

EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome back to *Inspicio* e-Magazine, which is one part of the arts publication platform sponsored by Florida International University's College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts (CARTA).

Inspicio is currently offered as a website (<http://inspicio.fiu.edu>), where we continuously publish content about all art disciplines; as a periodic e-Magazine that can be read on iPads and iPhones and can be installed through the Apple APP Store; [and accessible online through Digital Commons](#), an open access publishing and archival platform supported by FIU Libraries.

Contributors to *Inspicio* are a blend of FIU students, faculty, and a network of talented people who regularly appear in some of the best publications in the world.

Inspicio supports CARTA's mission by providing a platform and process for FIU students to critically examine and comment upon the art communities and activities of South Florida, and have the opportunity to publish their work alongside professional writers who are regularly published in the world's best publications like *The New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*. In addition, *Inspicio* aspires to be a sophisticated enabler of the arts that is a "Must-See" resource for a global audience interested in the Miami-South Florida art scene.

THE CURRENT EDITION OF INSPICIO features a video interview with cover person **ORLANDO JACINTO GARCIA**, a contemporary classical composer, conductor, and educator of distinction. Through 200 works composed for a wide range of performance genres including interdisciplinary and site-specific works, and works with and without electronics for orchestra, choir, soloists, and a variety of chamber ensembles, Garcia has established himself as an important figure in the new music world. The distinctive character of his music has often been described as "time suspended- haunting sonic explorations."

One of my favorite *Inspicio* experiences was recording a video interview with award-winning photographer **CONSTANTINE MANOS**. Born in 1934 in Columbia, South Carolina, of Greek immigrant parents, Manos' photographic career began in the school camera club at the age of 13, and within several years he was a working professional, represented by the world-famous **Magnum** photo agency. His early teenage photos range from descendants of slaves on Daufuskie Island, SC to a Klu Klux Klan rally. Manos' photographs have been exhibited and collected by museums ranging from the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York City to the Benaki Museum in Athens, Greece, and have been published in several books.

Artist **TINA SPIRO** hung out with **Andy Warhol** in the late 1960s and was a protégé of famed sculptor **David Smith**. But she fell in love with architect and urban planner **Eran Spiro** and moved with him to **Jamaica** in 1969, where she still lives in a house by the water and owns a hummingbird farm in the mountains. Over time, Spiro transitioned from being a sculptor to making large scale paintings that present her concerns with climate change and sea level rise. Beginning in 1999, Spiro has also maintained a studio in Miami, where she taught at Florida International University (FIU) for a decade.

For museum director **SILVIA KARMAN CUBIÑÁ**, "It's all about the Bass." Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she earned a degree in art history from Boston College in 1987. After Cubiñá joined **The Bass Museum of Art** as its executive director in 2009, she had oversight responsibility for the two-year expansion and renovation of the building, and the re-branding of the museum as "The Bass." The Bass is Miami Beach's contemporary art museum. Focusing on exhibitions of international contemporary art, The Bass presents mid-career and established artists reflecting the spirit and international character of Miami Beach.

The first time I saw the Integrated Media Environment at Los Angeles Airport (**LAX**), created by architects **MARCELA SARDI** and **MICHAEL RUBIN** and their team, I was blown away by the innovation, creativity, and scale of their project. So our video interview with Sardi and Rubin begins with a 10 minute video that describes how the project evolved and showcases its brilliance. The other piece of good news is that Sardi and Rubin made the migration from north to south and currently reside in Miami Beach, where they are extremely welcome participants in our arts community.

Despite the pushback from journalists, *Inspicio* views journalism as an art discipline – after all it does encompass writing, imagery, and video. So we are pleased to present video interviews with long-time *New Yorker* magazine staff writer and author **ADAM GOPNIK**, and long-time *Miami Herald* art critic **ELISA TURNER**. Gopnik was born in Philadelphia, where his parents taught at the University of Pennsylvania, but they moved with their seven children to Montreal in the late 1960s, and Gopnik grew up living in architect Moshe Safdie's famed **Habitat 67**, straddling the St. Lawrence River. Gopnik joined **The New Yorker** in 1986, and tells us what it was like to write for famed editors **William Shawn, Robert Gottlieb, Tina Brown, and David Remnick**. Elisa Turner's career at the *Miami Herald* began in 1986. From 1995 to 2007, she was the *Herald's* primary visual art critic. In 2019, she received the Annual Chapter Leadership Award from the Florida Chapter of ArtTable, a national organization for women in visual arts professions.

Dubbed "the most popular poet in America" by Bruce Weber in the *New York Times*, **BILLY COLLINS** is famous for conversational, witty poems that welcome readers with humor but often slip into quirky, tender or profound observation on the everyday, reading and writing, and poetry itself. Collins's level of fame is almost unprecedented in the world of contemporary poetry: his readings regularly sell out, and he received a six-figure advance when he moved publishers in the late 1990s. He served two terms as the **U.S. Poet Laureate**, from 2001-2003, was New York State Poet Laureate from 2004-2006, and is a regular guest on National Public Radio programs.

NAT CHEDIAK changed the landscape of cinema in Miami when he founded **Cinematheque** in Coral Gables in 1973. He went on to become the founder of the **Miami Film Festival** and served as its director for eighteen years (1984-2001). He is also the author of **Diccionario de Jazz Latino** and a three-time Grammy and three-time Latin Grammy music producer. It was a joy to chat with Nat and learn about his Cuban roots and dynamic family, and how his father rescued the Bacardi logo following Castro's Cuban revolution.

LES STANDIFORD may well be Miami's greatest literary lion. He is the award-winning author of 23 books of fiction and non-fiction, and the founding director of the **Creative Writing Program at FIU**. I am partial to non-fiction and I love that many of Standiford's books are about massive South Florida projects like the building of the Flagler railroad from Palm Beach to Key West, the performing arts of the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami-Dade County, and the carving of Palm Beach from the dense tangle of Palmetto brush and mangroves that greeted Henry Flagler in 1893. Two of Standiford's books have been made into movies, most recently *The Man Who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits* – starring **Christopher Plummer**.

Do you like baseball? Or even if you don't like baseball. Meet **JANE LEAVY**, author of three of the best baseball biographies ever written -- about **Sandy Koufax, Mickey Mantle, and Babe Ruth**. Before becoming a best-selling author, Leavy was a sportswriter for the *Washington Post*, and tells a great story about her first encounter with the legendary editor **Ben Bradlee**. And one bonus for the success of her Babe Ruth biography is that she was asked to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at Yankee Stadium in 2018.

ANAMARIA CORREA is a force of nature, which will be readily apparent when you view my video interview with her. Correa migrated from New York City to Miami to accept a position as **Miami City Ballet's (MCB)** senior director of community engagement. In her role, Correa bridges, deepens and fosters relationships between MCB and the arts, culture, education and local communities ensuring that constituencies have access to and claim a place for themselves at MCB. In her role as a "bridge builder" she is also a "conscience raiser," leading efforts of equity and inclusion practices and competencies for the organization.

Finally, in "The Last Laugh" section of the current e-Magazine, it is a pleasure to present **BOB MANKOFF**, a cartoonist and long-time cartoon editor for *The New Yorker*. In our video interview, Mankoff explains why he left the premier position in cartooning and moved to *Esquire* magazine.

I hope what you read, hear, and see in *Inspicio* adds value to your appreciation of the arts in Miami and South Florida.

– Raymond Elman