



Introduction to Jean Blackwell Font + Iggy Font. 2:42 min. Interview: Raymond Elman + Robert Zuckerman. Video Editing & Production: Julio Mendez. Music: Julie Maxwell. **Recorded via Zoom:** 9/20/2020, Miami.

Artists

Jean Blackwell Font + Iggy Font

By Elman + Zuckerman + Mendez

JEAN BLACKWELL FONT and **IGNACIO FONT** are an artist couple operating **Warehouse 4726**, a studio space in Miami, Florida.

Iggy received his MFA from SVA and has been an educator for more than 20 years. Currently the Director of Events & Programs at the Arts & Business Council of Miami, Jean has worked in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations in Miami for more than 20 years.

Together as Font Squared, these community-minded, practicing artists bring a lifetime of combined experiences as creators, curators, arts administrators, marketers, and educators.

The videos below were **recorded via Zoom**, are organized by topic, and run between 90 seconds and 6 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 3:05 min.



Do you remember when you began to feel that art was important in your life?

EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 4:14 min.



Who are your role models and influencers?

SELF-CONFIDENCE: 1:40 min.



At the age of 16 there were a variety of directions you could have pursued. Was it a conscious choice to move toward a more sophisticated world, or merely serendipitous?

CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 2:35 min.



You grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to the United States at a young age. How did those experiences impact your art?

SERENDIPITY: 1:30 min.



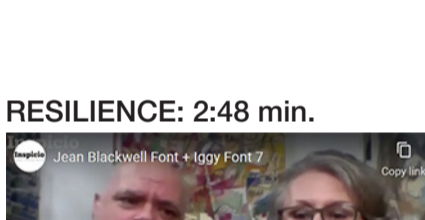
Iggy, you speak English without an accent. Was that a conscious decision?

EMPATHY: 1:26 min.



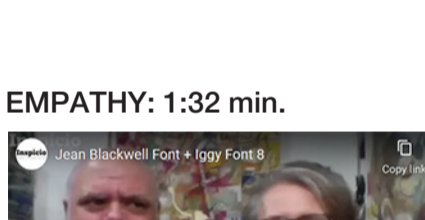
Iggy, where in Puerto Rico did you live?

RESILIENCE: 2:48 min.



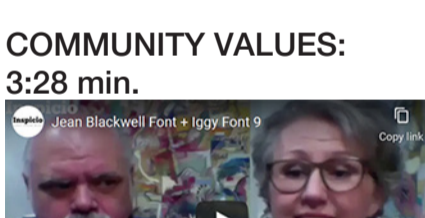
When you came to the United States, how did the culture change influence you?

EMPATHY: 1:32 min.



Your work is very universal, and the way you grew up sounds like a universal experience. So it's notable that you didn't force a Puerto Rican theme on your work.

COMMUNITY VALUES: 3:28 min.



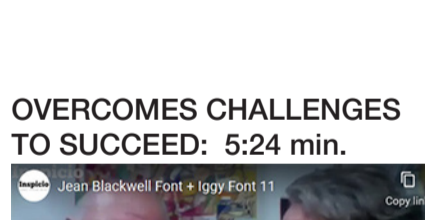
Jean, please talk about your experience with ArtBurst.

CRITICAL THINKING: 1:34 min.

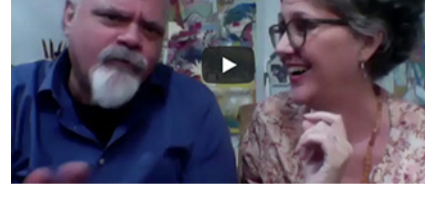


There is a long pattern of art communities blossoming, succumbing to greed, and being reborn in new locations. How can Miami break that cycle?

OVERCOMES CHALLENGES TO SUCCEED: 5:24 min.

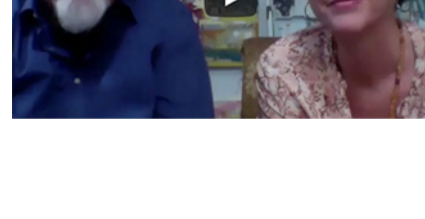


Describe a challenging situation you've faced with a successful outcome.



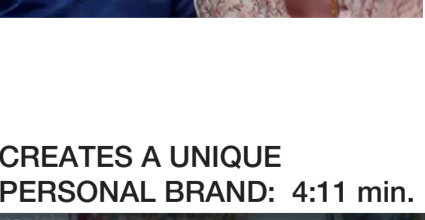
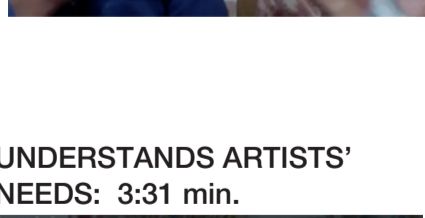
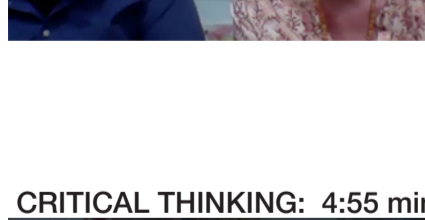
CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 4:46 min.

Iggy, describe the evolution of your painting technique.



CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 3:51 min.

Jean, talk about how your work and technique evolved.



CRITICAL THINKING: 4:55 min.

Why is it important for all students to experience arts education?

UNDERSTANDS ARTISTS' NEEDS: 3:31 min.

Do you have any words of wisdom for young people pursuing a career in the arts?

CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 4:11 min.

What new projects are you working on Jean?

INSIGHT & INSPIRATION: 3:02 min.

What's on your drawing board Iggy?