is a restored 1936 Art Deco building with a copper dome, marble bimah and 80 stained-glass windows. The second building is the original 1929 shul. The skylighted Bessie's Bistro connects the two buildings.

Subject to Interpretation

(Opens October, 2017)

Subject to Interpretation adds a new dimension to Miami's art scene by teaming the collections in the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU (JMOF – FIU), a 20-year old historical museum, with contemporary interpretations by new artists. They will be solicited to “interpret” and “explore” through installation art including audio/video, kinetics, textiles, music, performance art and architecture. The museum will collaborate with selected artists on design and content to create temporary installations that will rotate throughout the year. JMOF – FIU will guide the artists through its archives and then the artist will “interpret” the collection. The viewer will be treated to an ever-changing exhibit with new artists and “interpretations”, all within the backdrop of a historic building. The result is a walk-through experience presenting our cultural heritage in new, vibrant and engaging formats.

**Irene Williams: *Queen of Lincoln Road*
July 13 – November 5, 2017**

Miami Beach has always been home to many colorful people. One of them was Irene Williams. Every workday for more than 40 years, Irene dressed in one of her vibrant fashions from a collection of more than 100 handmade hats and outfits, walked to her small office on Lincoln Road. One morning in 1995, Irene was spotted by Eric Smith, a New York City designer, entrepreneur, and founder of E.G. Smith Socks. A friendship ensued and over the next decade, Eric documented on film Irene's outsider couture, and the heartfelt affection they shared and produced an award winning documentary titled *Irene Williams Queen of Lincoln Road*. When Irene died in 2004, she left her colorful collection of hats, photos and letters to Smith which are included in the exhibit. In addition to the Irene Williams Collection, the exhibition will include hats and photos on loan from Isabel Bernfeld Anderson and George Neary.

Evil: A Matter of Intent

April 3, 2017– October 1, 2017

Using an international visual language, the artists in this exhibition challenge the concept of heroes and villains, presenting with clarity and passion the many faces of inhumanity. History is replete with genocides, including the Holocaust, Armenian genocide, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Darfur. Acts of inhumanity are rampant throughout history and unceasing today - pogroms, murder, rape, abuse, lynchings, terrorist acts, obliteration of cultural heritage, and much more. Human morality requires direct action against evil atrocities. As the exhibition curator states, “Evil is not a cosmic accident. It does not just happen. Natural disasters happen. Disease, drought, accidents, and epidemics happen. Evil is the violation of our common humanity. These artists have a vision of how to proceed: Less rhetoric. More action...It is up to each and every one of us to wage war on evil.”

Exhibition on loan from Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion

Ruth Gruber: Photojournalist

October 16, 2017 – January 7, 2018

This exhibition celebrates the remarkable life, vision and heroic tenacity of this 20th century pioneer and trailblazer, Ruth Gruber, born in Brooklyn on September 30, 1911. Gruber became the youngest PhD in the world at age 20, before going on to become an international foreign correspondent and photojournalist. Photographs included in the show span more than 50 years and four continents, from Gruber's groundbreaking reportage of the Soviet Arctic in the 1930s and iconic images of Jewish refugees on the ship Exodus 1947, to her later photographs of Ethiopian Jews in the midst of civil war in the 1980s. A selection of Gruber's vintage prints never before exhibited will be presented along with contemporary prints made from her original negatives. With her boundless empathy and razor sharp intellect, a Hermes typewriter and a camera as her tools, Gruber served as an inspiration through her love of adventure, fearlessness, powerful intellect and defying tradition throughout an extraordinary career. She passed away in November 2016 at the age of 105.

This traveling exhibition is organized by the International Center of Photography.

Pointing the Way: The Art of the Torah Pointer

November 20, 2017 – March 18, 2018 (dates to be confirmed)

For the first time, the Barr Foundation has made available for public exhibition its remarkable collection of antique and contemporary torah pointers, which are used to guide the reader across the words of the torah. Known by the Hebrew word for "hand," or yad, these artistic treasures were created by artists from different time periods and cultures, and they are made of diverse materials including wood, precious metals, jewels, ceramics and paper. This display of yads transcends religious iconography and appeals to all who appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of fine art.