

south florida's lgbt lifestyle magazine

fall 2015 • 03

palette



ARTISTIC MUSINGS

Lena Burke and Ozcar G.'s creative sides collide

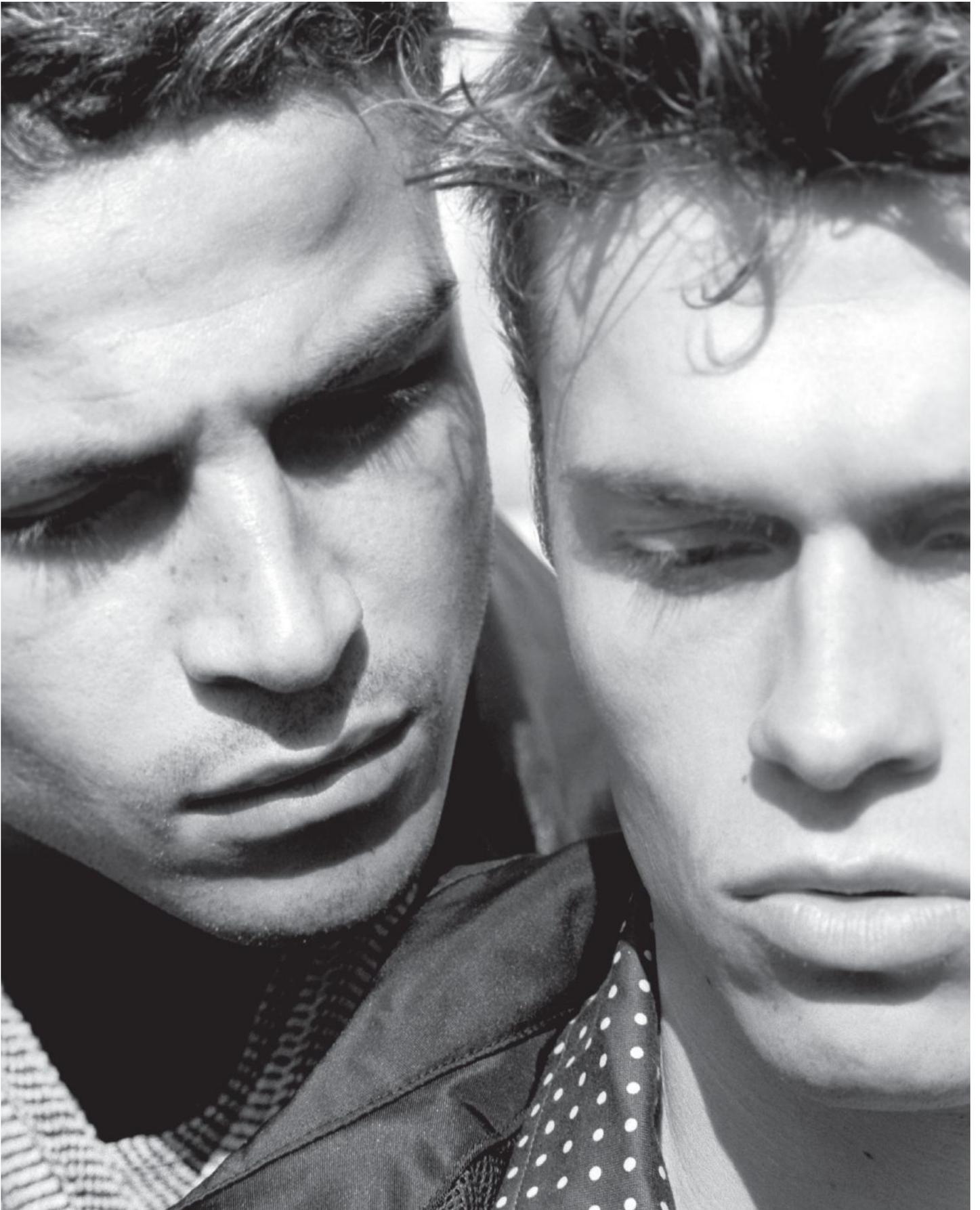
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• The Norton Museum of Art presents
This Place: Israel Through Photography's Lens



FEATURES

030 • the latino way

The Latino community is vibrant, strong and constantly changing. And it's ready to prove that a rich cultural tradition of family values and deep-rooted religious beliefs does not have to be a culture of intolerance.

034 • oscar g. and lena b.

The talented designer and celebrated singer-songwriter let us in on their symbiotic relationship, their artistic tendencies and the passion that drives them.

040 • eastward bound

When you need to feel inner peace, are seeking to explore long-standing traditions or crave a bit of unorthodox culture, look to the East. Japan is a land of wonder that is also full of surprises.

046 • the arts circuit

Every year South Florida's museums, galleries, concert halls and theaters put on a region-wide display that lasts well into spring. So go ahead, get your culture on!

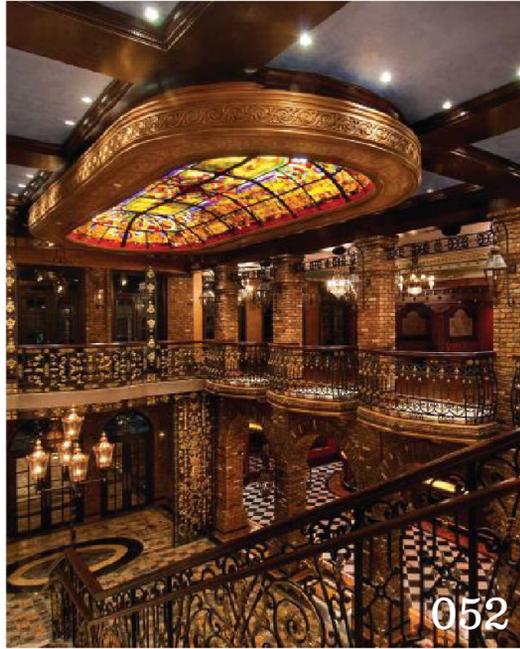


on the cover:
Lena Burke and
Ozcar G. shot at
The Biltmore
by Natasha Kertes;
silk and stone
embroidered black
taffeta dress by
Ozcar G. Couture

Strengthening the arts and entrepreneurship in Miami



Photo by Amando Colls - MannyofMiami.com (Courtesy of PAMM)



DEPARTMENTS

016 • **in tune**

Artists and storytellers have found South Florida to be fertile ground for their creative endeavors.

