

## EDITOR'S LETTER



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

Hopefully you will notice that after nine years of publication as "Inspicio," in May 2023, we changed the name of our publication platform to "ArtSpeak."

*ArtSpeak* 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 is accessible online through Digital Commons, an open access publishing and archival platform supported by FIU Libraries.

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

*ArtSpeak* 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, *ArtSpeak* 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 some of *ArtSpeak's* video interviews via Zoom. While the videos present the same high-quality, in-depth content you have come to expect from *ArtSpeak*, 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 *ArtSpeak*** features our second video interview with Cuban-American cover person **LEONOR ANTHONY**. Anthony is a multi-disciplinary artist and activist based in Miami. Born in Havana, Cuba, she immigrated to the United States with her family as a young child. In 2019, Anthony co-authored "**Sounds of Freedom**" with photographer Roberto Polillo, an extraordinary book of photographs and artwork about African-American jazz legends performing in Europe during the Jim Crow era. In October 2022, Anthony was awarded **The Arctic Circle Fellowship** and sailed the waters around the North Pole with 27 Artists and scientists in an unequaled and exclusive ecological Artist Residency. As a result of this experience, Anthony is currently producing, directing and editing her first full length documentary film titled "Ice Breaking."

**LAWRENCE WRIGHT** is an author, screenwriter, playwright, and staff writer for *The New Yorker* magazine. I have read five of his eleven books – all deeply informative page-turners. He is an extraordinary researcher and storyteller. In 2007, his book about the rise of al-Qaeda, "**The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11**," received a **Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction**. He co-wrote the screenplay for "**The Siege**," starring Denzel Washington, Annette Bening, and Bruce Willis, which is based on a story by Wright. And in 2006, Wright premiered his first one-man play, "My Trip to Al-Qaeda," at The New Yorker Festival, which led to a sold-out six-week run off-Broadway.

**RICHARD MILSTEIN is the Chair of the Adrienne Arsht Center Trust (AACT) Board of Directors.** He has been an active member of the Arsht Center Trust Board of Directors since 2008, supporting the Center's commitment to connecting all people to the arts, to the Arsht Center and to each other. Since opening in 2006, the Arsht Center has been recognized as a catalyst for billions of dollars in new development in the downtown Miami area, a leader in artistic programming that mirrors South Florida's diversity, a host venue for historic events, and Miami's hub for arts education. We recorded our video conversation with Richard Milstein in the inspiring lobby of the **Cesar Pelli** designed building.

**STÉPHANE DENÈVE** is the new **Artistic Director of the New World Symphony**, filling the big shoes of Co-Founding Artistic Director Laureate Michael Tilson Thomas. Recognized internationally for the exceptional quality of his performances and programming, Stéphane Denève regularly appears at major concert venues with the world's greatest orchestras and soloists. He has a special affinity for the music of his native France and is a passionate advocate for music of the 21st century.

**CECILIA VIOLETTA LÓPEZ** was born in the tiny town of Rupert, Idaho to Mexican immigrant parents. Her earliest memory is singing with her mother in the sugar beet fields. Eventually she sang Mariachi music and then became an operatic soprano. López was named one of "**Idaho's Top 10 Most Influential Women of the Century**" by USA Today and one of opera's "25 Rising Stars" by Opera News. She has performed with many opera companies, including the **Florida Grand Opera**.

**ROBERT PINSKY** is a poet, essayist, translator, teacher, and speaker. His first two terms as **United States Poet Laureate** were marked by such visible dynamism—and such national enthusiasm in response—that the Library of Congress appointed him to an unprecedented third term. Throughout his career, Pinsky has been dedicated to identifying and invigorating poetry's place in the world, which includes his innovative series of "**Poem Jazz**."

**BARBARA HULANICKI OBE** invented **Biba** in London during the swinging 1960s. Biba's fans included **The Rolling Stones**, **David Bowie**, **Elton John**, and **Brigitte Bardot**. **Anna Wintour** was a shopgirl at Biba, and **Twiggy** was the main model. At one point, Biba was the second most popular tourist attraction in London (after the Tower of London) In Miami Beach in the 1980s, Hulanicki reimagined several Art Deco hotels and "Woody's" for the Stone's Ronnie Woods. She went on to redesign close to a dozen Art Deco hotels and has made a home in Miami Beach ever since.

**BILL LITTLEFIELD** served as the host of **National Public Radio** and WBUR's "**Only A Game**" program from its inception in 1993 until July 2018. He covered a wide range of mainstream as well as offbeat sports events from the United States and around the world. Since 2018 he has been working with the Emerson Prison Initiative, teaching incarcerated men at MCI-Concord. He is also the author of five books of fiction and nonfiction.

**ILISA ROSAL** is a Miami-based professional Flamenco Dancer, Choreographer, Artistic Director, and **Founder of Ballet Flamenco La Rosa** (BFLR), an International professional company dedicated to Flamenco as an ever-evolving art form. Rosal is also steeped in theatre and creates unique combinations of Flamenco and sophisticated drama—for example, "A Streetcar Named Desire." Her groundbreaking approach develops the connection between Flamenco and other styles of dance and music – like Jazz, Tap, Blues, American Country Music, Middle Eastern, Afro-Cuban, Afro-Haitian, African, Sephardic, Indian Dance, and Celtic Music and Dance — exploring the common elements and developing new dance forms.

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

**JULIANA TRIANA** is the latest FIU student to create a cartoon for *ArtSpeak*. Triana is pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Studio Arts. She also works as the Student Fine Arts Ambassador for FIU's Art + Art History department. Triana has a great passion for visual development and character design, and hopes to work for animation leaders like Pixar in the future.

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

On May 26th, 2023 we officially changed our title from *Inspicio Arts* to *ArtSpeak*, as part of the "ribbon-cutting" for the FIU | Lee Caplin School of Journalism & Media.

**The FIU Lee Caplin School of Journalism & Media** is grounded in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and is committed to preparing career-ready journalists and media professionals, in English and Spanish, who are critical and reflective thinkers and communicators, ethical, socially responsible, well rounded, and fair minded.

– Raymond Elman, founding editor-in-chief