

## EDITOR'S LETTER



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

*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 network of talented people who regularly appear in some of the best publications in the world, supplemented by FIU students and faculty.

*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. In addition, *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*.

We should note that ever since the **COVID-19 pandemic** began in February 2020, **we have been recording most Inspicio Arts 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 **KIMBERLY GREEN**. A philanthropist, writer and documentary-filmmaker, she has led **the Green Family Foundation (GFF)** since 1997. Under her leadership, GFF has spearheaded a variety of initiatives in Haiti and in her native Miami. In 2022, Green opened "Green Space" in the Historic Biscayne Blvd District. Green Space Miami's mission is to be a catalyst for action around critical social issues, collaborating with community partners and educational institutions.

**JULIE K. BROWN** is an investigative journalist for the Miami Herald, best known for pursuing the sex trafficking story surrounding multi-millionaire Jeffrey Epstein. She is the recipient of several awards including two George Polk Awards for Justice Reporting. We recorded a video conversation with Brown about her non-fiction account of the Jeffrey Epstein story, "Perversion of Justice," at the Miami Book Fair. The well-written page-turner is reminiscent of Woodward & Bernstein's "All the President's Men."

The multi-talented **CHARLES M. BLOW** has been a *New York Times* Opinion columnist since 2008. His column appears on Monday and Thursday. Blow joined the New York Times in 1994 as a graphics editor and quickly became the paper's graphics director, before leaving in 2006 to become the art director of *National Geographic* magazine. In May, 2021, "Prime with Charles Blow" premiered on the **Black News Channel (BNC)**. Blow is also the author of "**The Devil You Know**" and "**Fire Shut Up in My Bones**," was adapted into an opera by Terence Blanchard and Kasi Lemmons – **the first opera by a Black composer performed by the Metropolitan Opera at Lincoln Center**.

**SHEILA ELIAS** is a multi-faceted artist who is constantly seeking new materials and resources to interpret and express her internal landscape. Her work ranges in scale from 10 x 16 feet to pieces created on an iPad. Regarding her adopted hometown, she says, "Miami, where multi-cultural history and the future clash on a daily basis, is a luminous kaleidoscope of raw, sincere emotions and harsh realities; urban tension mixed with profound beauty, compassion and optimism."

Deborah Briggs of The Betsy Hotel introduced me to native Australian documentary filmmakers **ROSE TUCKER** and **MATTHEW SALLEH**. They are focused on honest and authentic content, with a global and cinematic scope. Rose Tucker is a producer, sound recordist, and editor. Matthew Salleh is a director, cinematographer, and editor. Their first two films, "**Barbeque**" and "**We Don't Deserve Dogs**," are brilliantly titled and present examples of both topics from across the globe.

**SUSAN WESTFALL** is a playwright who grew up in Miami and has been living on Key Biscayne for many years. In 1996, Westfall co-founded **City Theatre**, the only professional theatre in the country dedicated to developing and producing new short form plays and musicals (i.e. 10-15 minutes). City Theatre has produced plays by many talented emerging artists, for example, Lin-Manuel Miranda. Westfall is the niece of author Douglas Fairbairn, who inspired her to read and write. Fairbairn, who mainly wrote about South Florida, was a friend of author Les Standiford, whom we also video recorded and published in *Inspicio Arts*.

Designer Yasmin Spiro, daughter of artist Tina Spiro (whose interview we published in 2019) and architect Eran Spiro, introduced me to Phyllis Jones of the **International Interior Design Association (IIDA)**, a global organization that is based in Chicago. Jones introduced me to **KENZIE LEON PERRY**, an interior architect and artist who is a graduate of FIU. Perry is leading the "**Design Your World**" program in Miami, a summer survey course for talented high school students interested in a career in architecture or design. We are currently discussing having the Design Your World students re-imagine the Historic Hampton House.

Poet **DENISE DUHAMEL** is the rare artist who knows how to successfully combine art and humor. Picasso did it. So did Douglas Huebler, one of the inventors of the conceptual art movement. For example commenting on one of Duhamel's early book of poems, "**Kinky**" (1997), a reader says, ". . . all the poems have to do with the "what if " of Barbie attempting to fit into the real world. For example, what if Barbie were codependent? What if Barbie were in therapy? What if she were a religious fanatic? Do you know why Barbie and Ken don't dress in underwear? Why Barbie joined a 12 Step Program?"

Pianist, percussionist, conductor, arranger and educator, **MICHAEL LINVILLE** is currently the **New World Symphony's** Dean of Chamber Music and Fellow Development, programming and coaching chamber music concerts throughout the Symphony's 35-week season. He is also an Artistic Partner with the Breckenridge Music Festival, and the Artistic Coordinator of the New World Percussion Consort, an ensemble dedicated to the performance of contemporary chamber music that features percussion.

I have known **Emmy Award**-recipient **LAUREN FISHER** since she was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. So I have had the great pleasure of watching her multi-faceted talent blossom. Fisher received an Emmy Award for her animation of the fascinating documentary, "**Greatness Code**," which features athletes like **Lebron James** and **Tom Brady** talking about their finest moment in sports. Fisher also creates projection mapping animation on a huge scale for sports arenas and stadiums. And she once played drums in an all-girls rock 'n' roll band, following in footsteps of her grandmother, who played drums in the Dixie Belles during the Roaring Twenties.

**BOB REISS** is a bestselling author of 23 books, as well as a journalist. His work has been published in *The Washington Post Magazine*, *Smithsonian*, *Parade*, *Rolling Stone* and other national publications, and has been featured in collections of the best of the *Washington Post Magazine*, and the best of *Outside*. He has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *Morning Joe*, *CNN*, *Charlie Rose*, *Al Jazeera* and *Dan Rather Reports*. He is also the cousin of Jonathan Plutzik, empiresario at The Betsy Hotel in South Beach, so he always has a place to stay in Miami.

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

**DILLON LUE** is the latest FIU student to create a cartoon for *Inspicio Arts*. Lue is a webcomic author and art student at Florida International University. He loves to draw animals and is the creator of "Fuzzbit!," a weekly comic about "fuzzy friends and fuzzy feelings." In his spare time, he likes to listen to music, play video games, and overthink everything. Lue's cartoon, "Tortoise & Hare," imagines the results if the famed tortoise and hare shared an art studio.

Throughout history, the arts and humanities have been instruments 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