

## EDITOR'S LETTER



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

*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 Arts* 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 Arts* 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 Arts* 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.

We should note that ever since the **Covid-19 pandemic** gripped the world, **we have been recording video interviews via Zoom**. While the videos present the same high-quality, in-depth content you have come to expect from *Inspicio Arts*, the quality of the Zoom-recorded video and audio is similar to the mixed results we see every day on TV news programs.

**THE CURRENT EDITION OF INSPICIO ARTS** features a video interview with cover person CARL-PHILIPPE JUSTE, a Haitian-born, politically active photographer and photojournalist. Since 1991, Juste has been working with the *Miami Herald* and has been showcasing his work throughout the world. Juste has covered national and international stories for the Herald, including assignments in Haiti, Cuba, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Juste is also the founder of the **Iris PhotoCollective**, which produces collaborative projects, often in partnership with organizations and non-profits.

Also community and collaborative minded, **IGNACIO FONT** and **JEAN BLACKWELL FONT** are an artist couple operating **Warehouse 4726**, a studio space in Miami. Together as **Font Squared**, these practicing artists bring a lifetime of combined experiences as creators, curators, arts administrators, marketers, and educators.

The "I Ching" states, "Perseverance Furthers," and film producer **CARLA BERKOWITZ** defines the expression. Berkowitz is the Executive Producer of the highly acclaimed independent feature film **"Critical Thinking"**. The film, directed by and starring the Emmy-award winning actor **John Leguizamo**, tells the true story of the 1998 Miami Jackson Senior High School chess team, which was the first LatinX inner city team to win the **U.S. National Chess Championship**. Berkowitz spent **more than 20 years** developing the project from story to screenplay to film.

On March 8th, 2020 I attended one of the final previews of **"A WONDERFUL WORLD,"** which was scheduled to open on March 14th. On March 10th, I recorded video interviews with the five key cast members. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-21, the opening of the play was postponed. Before the opening was postponed, theatre critic **CHRISTINE DOLEN** wrote a story about the play. We will publish our video interviews with the cast members when the play opens, but we decided to publish Dolen's story in this issue of the *Inspicio Arts* e-Magazine to whet your appetite to see this wonderful musical.

Miami is blessed to have the extremely well-traveled and well-educated **LUDLOW BAILEY** in our midst. Bailey is a curator of **"culture as art."** As an art broker, writer, and art advisor, he is extremely passionate about contemporary global African Diaspora art and culture. He is the founder and managing director of **CADA, (Contemporary African Diaspora Art)**. Bailey graciously came to a class I teach at FIU and was interviewed by all of my students.

There is no shortage of arts leadership in Miami and South Florida, and one of the most engaged political leaders is **MAYOR DAN GELBER of MIAMI BEACH**, host of **Art Basel, the New World Symphony, the Bass Museum, the Jewish Museum of Florida, the Holocaust Memorial**, and many other arts institutions. Born in Miami Beach, Gelber was raised to believe in public service and the importance of community. His father, respected former Miami Beach Mayor and Judge Seymour Gelber, and his mother, Miami Beach High foreign language teacher Edith Gelber, were models of that service.

While we are on the subject of Miami Beach, we have long maintained that **The Betsy Hotel** on Ocean Drive in South Beach is one of the greatest cultural hotels in the world, offering opera, chamber music, jazz, poetry, art, and lectures free of charge. Meet **DIAMANTE PEDERSOLI** and **CARMELINA SANTORO**, the interior architects responsible for converting an outdated aging hotel into a comfortable Upper Eastside Manhattan salon.

Also within the confines of the City of Miami Beach is the **New World Symphony**, where **JUSTIN TRIEGER** manages all of the NWS collaborative, internet-based projects. Trieger is an award-winning composer, sound designer and experienced multimedia engineer and producer. He also currently serves as a member of the Cultural Affairs Council for the Department of Cultural Affairs in Miami-Dade County.

What do surfing, fly fishing, sailing, paddle boarding, environmental activism and yachts bigger than 100 feet have in common? Meet **JIM GILBERT**, founding publisher/editor of **Showboats International** magazine and co-founder (with **Jean-Michel Cousteau** and **Prince Albert of Monaco**) of the International Seakeepers Society.

If we have learned anything since the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, it's that Black history – like the Tulsa Massacre and Juneteenth – have long been excluded from American K-12 education. **DR. YANELA G. MCLEOD, Ph.D.** has spent her professional career as an educator, journalist, and social historian researching the history of the Black Press, particularly in Florida. McLeod is the author of ***The Miami Times and the Fight for Equality: Race, Sport, and the Black Press, 1948-1958.***

Particularly in Miami and South Florida, the dark history of the Holocaust is never far from our thoughts. In **UNSTOPPABLE: Saggi B. Wilzig's Astonishing Journey from Auschwitz Survivor and Penniless Immigrant to Wall Street Legend**, author **JOSHUA GREENE** and recording artist **IVAN WILZIG** bring us a vivid account of the remarkable life of Wilzig's father.

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

**JOSHUA RODRIGUEZ** is the latest FIU grad to create a **cartoon** for *Inspicio Arts*. Rodriguez says, "I was born with a pencil in my hand. My faith in Christ and desire to create has been an integral part of who I am." In 2020, he started HumbleDog Design to provide logo design, brand development, comics, character development/design, and a variety of other visual concepts.

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 Arts* adds value to your appreciation of the arts in Miami and South Florida.

– Raymond Elman, founding editor-in-chief