

Memorandum



Date: October 10, 2023

To: Chair and Members
Art in Public Places Trust

From: Marialaura Leslie, Interim Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Subject: Trust Resolution No. APPT 23-61 / Christine Federighi, Deaccession “Animal Train”

Trust Resolution No. APPT 23- 61

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DEACCESSION OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES (APP) COLLECTION ARTWORK “ANIMAL TRAIN” (1980) BY CHRISTINE FEDERIGHI PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ART IN PUBLIC PLACES DEACCESSION POLICY.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the deaccession of APP collection artwork “Animal Train” (1980) by Christine Federighi pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Department of Cultural Affairs Art in Public Places Deaccession Policy.

Background

In 1979, Miami-based artist Christine Federighi was commissioned by the Art in Public Places Trust to create an artwork for Metrozoo (now Zoo Miami) for a total commission value of \$9,564.00. The site-specific installation was comprised of six (6) partially glazed terracotta animal figurines, measuring a total length of 204” x 30” high and 52” wide, forming an “animal train” among the foliage surrounding its original siting. This observation was made by examining photographs taken at the site back in 1994, when the artwork was last restored for damage caused by Hurricane Andrew. In May of 2014, as part of Gurr Johns’s APP Collection appraisal, the artwork was field verified and found to be damaged and in poor condition. On the effective date of the appraisal, the artwork was valued at \$6,000.00. In early 2022, while conducting a collection verification of all the artworks at Zoo Miami, APP staff were unable to identify the original location of the artwork nor locate it anywhere on the campus or in any of its storage facilities. Further conversations with long-standing Zoo staff, indicated that the artwork may have been inadvertently removed and disposed of during the 2017 major expansion and reconfiguration of the Zoo Miami’s main entrance plaza. Unable to locate the work, on July 2023, APP staff filed a Lost Property police report with the Miami-Dade Police Department.

The artist, who was a longtime professor at the University of Miami’s Department of Art and Art History, passed away in 2006. To date, APP has been unable to establish contact and notify the artist’s estate regarding the loss of this work.

At a meeting of the Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) on September 21, 2023, the PAC concurred with APP’s recommendation to deaccession Christine Federighi “Animal Train” on the following grounds:

2.2.1 UNLOCATED. The artwork cannot be located after reasonable and diligent searches. As required by Miami-Dade County Administrative Order No. 8-2, a police report must be filed for unlocated artwork(s), and an investigation report and recommendation must be submitted to the Internal Services Department (ISD).

Pursuant to Section 2.2 of the Art in Public Places Deaccession Policy, it is recommended that the Art in Public Places Trust approve the deaccession of "Animal Train" by Christine Federighi.