018 • **statement pieces**

You're chic, but not high maintenance. You have style, but are definitely a free spirit. Check out these boho chic options to keep your look fresh.

022 • **chez moi**

Whether your home is as pristine as a museum or holds a smorgasbord of curiosities, these artistic pieces can channel your creative vibe.

024 • **get cultured**

Evolving well beyond super powers, comic book writers and illustrators are creating characters with depth and complexity.

028 • **the dish**

Verde's executive chef Kaytlin Brakefield finds inspiration in the Pérez Art Museum Miami's exhibits. This is art you can savor.

052 • **on trend**

Pick a theme and get your playlist started. A number of off-beat spaces throughout South Florida will make you want to throw the kind of party you can Pin.

054 • **scoreboard**

While it's clear that Jessica Aguilar is no one to mess with in the ring, the MMA fighter has made her battle against bullying the real match of her life.

056 • **health check**

Depression affects a great many Americans, but those in the LGBT community have a higher risk of falling prey to its dark grip.

058 • **serious business**

Susanna Taddei, the Spanish-language spokesperson for Equality Florida and co-director of the Girasol Foundation shares her insight.

060 • **the scene**

Were you there? Find out who was at this year's LGBTQ Task Force grant party, Tropical Heat events, GLBX After Hours networking meet-up and Luminary Awards gala.

064 • **season's highlights**

Mark your calendar! Artistic events and festivals promise to keep us all out.

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A CULTURAL COMMUNITY

The arts are a direct outlet for our culture, often serving as agents of transformation and positive change. Music, dance, literature and visual and performing arts have all played a crucial role in challenging the status quo and influencing public opinion in the most profound matters pertaining to society, politics, sexuality and identity. Artists create in hope that their patrons will appreciate their creation and, in doing so, discover something different.

Historically, the artistic world has been a powerful ally to the LGBTQ community. Work by artists such as Keith Haring brought HIV/AIDS awareness to the forefront during the height of the epidemic in the 1980s. More recently, in July of this year,

TransArt presented *A Celebration of Transgender Talent, Vision & Possibilities*, which showcased LGBTQ artists, activists and allies at various locations throughout South Florida. In the digital age, art is virtually unstoppable. Artist and activist Daniel Arzola's Tumblr series *No Soy Tu Chiste* (I'm Not Your Joke) teamed up with It Gets Better Project to highlight some of the more prevalent LGBTQ stereotypes. The results went viral. His striking illustrations combined with short, poignant messages conveyed complex concepts about gender identity, abuse and civil rights. Follow it on nosoytuchiste.tumblr.com.

When I first moved here, South Florida's wealth of artistic offerings was awe-inspiring. It feels great to live in a place that lives and breathes its art. How awesome is

it to have a vibrant neighborhood like Wynwood in our midst? And, of course, Art Basel returns in December with all its international flair, spin-off events and unbelievable parties. It is absolutely one of my all-time favorite events — and it's already in my calendar.

Another event I'm really excited about this year is SAVE's annual Halloween Ball. It will be my first time attending, but from what I've heard it's the place to embrace your sense of adventure and let your creative spirit fly. Besides, what about a costume party at the Magic City Casino to support the community doesn't sound like fun?

The arts have always helped me embrace who I am as an individual. They shattered through walls of perceived loneliness and allowed me to discover an entire community of kindred spirits. They've pushed me to express myself honestly and find freedom in individuality. I'm not sure where I would be without artists like Pierre et Gilles, Morrissey, Mary Ellen Mark and David LaChapelle, among so many others. And I'm excited to see where new artists I'm discovering will take us, feeling grateful for their contributions.

So whatever your pleasure, get out there and get your art on. Visit my photoblog mylifeontheelisthemiamisnapshot.blogspot.com to see my own take on this wonderful and crazy place we call South Florida. And don't forget to send your tweets to @palettelgbt or drop me a line at ethan@miamiherald.com. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and Facebook as well.

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Creative Director

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WE ASKED

How can art help elevate a community?



RICHARD BLANCO

Poet, Author and Civil Engineer

Though the stories of individual members of a community may vary, art acts as a catalyst, letting us understand that each of us experiences a similar set of universal feelings: love, loss, joy, sorrow, etc., regardless of the particulars of each person's story. As such, art can connect us all to our shared humanity and elevate a community by letting us see how we are more alike, than unlike. It lets us see ourselves in the other and the other in ourselves. Art is a mirror that holds our collective reflections. What's more, art asks us to dig deeper into those core emotions, to be more emotionally aware and honest with ourselves. And the more honest and aware we are as individuals, the better we are as a community.



RVCHL

Singer-songwriter

Art unites us, makes us feel together even when miles apart. For me, art is the language of the misunderstood. The only way I've ever truly expressed myself is through my music. I think art has the power to impact our community not only by educating us but by pushing us to feel outside our comfort zones, helping us to understand and appreciate life. But it's a matter of perspective in the end.



TEEPOP

Artist

Art elevates our community by bridging together all walks of life that wouldn't normally interact. The explosion of art in public places, the murals and street art throughout Miami has electrified our neighborhoods, and I love it! This summer I was part of a beautification project at Carol City Middle School. Many local artists painted large scale murals. This school, like so many, has no art classes due to budget cuts, but now their campus is filled with amazing murals that will elevate these students for years to come. As an artist it gives me great pleasure to share my art and inspire all who see it.



SERGIO ANDRICÁIN

Children's Book Writer and Head of Fundación Cuatrogato

By having to decode and integrate everything it has to offer and all of its legacy, art can definitely create a path toward understanding others, especially those who are different. Art should help foster a community that's based on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. That's why I love the Miami I have seen evolve since I set roots in this city — all at once, multifaceted and singular.

