



## VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Pinecrest Gardens to host Philip Haas's FOUR SEASONS – a towering installation of fantastical sculptures inspired by 16<sup>th</sup>-century Italian art, adapted to modern times, through a play of scale, material and dimensionality*

**Pinecrest, Fla.** – Internationally-renowned contemporary artist and filmmaker Philip Haas will display his acclaimed *FOUR SEASONS* installation November 16th to April 6, 2015 in Pinecrest Gardens' lush botanical sanctuary.

Consisting of four 15-foot-tall busts, Haas's *FOUR SEASONS* bring 16<sup>th</sup>-century Renaissance portraiture by Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo into modern times through a transformation of scale, material and dimensionality.

While Arcimboldo's paintings present each subject in profile, Haas's unconventional twist on the classical form allows visitors the opportunity to walk around the sculptures, to see the subjects from all sides, and from many different and surprising vantage points.

Each work represents an individual season and is distinctly unusual and extravagant. *AUTUMN* is comprised of fall vegetables, ripe grapes and leaves turning color. Weathered bark and verdant moss make up *WINTER*'s stoic bust, which sits on top of a cloak of straw. *SPRING* evokes rebirth and vibrancy with a face consisting of rose-colored petals and hair brimming with elaborate flowers. *SUMMER*'s hue is a variety of sun-kissed yellows; its face and headdress

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sprout onions, garlic, corn, peas, a multiplicity of fruit, and a cucumber nose. The sculptures are made of pigmented and painted fiberglass, supported by interior steel frames.

“I started the *FOUR SEASONS* project wanting to bring Arcimboldo’s Renaissance painted nature imagery into the 21<sup>st</sup>-century physical world. I can’t think of a better venue than Pinecrest Gardens to inaugurate the Florida tour of this work, where the sculptures will arrive in the one of the oldest outposts of the New World, having fled their earlier homes as paintings in European museums, to now rest, and blend in, for an extended period amid the lush tropical flora, rock formations and historic water features,” said Haas.

In marrying sculpture, painting, film, and architecture, Philip Haas has created a contemporary visual vocabulary all his own. He describes his process as “sculpting by thinking”. His groundbreaking artwork has been featured by museums, including the National Gallery of Art (Washington DC), the Kimbell Art Museum (Fort Worth, Texas), Dulwich Picture Gallery (United Kingdom), and Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris). In the public realm, his work has been exhibited in the Piazza del Duomo (Milan) and the Gardens of Versailles (France). His feature films include *ANGELS & INSECTS*, *THE MUSIC OF CHANCE* and *UP AT THE VILLA*. He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, as well as other awards. He has taught in the visual arts and creative writing programs at Princeton University. He lives and works in New York and London.

*FOUR SEASONS* by Philip Haas is the latest commission of Pinecrest Garden’s art program.

### **About Pinecrest Gardens**

It has taken more than a half-century for Pinecrest Gardens to evolve into the lush oasis of towering banyans, natural streams filled with turtles, Japanese Koi, and a lake that provides a home for an array of magnificent water fowl. It is a place to experience cultural enrichment in a panoramic setting and to learn about history and our environment. Every element of the Garden reflects excellence, beauty and inspiration to transform the visitor experience into one of discovery, enlightenment and entertainment. The Gardens contains approximately 4.3 acres of native forested wetland, 3.3 acres of tropical hardwood hammock and an acre of native cypress slough hammock. In addition, the site contains remnants of the original bed of Snapper Creek. Pinecrest Gardens features over 1,000 varieties of rare tropical and exotic plants, and has long served the South Florida community as an educational resource for natural science teachers, students and researchers. Among the facilities you’ll find a children’s Splash ‘N Play water amusement area, a petting zoo, playground and picnic areas and spectacular landscapes. There is a 500 seat outdoor theater and several meeting and party venues. The site was designated as an individual historic site pursuant to the Metropolitan Dade County Historic Preservation Ordinance on December 19, 1990 and on October 17, 2011, the National Park Service announced the addition of Pinecrest Gardens to the National Register of Historic Places.

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