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**MIRO DANCE THEATRE presents the World Premiere of *Self-Portrait*
a solo dance work celebrating the life and art of Frida Kahlo
one-night-only @ Philadelphia Museum of Art, May 2nd**

PHILADELPHIA – In May, **Miro Dance Theatre** will present the **World Premiere** of *Self-Portrait*, commissioned by *Art After 5* in conjunction with the **Philadelphia Museum of Art's Frida Kahlo** retrospective. A solo work combining dance, live animation, elaborate set design, and video, *Self-Portrait* is deeply inspired by Kahlo's paintings and diaries, reflecting on both the artist's struggles with illness and her penchant for self-expression. The one-night-only performance will take place at the Museum (26th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia) on **Friday, May 2nd at 6pm and 7:30pm.**

Tickets are free with Museum admission: Adults \$14, Seniors \$12, Students \$10, Children ages 13–18 \$10 and ages 12 & under are free. For additional information, please visit **www.mirodancetheatre.org** or call **(215) 962-4773**. For information about the Museum's Frida Kahlo exhibit and *Art After 5*, visit www.philamuseum.org or call Visitor Services at (215) 763-8100.

"We are honored that the Philadelphia Museum of Art invited Miro to create *Self-Portrait*," said Miro's co-Artistic Director **Amanda Miller**. "Our intention was to create a performance that, like Frida's paintings and writings, reaches well beyond the canvas and into the hearts of audience members. There is a great perseverance and rebelliousness in Frida's work, like a dogmatic positioning against the world, and I hope that *Self-Portrait* will resonate with and inspire viewers to ask their own questions about identity and history."

A constant theme in the work of Frida Kahlo, the idea of self-portraiture (or "the self-portrait") is timeless and universal. The notion of constantly looking at oneself and continuously exploring ones identity, and the ways in which we reinvent and integrate our experiences has become of great interest to Miro Dance Theatre as a company.

To create *Self-Portrait's* visual design, **Tobin Rothlein**, Miro co-Artistic Director and video artist, used Kahlo's diaries as inspiration for the design elements incorporated into the performance.

"I looked closely at Frida's diaries and the way that the ink spreads itself across, and sometimes through, the page. There is that undeniable hand-made urgency present in the drawings," said Rothlein. "Through the use of projected imagery in the performance space and on the dancer's body, we create a multi-dimensional, living performance sculpture that is raw, melodic, and spiritual and captures the essence of Frida's life and work."

Following the World Premiere performance, Miro Dance Theatre will continue to explore the life and art of Frida Kahlo through the company's partnership with Philadelphia's **Girard College**. As artists-in-residence, Miro is overseeing an outreach program with the school's students and is currently working with a group of 6th, 7th, and 9th graders on a Frida Kahlo-inspired project in which students will create their own self-portraits using both dance and video. On **May 22nd** at 6:30 p.m. the students will present their performance as part of Miro's monthly **Open Studio Series**. Held at Girard College, all Open Studio Series performances are free and open to the public.

About Miro Dance Theatre

Miro Dance Theatre ("Miro") creates and performs original work that explores the collaborative intersections of dance, video, and visual art. Miro uses classical technique as a departure point from which to explore new and challenging dance vocabularies, ideologies, performance disciplines, and the way media co-exist within the performance space. The company was founded in 2004 by dancer and choreographer Amanda Miller and video and visual artist Tobin Rothlein, following five years as Co-Artistic directors of Phrenic New Ballet. Miller, with ten years experience as a dancer with the Pennsylvania Ballet and choreographic studies in Europe under Siobhan Davies, is at the helm of Miro's choreographic exploration. Rothlein, whose work as video artist and visual designer for Rennie Harris Puremovement and others has garnered national and international accolades, oversees the company's work in combining dance, multi-media and visual arts.

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To schedule interviews, request photos and additional information, please contact:

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