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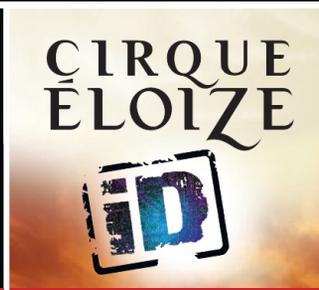
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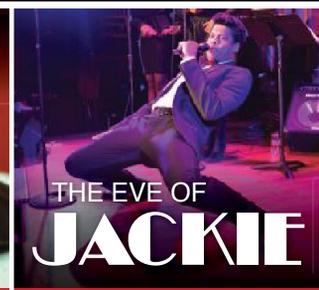
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October 8 - 11



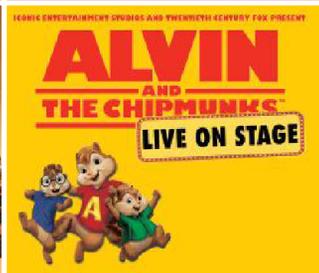
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October 14 - 25



October 15



October 16



October 16



October 18



October 22



October 23 - 25



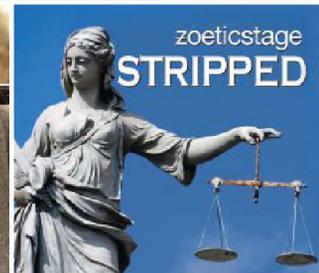
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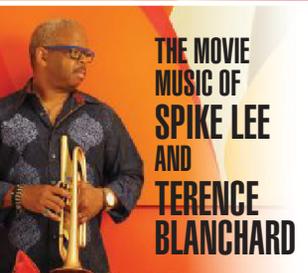
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October 29



November 5 - 22



November 6



November 13 & 14



November 14 - 21



November 15



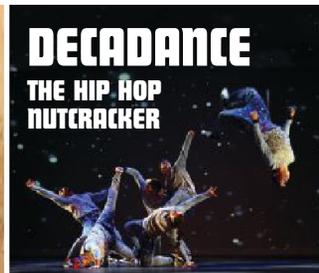
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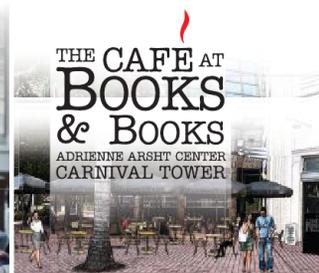
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GET CONNECTED



Steve Rothaus covers LGBT issues in South Florida and is also the *Miami Herald's* assistant community news editor. Don't forget to check out Steve Rothaus' Gay South Florida News in the *Miami Herald* and at miamiherald.com — or follow his Twitter account, @SteveRothaus — for the latest information about our community.



JULIE BALTER

Julie is a writer, yogi and calculated risk-taker. Her career has included everything from her 10+ years as a Screen Actors' Guild Florida Branch executive to her current role for LGBT-based marketing campaigns, such as Kiss For Equality. She's a former yoga instructor at Prana Yoga in Miami, the blog creator of *Yogi After Forty* and a contributing writer for *Elephant Journal*. yogiafterforty.com



ANDREW PRINTER

Originally from England, Andrew is an artist, writer and photographer. Andrew's arts coverage has been recognized with three Press Club awards. His video-work has been broadcast internationally, and his photography is included in several national and private collections. He currently lives in Key West. andrewprinter.com



SHAYNE BENOWITZ

Shayne is the Hotels and Travel editor for *Miami.com* and a frequent contributor to the *Miami Herald*. She's also the Miami destination expert and a hotel critic for London's *Daily Telegraph*. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Charlotte Observer* and in *Modern Luxury Interiors South Florida* and *Aventura* magazines.



CHRISTINA MENDENHALL

Since she was a child, Christina has had a passion for photographing and filming an array of different subjects. She's been blessed with a gift for seeing the world in a unique way, and photography has given her the opportunity to explore this strange and beautiful world. She has documented everything from live music, people and street life to natural environments, sports, politics and architecture. ThroughTheShutter.com



CLAUDIA MIYAR

Editing the shopping pages for fashion and home, *Statement Pieces* and *Chez Moi*, is Claudia Miyar. After years in New York as a style editor for *O at Home*, *Real Simple* and *Martha Stewart Living* magazines, Claudia returned to Miami, her hometown. She is a prop and fashion stylist and a regular contributor to the *Miami Herald's* *INDULGE* and *Palette* magazines.



JUSTIN TRABERT

Justin has been in the fashion and luxury industry for over 18 years, during which he collaborated with such notable organizations as the Jeffrey store in New York City, Hugo Boss, Nanette Lepore and Y-3 Adidas. In his new role as the National Brand Ambassador for Christoffe Paris, he is a leader in the home décor and gift market and a knowledgeable expert in both traditional and modern day etiquette training.



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THE ART OF LIVING

Read, watch, learn: This fall, indulge in the fascinating and true stories told by artists who live right in South Florida.

by SEBASTIAN FORTINO



During this frenzied season of shows, exhibits, pop-up events and recitals, take a moment to indulge in the kind of quiet entertainment that opens a window to the sound and fury of an artistic life.

The After Party

The third installment of Elliot Tiber's *Woodstock* trilogy, *After Woodstock* is a story about love, perseverance and all the unlikely events that make up a lifetime. It is sure to captivate and mesmerize readers both for the tales that

unfold and for the intimacy and wry humor with which they are delivered. Tiber, a writer, artist and the pivotal force behind the original Woodstock festival, guides his audience through the slow discovery of his own talent as a writer and the incredible heartache suffered at the loss of so many loved ones to the AIDS epidemic. Not a man to mince words, his retelling of how he eviscerated the artistic crowd at his beloved Andre Ernotte's memorial service is a particular highlight.

Though he contends Woodstock was the defining moment of his life — as an artist, a person and,

ultimately, as a gay man — the narrative is all about what took place after the festival, a retelling of events that will transport readers across continents and through the decades.

squareonepublishers.com

Fit for a Queen

Since it's initial release, Dmitry Zhitov's documentary *South Beach on Heels* garnered quite a buzz at film festivals throughout the world. The film highlights the stories of South Beach drag performers Tiffany Fantasia, Noel Leon, Latrice Royal, Vinna Rouge, TP Lords, Missy Meyakie LePaige, TLo Ivy and Shanaya Bright — all of whom perform regularly at the Palace on Ocean Drive.

