

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 **MITCHELL "MICKY" WOLFSON JR.**, a collector, preservationist, educator and museum founder, who is dedicated to the research, preservation and education of the material culture of the period 1850–1950, through The Wolfsonian–FIU in Miami Beach and the Wolfsonian in Genoa, Italy.

Octogenarian **MIRA LEHR**, who is just beginning to peak, is an eco-feminist artist whose career spans four decades. Her nature-based imagery encompasses painting, design, sculpture and video installations. Lehr's processes include non-traditional media such as resin, gunpowder, fire, Japanese paper, dyes and welded steel. We recorded a video interview with Lehr in the rambling Spanish-style waterfront dwelling that has been her Miami Beach home and studio since she was married.

We also recorded a video interview with Mira Lehr's son, **PAUL LEHR**, who lives five minutes away. Paul Lehr serves as the CEO of **GroundUP Music** which includes on its roster three-time Grammy Award-winning **Snarky Puppy**, two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame legend **David Crosby**, and 20 other global artists. Lehr grew up in Miami Beach and has been involved in the arts since the age of six, having trained as a classical pianist and worked as a musician, as well as an actor in film and theater. From 2010-2015, he served as CEO of **YoungArts**.

My video conversation with the multi-talented **JOHN WATERS** was a trip down memory lane for me. I first encountered Waters in 1971, when he was a clerk at the Provincetown Bookshop on the northern tip of Cape Cod. Waters and Provincetown (aka "The Last Resort") are a perfect fit, and he has lived there every summer since the late 1960s. In the spring of 1972, I attended the premiere of *Pink Flamingos* at the Provincetown Movies, enhanced by Kleig lights and the cast arriving in a limo. Waters was not in attendance.

We caught up with **MARK LEIBOVICH**, chief national correspondent for the *New York Times Magazine*, whose normal beat is politics, when he was discussing his recent book, *Big Game: The NFL in Dangerous Times*, at the Miami Book Fair. In addition to his written political insights, Leibovich appears frequently as a guest on **MSNBC's Morning Joe**, and *Deadline: White House* with Nicole Wallace, **NPR's On the Media** and other public affairs programs.

It was not by design that we interviewed two immigrant women curators who now call Miami home, but it was our great fortune to hear the stories of Puerto Rican-born **MARIA ELENA ORTIZ**, who is curator at the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), and Italian-born **OMBRETTA AGRÓ ANDRUFF**. At PAMM, Ortiz curated *At the Crossroads: Critical Film and Video from the Caribbean* (2014), *Firelei Báez: Bloodlines* (2015), *Beatriz Santiago Muñoz: A Universe of Fragile Mirrors* (upcoming), and co-curated *Teresita Fernández: Elemental*. Since her move to the U.S. in 1998, Agró Andruff has curated solo and group shows in Europe, the U.S. and Asia, collaborating with museums, art festivals, commercial galleries and art fairs, as well as the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

In the late 1970s, I read **PHILIP CAPUTO's A Rumor of War**, his 1977 memoir about his service in the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in the early years of the Vietnam War. He blew me away with his honesty and insights. Its success was reminiscent of Norman Mailer's first novel, *The Naked and the Dead*, and Sebastian Junger's runaway hit, *The Perfect Storm*. Caputo has written close to 20 books, and received a **Pulitzer Prize** for journalism.

U.S. Poet Laureate JUAN FELIPE HERRERA, was born in Fowler, California, in 1948. The son of migrant farmers, Herrera moved often, living in trailers or tents along the roads of the San Joaquin Valley in Southern California. An eternal activist, if the American Dream is still within reach, Herrera is its avatar. It was a joy to interview Herrera and inhale his enthusiasm.

WINSTON SCOTT is a former **NASA** astronaut and retired U.S. Navy captain. Scott performed a total of five spacewalks on two missions to the International Space Station. We recorded a video interview with Scott when he was in Miami Beach to talk at a weekend concert of "space music" at the **New World Symphony**. Scott grew up in Miami and is an excellent trumpet player. If you have followed *Inspicio*, you know that we have published a number of stories about the **Historic Hampton House** in Brownsville, the most important nexus in African American history. So imagine our surprise when we learned that as a teenager, Scott sat in with several major bands and performed at the Hampton House. Today, Scott still plays trumpet and performs with the **Winston Scott Cosmic Jazz Ensemble**, when not teaching at Florida Institute of Technology.

As always we end this edition of *Inspicio's* e-Magazine with **The Last Laugh**.

JAMIE ELMAN (no relation to the founder of *Inspicio*) is the co-creator of the award-winning Yiddish web series *YidLife Crisis*, which has over 3 million online views and has received four prestigious Canadian Screen Award nominations, including Best Actor and, two years in a row, Best Digital Series. Elman is an actor, writer, director, producer and musician. He has appeared on some of television's most acclaimed series including *Mad Men*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and *House M.D.* and for three seasons of NBC's critically lauded drama, *American Dreams*. We had the great pleasure to interview Elman (Elman-to-Elman) at The Betsy Hotel in Miami Beach where he and his *YidLife Crisis* co-creator, Eli Batalion, performed the live version of their program.

Throughout history, the arts and humanities have been an instrument for identifying, discussing, and enacting positive social change. 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