

## 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 Arts* 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 **STEPHANIE BERTINI**, who is the Miami-based correspondent for the **Black News Channel (BNC)**. Her coverage area includes Latin America, the Caribbean, Central and South Florida. Bertini also serves on the Leadership Council at the Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at FIU.

Also community and collaborative minded, **CHARLES TRAUB** is a lens and screen artist and educator. In 1987, Traub helped design what is today known as MFA Photography, Video and Related Media Department at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Immediately following 9/11, Traub co-founded "here is new york: a democracy of photographs," which won the Brandan Gill and ICP Cornell Capa Infinity awards. The project is one of the most viewed exhibitions of photographs, as it has been displayed in 42 venues worldwide and on the internet.

For years as a graphic designer **DONNA RUFF** worked on communicating economically. Now as a fine artist, she is interested in pushing that idea of economy to its limits, even to the point of impeding communication — how much information can be removed or transformed, how much must be left behind to retain the narrative?

One of my all-time favorite movies is "**Castaway**." I have probably seen it (or pieces of it) 100+ times. **JACK RAPKE** is a film producer whose first production was the award-winning "Cast Away," starring Tom Hanks and Helen Hunt, and directed by Robert Zemeckis. Rapke is the former chairman of **Creative Artists Agency (CAA)**. Rapke has produced numerous award-winning films including "Flight," starring Denzel Washington, which was nominated for two Academy Awards; "The Walk," starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt; "Allied," starring Brad Pitt; "Welcome to Marwen" starring Steve Carell; and many more. He also owns "Wilson."

On March 8th, 2020 I attended one of the final previews of "**A WONDERFUL WORLD**," (AWW) 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. The play reopened on December 4, 2021. Meanwhile, we recorded video interviews with Opa-locka native **AURIN SQUIRE**, playwright for AWW + screenwriter, and journalist. And we recorded a video interview with the host of AWW, **MICHEL HAUSMAN**, theater director, producer, writer, and the co-founder and Artistic Director of **MIAMI NEW DRAMA**, the resident company and operator of the historic **COLONY THEATRE** on Miami Beach

During the pandemic we also recorded a video interview with the ebullient **JILL DEUPI**, the Beaux Arts Director and Chief Curator of the University of Miami's **Low Art Museum**. Prior to assuming this position in 2014, Dr. Deupi was Director and Chief Curator of University Museums at Fairfield University, where she was also an Assistant Professor of Art History.

In moment of heightened awareness of the suppression of African-American history, we were fortunate to record a video interview with **CANDACY TAYLOR**, an award-winning author, photographer and cultural documentarian working on a multidisciplinary project based on the **Green Book**. Taylor is the author of **Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America** (Abrams Books). She is also the curator and content specialist for a touring exhibition by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The exhibition will travel throughout the United States for three years.

When we moved to Miami year-round in 2012, **CATHY LEFF** was the dynamic leader of **The Wolfsonian-FIU** in Miami Beach. Today she is the acting director of the **Bakehouse Art Complex**. Leff is a seasoned cultural professional and creative entrepreneur who specializes in conceiving, developing, and executing cultural strategies and initiatives across platforms, with a particular interest in the intersection of culture and community-building. She is already doing wondrous things at the Bakehouse.

**VICTOR DEUPI**, the lucky husband of Jill Deupi, is the other half of the dynamic duo at the University of Miami. He is a Cuban-American teacher of architectural history and theory, design, and representation at the University of Miami School of Architecture in Coral Gables. He received a Bachelor of Science in architecture from the University of Virginia, a Master of Architecture from Yale University, and a Ph.D. in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania.

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 to your appreciation of the arts in Miami and South Florida.

– Raymond Elman, founding editor-in-chief