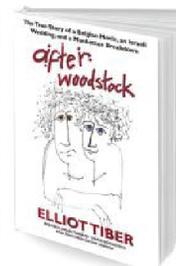
Shot over a span of two years, the documentary is divided into chapters that focus on identity, finances, dating and family dynamics. All the performers get the opportunity to reveal various aspects of their lives, including some details they don't often discuss.

"I first approached Tiffany Fantasia and asked if I could follow her and make a documentary," says

Zhitov. "When she opened the doors to her world of drag and I got a chance to spend some time in the dressing room meeting other entertainers personally, it just happened that more entertainers joined."

In their documentary debut, Zhitov and business partner Jose Canto — who both reside in downtown Miami — pull off the impressive feat of giving the audience a glimpse behind the curtain that is brutally honest without being invasive. The filmmaker is currently working on his next project, which focuses on homeless LGBT youth. southbeachonheels.com

• Shanaya Bright in a scene from *South Beach on Heels*



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by CLAUDIA MIYAR

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY

Channeling Talitha Getty and Jim Morrison, a decadent 70s air is making its way through the runways this fall. The rich hippie look is all about easy-going glamour. Elegant materials offer a subtle update to the now classic look, with buttery leather, goat hair and suede mixing with animal prints and paisley silks. As with any statement piece, be sure to top it all off with a little attitude. •

where to buy •

1. Marni Lace Up in Calfskin: Marni, Miami Design District, 3930 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.764.3357; marni.com 2. Louis Vuitton Peony Sunglasses in Cherry: Louis Vuitton, Miami Design District, 140 NE 39th St.; 305.573.1366; louisvuitton.com 3. Estée Lauder Shimmering Nudes Eyeshadow Palette, Bronze Goddess Collection: Bloomingdales, Aventura Mall; 305.792.1000; bloomingdales.com 4. Etro Multicolored Paisley Silk Pants: Etro, Bal Harbour Shops; 305.868.5971; etro.com 5. Bvlgari Rose Gold and Ceramic Zero1 Ring: Mayors Jewelers, Village of Merrick Park; 305.446.1233; mayors.com

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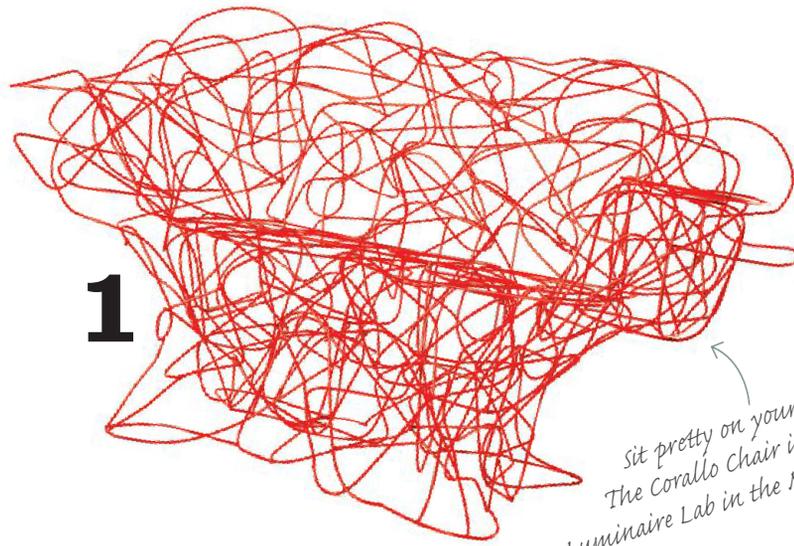
Stoli

These eye-catching décor pieces can add a touch of whimsy to any home.

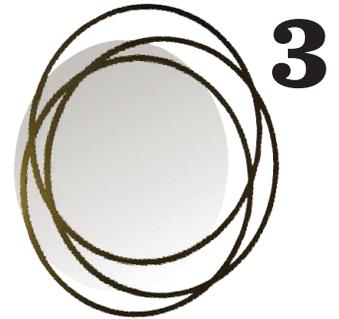
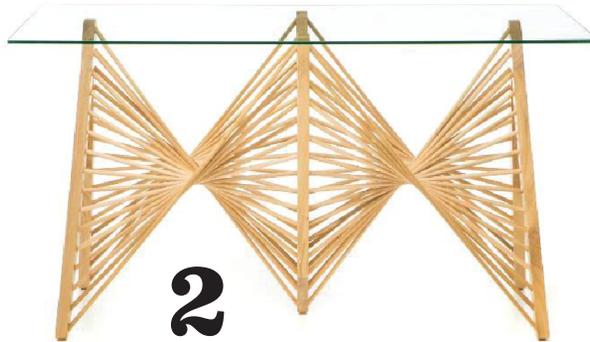
by CLAUDIA MIYAR

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

When it comes to decorating your space, how about adding something that seems to defy gravity and expectation? Upon first glance, a not-so-ordinary mirror can resemble a scrawled out swirl, and a chair of bent steel and epoxy looks like a floating doodle. Like optical art, the lines of a console table or a pendant lamp can play tricks on the eye, forcing you to reconsider the space they command. Similarly, a hand-knotted wool rug defies the notion of stasis and takes on the immediacy of an abstract expressionist painting. With these artistic home options you can turn your white canvas into your creative space. •

