

EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome back to *Inspicio's* 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 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 **KATJA ESSON**, an Oscar-nominated documentary filmmaker from Germany, who lives in Miami and Havana. I first met Esson at the Historic Hampton House, where she was engaged creating a brief film about the most important crossroads in African-American history, and I was video interviewing patrons and performers from the 1950-'60s. Esson is currently making a film with the working title of *Razing Liberty Square*.

Author, screenwriter, producer **DENNIS LEHANE** is a graduate of FIU's esteemed Creative Writing Program. He is best known for the books and movies *Mystic River*, *Gone Baby Gone*, and *Shutter Island*, plus the hit TV series *Boardwalk Empire*. We recorded a video interview with Lehane in the library of The Betsy Hotel in South Beach.

We also recorded video interviews with two multi-faceted artists: **SANDRA RAMOS** and **SRI PRABHA**. Ramos maintains studios in Havana and Miami and uses diverse media to create artworks with provocative political content that stimulate critical thinking, while Prabha, a native of India, creates multi-disciplinary works that have spiritual, scientific, and environmental dimensions.

Our conversation with **SUZANNE DELEHANTY** was a master class in being a museum director. Delehanty has been the executive director of four museums, culminating in an 11 year stint to grow the Miami Art Museum (MAM) into the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM).

We caught **DENNIS LEYVA** with one foot out the door from his position as the curator of public art for Miami Beach. Leyva retired after spending over \$7 million on artworks displayed publicly throughout Miami Beach. Leyva also played an important role in bringing Art Basel, the largest art fair in the western hemisphere, to Miami Beach.

It was no surprise when designer and environmental activist **BARBARA DE VRIES** and award-winning architecture critic and author **ALASTAIR GORDON** moved to Miami Beach and sent their twin daughters to Miami's Design and Architecture Senior High (DASH). A bigger surprise was their latest collaboration titled *Theater of Shopping: The Story of Stanley Whitman's Bal Harbour Shops*, an insightful book about arguably the most beautiful and unique shopping mall in the world.

We were fortunate to interview **PAT MITCHELL** at the 2019 Miami Book Fair. Mitchell is an ardent pioneer and advocate for women in media, and following a career as a TV journalist and producer was the president of **CNN Productions**, the first woman president and CEO of **PBS**, and founder of **TEDWomen**.

Poet **P. SCOTT CUNNINGHAM**, another graduate of FIU's Creative Writing Program, is the founder of the O, Miami Poetry Festival and a doppelgänger for actor Seth Rogen. Cunningham's warm and witty ebullient demeanor infuses O, Miami with an infectuous spirit as he strives to bring poetry to the South Florida masses.

As always we end this edition of *Inspicio's* e-Magazine with The Last Laugh. **BOB ECKSTEIN** is a cartoonist, illustrator, and author, whose cartoons regularly appear in *The New Yorker*. He was at the Miami Book Fair to tout his books about snowmen: *The Illustrated History of the Snowman*, and *The History of the Snowman*.

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