

EDITOR'S LETTER



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

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* (FIU students, faculty, and talented people of interest) are focused on arts activities of the Miami area and South Florida.

Inspicio 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 world's best publications like *The New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*. In addition, *Inspicio* 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.

THE CURRENT EDITION OF *INSPICIO* features a video interview with cover person **Campbell McGrath**. McGrath, who lives in Miami Beach and teaches creative writing at Florida International University, has been recognized by some of the most prestigious American poetry awards, including the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award (for *Spring Comes to Chicago*, his third book of poems), a Pushcart Prize, the Academy of American Poets Prize, a Ploughshares Cohen Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress, and a MacArthur Foundation "Genius Award." In 2011 he was named a Fellow of United States Artists. In 2017 McGrath was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry.

One of my favorite *Inspicio* experiences was recording a video interview with photographer **Robert Zuckerman**. As all who know Zuckerman can attest, he is a man of unusual sensitivity, empathy, spirituality, humanity, and courage. The majority of his photography career was in service to the film industry. Will Smith called him 'Picasso.' Jerry Bruckheimer, Denzel Washington and Michael Bay vied to have him on their film sets. Arnold Schwarzenegger introduced him to President Bill Clinton by saying, "This is Robert Zuckerman, the best photographer I have ever worked with." When a debilitating disease (APBD, or adult polyglucosan body disease) forced Zuckerman into a wheelchair, he switched coasts and subjects. He moved from L.A. to Miami Beach, and traded celebrity subjects for ordinary people. One result is a book called *Kindsight*. Another result is a series of workshops and mentoring projects for K-12 students.

Another featured photographer and conceptual artist is **Angelika Rinnhofer**. In 2012, Rinnhofer, a Catholic raised in Germany, had a powerful dream about her first boyfriend's mother. Although Rinnhofer had not communicated with her first boyfriend (Peter) in over 30 years, the dream compelled her to track him down and call. Like old friends, they chatted for 30 minutes, catching up on one-another's lives, when Peter suddenly announced that he had recently learned that he has a Jewish heritage. Not only was his family Jewish, but his grandfather had been an admiral in Hitler's navy, possessing a falsified Aryan passport, which was signed by his immediate superior. Thus was the project "a priori" born, in which Rinnhofer records narratives of individuals, whose attempts to make sense of memories, stories, and facts eventually lead to the disclosure of their Jewish heritage. She takes photographs and videos of her participants and interviews them about their discoveries.

In this edition of the *Inspicio* e-Magazine, we continue our focus on leadership in the arts with stories about **Jonathan Plutzik** and **Jordana Pomeroy**. Plutzik is the son of poet Hyam Plutzik and the owner of the legendary Betsy Hotel in Miami Beach, arguably the finest cultural hotel in the world. The Betsy offers a dizzying array of chamber music, jazz, poetry readings, writers' breakfast salons, art exhibitions, lectures, Yiddish salons, and a writers-in-residence program – all free to the public. Pomeroy is the director of the **Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum** and presides over an aggressive program that presents a broad spectrum of art to the Miami public – from the little-known mosaics of Hans Hofmann, to the Roman palace floor from Lod, Israel, to the impactful photographs of Dawoud Bey.

Cameron McNall is both an artist and an architect. On his website, one can see examples of his unusual approach to architecture and his monumental interactive installation artwork. When he was fresh out of Harvard Graduate School of Design, he was awarded both a Rome Prize for architecture and a commissioned large-scale sculpture from Art Park in upstate New York. Since 2005, McNall has been working on an interactive installation for Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

The music section for this issue ranges from the impassioned and adventurous repertoire of the **Amernet String Quartet** to the fledgling endeavors of students on the **John Lennon Educational Tour Bus**. One day three years ago, I was walking from the 4th floor elevator to the gallery at FIU's Miami Beach Urban Studios (MBUS) on Lincoln Road, when I suddenly heard heavenly music emanating from the gallery. "Man! They have a GREAT sound system," I thought. Reality is that the Amernet String Quartet practices weekly at MBUS, and their rehearsals are open free of charge to the public. **Brian Rothschild** is the founder and director of the John Lennon Educational Tour Bus, along with Yoko Ono. The Lennon Bus provides young people with free hands-on opportunities to create original digital media projects including music, videos, short films, documentaries, games, apps and livestream productions reflective of their ideas and concerns.

Award-winning broadcast news journalist **Morton Dean** was the first person to buy one of my paintings (1971), and our friendship grew from that moment forward. Dean had a distinguished career in harm's way, reporting from conflict zones for CBS News for 20 years, and later for ABC News (14 years). He also anchored for both networks. Dean was at CBS News during its glory years, working with legends like Walter Cronkite and Mike Wallace. In November 2017, Dean visited Miami and FIU to present his documentary film, *American Medivac*, which he wrote, narrated and directed.

Danielle Flood is a journalist and former fishing boat captain, who is married to three-time Pulitzer Prize-recipient Jim Morin, the editorial cartoonist for the Miami Herald (interviewed in Vol. 2, No 2 of *Inspicio*). Flood had an unusual childhood, but it wasn't until she had her own family that she slowly learned that her mother, biological father, and step-father were the three main characters in Graham Greene's novel, *The Quiet American*, which has been made into two movies, the latest starring Michael Caine and Brendan Fraser. After 9/11, Flood began piecing together her life story and writing *The Unquiet Daughter*, her page-turning memoir.

In a section titled "**Never Forget**," we explore three different approaches to remembering the experiences of the Holocaust. **Elizabeth Gelman** is the executive director of The Florida Holocaust Museum, and she describes how her museum strives to be welcoming to all and not treat anyone like "the other." She also discusses a special education program for police officers, applying the lessons of the Holocaust to contemporary issues. **Murray Zimiles** experienced a traumatic childhood that was rescued by his uncle Boris Margo, a Surrealist artist who shared a studio with Mark Rothko. Zimiles became an artist too, and when the time came to anticipate the birth of his only child, he knew he had to find an outlet for his anger from childhood. One day he started making large scale images of the Holocaust, never realizing that he would be driven to continue for the next 15 years. Collector Ron Lauder supported his efforts and the Florida Holocaust Museum acquired approximately 140 of Zimiles' paintings and prints, which were exhibited in 2017.

Dennis Scholl, whom we video interviewed in *Inspicio* Vol. 1, No. 1, was one of the producers of the documentary film ***A Call to Remember: The David Schaecter Story***, which is the moving saga of Holocaust survivor **David Schaecter**, one of the founders of the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach.

In late 2017, *Inspicio* interviewed Pulitzer Prize-recipient Jane Smiley in the library of The Betsy Hotel. Her best-selling novel, *A Thousand Acres*, a story based on William Shakespeare's *King Lear*, received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1992. It was adapted into a film of the same title in 1997. In 2001, she was elected a member of The American Academy of Arts and Letters. In 2017, Smiley joined a distinguished group of writers when FIU presented her with the Lawrence Sanders Award in Fiction.

Finally, we are once again pleased to present the cartoons of **Alex Rocky Ferrer**, a young Miami-based cartoonist with an elegant hand and style. Many moons ago I saw a greeting card titled "Jackson Pollock's Mother," which depicted a little Jackson in the kitchen, looking up at this mother, whose apron was splattered with spaghetti sauce and other culinary colors. For this issue of *Inspicio*, we again asked Ferrer to continue to imagine the mothers of other notable artists. We think you will enjoy the results.

I hope what you read, hear, and see in *Inspicio* adds value to your appreciation of the arts in Miami and South Florida.

– Raymond Elman