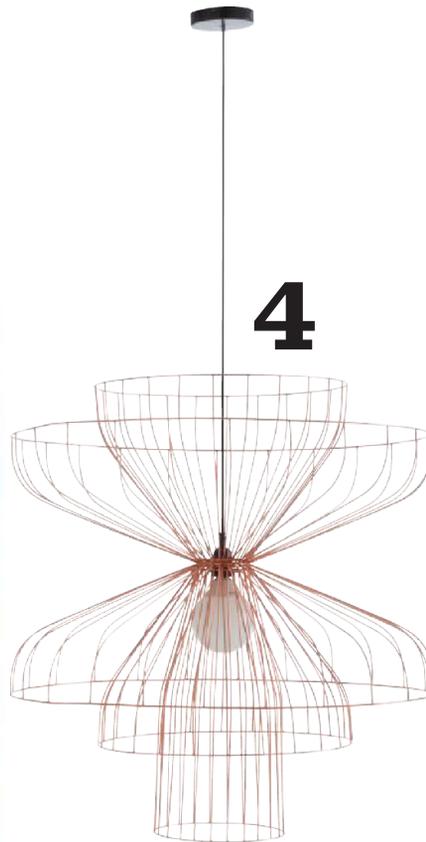


*Sit pretty on your own doodle!
The Corallo Chair is available at the
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5

4



where to buy •

- Luminaire Corallo Chair:** Luminaire Lab, Miami Design District; 3901 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.5788; luminaire.com
- Oggetti Geo Console Table:** Oggetti Designs, Miami Design District; 4141 NE 2nd Ave., Suite 114; 305.573.4626; oggettidesigns.com
- Roche Bobois Mandala Mirror:** Roche Bobois; 450 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables; 305.444.1017; roche-bobois.com
- Ligne Roset Parachute Lamp:** Ligne Roset, Miami Design District; 3820 NE 2nd Ave., PC 139; 305.576.4662; lignerose.com
- House of Tai Ping Chroma Collection Spectrum 1 Rug:** DCOTA; 1855 Griffin Rd., Suite 228, Dania Beach; 954.923.4888; taipingcarpets.com

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ALTER EGOS

LGBT characters in comics have hit the mainstream and South Florida's local comic book stores, too.

by CHRISTINE BORGES

Kapow! Blam! Zap! These widely recognized bubble expressions have been a mainstay of comics. But whether you're an avid comic book reader or just a casual fan, you've probably noticed a few changes lately. A number of beloved characters have come out of their illustrated closets. More importantly, they are part of main story lines, presented as intricate, well-written characters that just happen to also be LGBT.

"I've noticed our readership has appreciated that too," says Tate's Comics + Toys + More staff member, Anthony Ruiz. "Because when you focus on the sexuality of a character before the quality, it just comes off as pandering — and nobody likes that."

Comic books as we recognize them today originated in the 1930s, but weren't a popular medium until the early 1940s. Their demographic then — straight, white, male teens — wasn't looking for any

insight into LGBT culture. And though Fredric Wertham's 1954 book, *Seduction of the Innocent*, warned of the influence comics had on impressionable youth, making outrageous claims about Wonder Woman's strength and independence being signs of her lesbian tendencies, the norm was actually to "keep it straight."

Breaking Through

Characters like DC Comics' Batwoman were afterthoughts, indeed created as love interests in the 1950s to take some of the homoerotic heat off of main heroes like Batman and Robin. Fast forward to 2006, and the modern superheroine has been reintroduced as a Jewish, ex-military officer with a slew of romantic partners — and she's out and proud.

• Clockwise from left: Colossus, Iceman, Northstar, Catwoman, Hulking, Wiccan, The Midnighter, Batwoman, The Question and Mystique

What's your temptation?

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A classic villain like Catwoman was also originally cast as a dangerous temptation for Batman. But earlier this year, she was revealed to be a canon bisexual — and her story is poised to explore this side of her through a lesbian relationship.

“Boy, it sure wouldn’t have been possible when I was writing,” says Lee Goldsmith, a Miami resident and a veteran in the industry, writing for comics since the 1940s. He penned characters like Wonder Woman, Green Lantern and The Flash back when staying straight in story lines was a priority. “You had to be very careful about your choice of words and your choice of phrases,” he says.

Now, the out and recently married 93-year-old is prouder than ever of the industry where he made his career. “It’s joined the rest of the world, and kids today are so much more sophisticated than they were then.”

Growing Trend

This evolution has been slow to come, to say the least. The first openly gay superhero in Marvel Comics history, Northstar, didn’t see daylight until 1992’s *Alpha Flight* #106. He would later marry his long-time boyfriend, Kyle. And while characters from the X-Men universe like Colossus and Iceman were recently outed in alternate story arcs, others are officially part of the community — like Mystique who’s bisexual.

“I think we’re seeing gay roles finally explored with some real depth and across a variety of “types” in mainstream superhero comics,” says Phil Jimenez. The illustrator has created and worked on several LGBT characters over the years, including Lord Fanny from *The Invisibles*, Sera from *Angela*, Anaya and Iphtime from *Wonder Woman* and Kevin Zapada from *Otherworld*, among other gender queer characters.

“I think [this] is the result of creators pushing for it to expand their creative opportunities and better reflect the world they live in, publishers who understand the social and economic drive to be

more inclusive with their output and a more vocal consumer base, who have used the Internet to push for a more inclusive, diverse stable of characters across many superhero universes,” he concludes.

As for the backlash, it’s been minimal. “You’ll always have some people who have something negative to say,” says Ruiz. “But the positive voices drown out the whisper of negativity around that.”

There has been a rise in the visibility of LGBT character-driven books among the general comic book readership, from both those within the LGBT community and outside. “We’ve had the material there,” says Ruiz, “but people are starting to notice them, and they are starting to stand out less as they become the norm and just a normal part of the comic landscape.”

Broad Appeal

As a result, writers and illustrators are getting bolder, too, including aspects of current LGBT culture into their story lines. A character from *The Authority*, The Midnighter, has his own self-titled main continuity book. Known as one of the first gay superheroes to be in a relationship, he married (and later divorced) Superman-like character Apollo. Now single, he has an active sex life, meeting men via apps like Grindr and Scruff.

And the fan base is responding. Sales for *The Midnighter* are strong. “We sold out of issue #1 the day it came out,” says Ruiz. “Comics (especially the big two) have had a long history of LGBT characters, from Mystique, Hulkling and Wiccan [lovers and members of the Young Avengers] to Obsidian, Batwoman and so many others. It really has become normal to have LGBT characters in comics to some extent.”

A bevy of fascinating stories and characters are now a permanent part of the comic book world, and writers, illustrators and readers are reaping the rewards. Stop by your local shop and see what’s in store. •

Get Your Nerd On....

Here are a few titles recommended

by Tate’s Comics + Toys + More



The new *Jem and the Holograms*

IDW Publishing

What it is: The new take on the classic 1980s cartoon is truly outrageous. Kimber and Stormer are now both lesbians.

Notoriety: It debuted earlier this year with an updated storyline that is more realistic. Forget supermodel-ready musicians; now it’s all about real-world design.

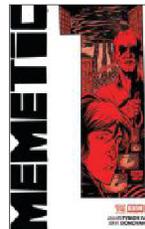


Morning Glories

Image Comics

What it is: Dubbed “Runaways meets *Lost*,” six new students arrive at a prestigious prep school only to find that something sinister lurks behind its hallowed doors.

Notoriety: The series found commercial success from its inception, with four printings of the first issue alone. The first volume of the trade paperback edition (containing issues 1-6) sold 10,000 copies in a month.



Memetic

BOOM! Studios

What it is: An event comic with three oversized, 48-page issues, it details the end of the world over the course of three days and features an LGBT lead character.

Notoriety: Nominated for “Outstanding Comic Book” by GLAAD

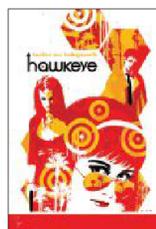


Lumberjanes

BOOM! Studios

What it is: This story follows a group of girls at a summer camp and the strange creatures and supernatural phenomena they encounter.

Notoriety: Nominated for “Outstanding Comic Book” by GLAAD, this comic has become so popular that 20th Century Fox is working on a live-action adaptation.



Hawkeye

Marvel Comics

What it is: The lead character was introduced back in 1964 as a villain, but has appeared in many books, including *The Mighty Avengers*. This self-titled book features an LGBT character in a supporting role.

Notoriety: Nominated for “Outstanding Comic Book” by GLAAD

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FROM PALETTE TO PALATE

The new menu at PAMM's Verde restaurant redefines the culinary arts.

by RICK KARLIN

Driving over the MacArthur Causeway, you come across one of the most stunning new structures gracing downtown Miami's skyline — the Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM). Housing predominantly modern and contemporary pieces from around the globe, PAMM evolved from the Miami Art Museum and earned its

name from real-estate developer Jorge M. Pérez, who generously donated his private art collection to be permanently housed there. Needless to say, each gallery is a feast for the senses.

But if you are craving an actual feast while spending a day at the museum, head over to Verde, PAMM's acclaimed waterfront restaurant. There, Executive Chef Kaytlin Brakefield is inviting culture-

• Crudo of fluke with local mango, aji limo peppers, ginger and black salt

loving foodies to pair their meals with art in creative new ways.

Since early spring, starting with the *Tàpies: From Within* exhibit, Brakefield has designed a menu to complement the exhibit being showcased. The current *Poetics of Relation*, which brings together several installations evoking migrant experiences, is inspired by the writings of author and philosopher Édouard Glissant and represents Miami as a place culturally defined by its many communities. The exhibit explores the sensibilities of artists whose work engages the historical legacy of trauma caused by colonialism and migration.

Chef Brakefield found inspiration in the representation of immigration and the layering of cultures in new lands and created a menu that incorporates flavors and aromas from around the world.



“We take wherever the artists are from and do a menu based on that. But there’s so much more to an artist than that,” says Brakefield. “I sit down with the artists and try to be inspired.”

For this menu Brakefield tapped into her own experiences moving across the country. She trained at the International Culinary Institute in New York while working in Gabe Thompson’s bustling West Village Italian restaurant, dell’Anima. Shortly after completing culinary school, she joined the opening team of Thompson’s L’Artusi before moving to San Francisco, where she worked at the famed Quince and Cotogna. Brakefield then returned to New York to become chef de cuisine at L’Apicio. Most recently, she relocated to Miami to helm the kitchen at Verde.

Though still new to South Florida, Brakefield has settled in pretty well. Like most of us, she finds driving to be something of a nuisance, but acquiring the best ingredients? Not so much. “A couple of weeks ago I went to Paradise Farms to check out their produce. It’s not just the tropical fruit [there], so much of what they have is amazing,” she says.

In planning the menu for the new exhibit, she realized the mixture of voices and backgrounds was similar to the layers of culture that make up Miami. “Dining brings

“WE TAKE WHEREVER THE ARTISTS ARE FROM AND DO A MENU BASED ON THAT. BUT THERE’S SO MUCH MORE TO AN ARTIST THAN THAT.”

— Executive Chef Kaytlin Brakefield

people together, and the culture is inspiring,” says Brakefield.

The three-course meal she and her team created for *Poetics of Relation* plays off that rich tapestry of cultural interactions. The first course features a crudo of fluke with local mango, ají limo peppers, ginger and black salt. That is followed by a Moroccan-spiced chicken tagine with saffron couscous and preserved lemon for the main course. A light lime granita with honey-glazed shortbread and candied ginger cleanses the palate and rounds out the culinary experience. A special cocktail was also created to complement the

meal. A take on the classic dark ‘n’ stormy, the handcrafted drink combines dark rum and ginger beer. pamm.org/dining

Starting November 19th PAMM will present a mid-career retrospective of Jamaican artist Nari Ward. Verde’s fall exhibit menu will showcase ingredients like calabaza and king fish, a nod to traditional Jamaican cuisine. Chef Brakefield also found inspiration in Ward’s method of repurposing materials. She will incorporate this method by repurposing pieces such as the calabaza rind and seeds.

• From top: Executive Chef Kaytlin Brakefield; Moroccan-spiced chicken tagine with saffron couscous and preserved lemon





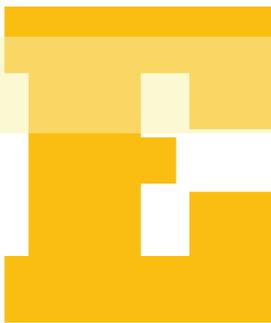
Ties That Bind

THOUSANDS OF LATINOS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND BEYOND ARE INCREASINGLY DECIDING THEY'VE LIVED IN THE SHADOWS LONG ENOUGH AND ARE OPENLY COMING OUT TO THEIR LOVED ONES. WHAT'S BECOME CLEAR IS THAT THEIR ACT OF COURAGE AND SELF-DETERMINATION IS CHANGING A PEOPLE.



© lev radim / Shutterstock.com

by Sole Sastre



very year, as we approach LGBT History Month and national coming out day, we're reminded of just how difficult it is for a large number of people to reveal who they really are to those they love the most.

This is especially true within communities where traditions are strong, religion runs deep and change has been slow to come. But appearances can be deceiving. And while the Latino community has often been viewed as a breeding ground of homophobia, many in the LGBT community have found that stereotypes — of all kinds — need to be challenged.

Facts & Figures

“In any culture, American or Latino, we tend to grow up hearing homophobic jokes and insults,” says Monica Trasandes, the Programs Director for Spanish-Language and Latino Media for GLAAD. “[We’re] being taught essentially that gay and transgender people are different. We’re not. We’ve always been part of all cultures, including the Latino culture.”

Trasandes has appeared on CNN en Español, Telemundo, Univision and a number of popular radio programs, focusing predominantly on GLAAD’s mission — “Leading the conversation. Shaping the media narrative. Changing the culture.” The idea is to change hearts and minds by putting faces to the stories.

“I think in all communities there’s a lack of information about who we are as LGBT people,” she says. “People have seen a lot of stereotypes in media and elsewhere and that’s what they sometimes default to, but as more and more Latino/as come out to their families, that’s quickly changing.”

And the numbers support that sentiment. A 2013 Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) poll found that 55 percent of Latinos supported same-sex marriage, which is an incredible leap from the 2006 Pew Research poll that found nearly the same number — 56 percent — were opposed.

Because the shift in attitude is particularly pronounced among millennials, who are open to LGBT rights that include much more than just marriage, it should come as little surprise that the general view among Latinos is more nuanced than a simple percentage number would suggest. According to the same 2013 PRRI poll, while a majority of Latinos support equal marriage rights, some “hold reservations about the morality of sex between two adults of the same gender.”

Family Ties

According to Trasandes, the key is in the courage to stand up for the whole community by openly becoming a part of it. “Instead of our orientation or gender identity being something we don’t talk about out of a sense of respect, I think we’re seeing, more and more, what a disservice it does to us and to our families to have to hide who we are,” she says. “It can be really frightening, of course, to think you might lose your family if you come out. But a lot of people are



Clockwise from top left: poet and author Richard Blanco; trans-activist Arianna Lint; Pope Francis; one of Coming Out Cuba Foundation's ambassadors, Luis Angel Pérez; Monica Trasandes with her supportive parents; Mariela Castro at an LGBT rally in Cuba

surprised and very happy to see that, actually, they gain a much deeper relationship with their families when they come out.”

But that very tradition of strong, closely-knit families has sometimes made some members of the Latino community resistant to reevaluate their view of LGBT people. For many, long-held beliefs inherited from strict religious doctrine and institutionalized social persecution of LGBT people have proven difficult to shake. In many places, draconian laws, like Cuba's Public Ostentation Law, actively encouraged the harassment and humiliation of LGBT individuals who did not “hide.” Under the Castro regime, gay men were regularly imprisoned for their sexual encounters, people lost their jobs because of their orientation and gay artists were censored. In fact, between 1965 and 1968, openly homosexual men were sent to military labor camps to undergo conversion therapy (though all they really experienced were inhumane living conditions).

Even today, the U.S. State Department regularly recognizes international LGBT individuals as “under attack” and grants asylum to some. Most of these cases are from several Latin American countries, including Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru.

“I think the Latino community is a little behind in the movement,” says Arianna Lint, the South East co-chair for the TransLatin@ Coalition. “It's very difficult to be in the Latino community, and [the community is] not too involved because of the values, the morals, the stigma.” Though she earned a law degree in her native Peru, she too became an asylum-seeker because of persecution.

This difficulty is most evident among older generations. Latino LGBT individuals in their 50s and 60s find it much more

challenging to come out to their families, who often refuse to recognize them or their partnerships according to Susanna Taddei, Spanish-language spokesperson for Equality Florida.

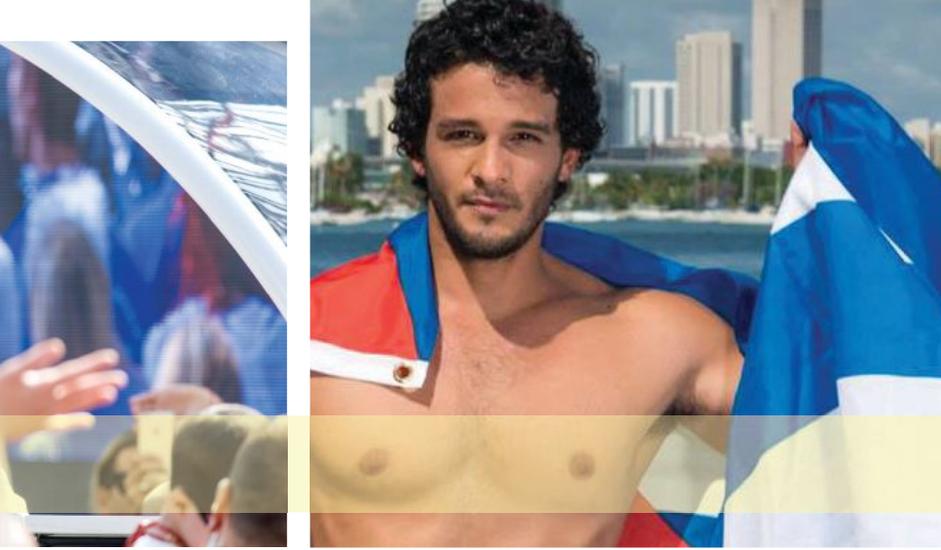
Divine Intervention

Of course, slow to change does not mean devoid of changes. While the United States was deliberating on whether to extend equal marriage rights to all, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay had forged ahead several years before, as had a number of states in Mexico. And throughout Latin America a conversation has taken root that reflects the changing times.

Some shifts in thought have been downright seismic. For a predominantly Roman Catholic population, no other voice has made more of a difference than that of Pope Francis, himself an Argentine. With a few simple words he has single-handedly opened the floodgates for many people who seemed poised to move in a new direction, but who preferred to wait for the proverbial blessing. After all, for many marriage and sexuality are closely tied to their religious beliefs.

During an interview aboard the papal plane returning from his visit to Brazil in 2013, the pontiff said, “Who am I to judge a gay person of goodwill who seeks the Lord?” In line with many of the other progressive actions he has been known for, the subtle appeal to humility and mercy went a long way with many of his followers.

And Latinos are looking for more signs. Pope Francis is scheduled to visit the U.S. in late September, after a historic stop in Cuba, to attend the eighth annual World Meeting of Families. His six-city tour is titled Love is Our Mission. No other subject could be more appropriate.



For the 10-year anniversary of the Freedom To Marry campaign, the organization commissioned poet Richard Blanco to write a piece about the momentous decade. Titled *Until We Could*, this moving ode to love and its accompanying video can be heard and seen at youtube.com/user/FreedomToMarry.



Sea Change

In a 2010 interview with the Mexican newspaper *La Jornada*, Fidel Castro — the same man who famously stated, “in the country, there are no homosexuals” — took personal responsibility for the persecution of LGBT individuals in his country. He went as far as saying that the treatment of homosexuals during his tenure was, “a great injustice.” It is also telling that the most outspoken LGBT rights advocate in Cuba’s current government is none other than the former dictator’s niece, Mariela Castro, who heads Cuba’s Center for Sex Education. Her support of and participation in LGBT activities have caused a ripple effect that led the historically hostile regime to observe its first International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia in 2013 with a week of drag shows and lively marches. Earlier this year, she sponsored a blessing ceremony for LGBT couples and had previously voted against a workers’ rights bill that did not include the protections for HIV positive people or those with differing gender identities that she felt were necessary and appropriate.

In mid-August, during the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuban-American poet Richard Blanco recited his poem, “Matters of the Sea.” Blanco was thrust into the spotlight when he became the first Latino, as well as the first openly gay man, to recite a poem at a presidential inauguration in 2013.

It’s difficult to make an overarching generalization. After all, Latinos encompass a racially diverse group that spans several generations and can trace their roots back to about 20 different countries. And yet, across the United States the Latino

community is an increasingly unified force that successfully rallies for causes that reflect its needs and experience.

Increasingly, leaders from Latino and LGBT organizations have worked together to address some of the most pressing matters that affect people across both groups. Orgullo celebrations are now commonplace throughout the hemisphere in major cities like Miami, New York and Chicago. Some, like the Pride parades in Brazil, have grown so much in size and appeal that they have become destination events in their own right. Beyond the celebrations, projects like the Latino GLBT History Project in Washington DC, the Latino Queer Arts and Film Festival in Los Angeles and Equality Florida’s *Unete a Nosotros* campaign are raising awareness within the Latino community about LGBT issues. Groups like the Coming Out Cuba Foundation work to restore their long-silenced national gay culture and help build a new one, and films like Antonio Santini’s and Dan Sickles’ *MALA MALA* have documented the dynamic transgender community in Puerto Rico.

“I’d like to see more family acceptance,” says GLAAD’s Trasandes. “If your family loves and accepts you, there is nothing you can’t do in this world. I get so proud and emotional when I see *mamás* and *papás* and *abuelas* and *abuelos* accepting their LGBT kids. That’s a wonderful change.”

In the very act of coming out, Latinos have created their own social inoculation to injustice. As more faces can be recognized in the crowd, society is fast becoming *familia*.

If you want to become an active part of the Latino LGBT movement or just wish to meet other folks like you, visit unitycoalition.org.





FASHION DESIGNER OZCAR G. SHOWCASES SOME OF HIS MOST RECENT WORK,
AS WORN BY HIS GOOD FRIEND, SINGER-SONGWRITER LENA BURKE

LENA AND OZCAR

Artistic Musings

BY CARLOS MARTIN
PHOTOS BY NATASHA KERTES



This page: Cobalt blue one-shoulder dress in silk georgette with draped cascade.
Opposite page: Deep red off-the-shoulder dress in silk satin with embroidered crystals around the waistline.

F

For Oscar G. Lopez, everything began when he was quite young. “I was fascinated by Italian cinema and the glamorous styles of Hollywood’s silver screen actresses,” he says. “I remember when I was little, instead of playing with other kids I befriended the neighborhood seamstresses. I wanted them to teach me all their tips and tricks.” Becoming the winning contestant on the first season of “Project Runway: Under the Gunn” was a great leap forward in the young designer’s burgeoning career. “Just imagine arriving from a place like Cuba and getting the opportunity to participate and represent the Latino community in one of the most celebrated fashion competitions in the United States,” he says. “It gave me great joy and a great sense of pride.”

It also allowed him the freedom to explore his passion for the art of fashion. “I feel a strong pull toward opulence because it offers infinite possibilities for developing creativity,” he says.

His creative partnership with singer-songwriter Lena Burke began several years back. At the time, they were both working hard to forge their career paths. “Lena has a singular spirit. She is highly professional but is brimming with joy. With her you always feel comfortable and everything just flows harmoniously,” he says of his close friend, who is also one of the lucky women who get to model his elaborate designs at events and on the red carpet.

“Oscar has been a part of some very important moments in my life and in my career,” says Burke.

CUBAN SINGER-
SONGWRITER LENA
BURKE MODELS A
FEW PIECES FROM
THE MOST RECENT
OSCAR G. COUTURE
COLLECTION.





AWASH IN
VIVID COLOR
AND SENSUAL
FEMININITY,
OZCAR G.'S
GOWNS ENVELOP
BURKE AS SHE
ROAMS THE
HALLS OF THE
BILTMORE HOTEL
IN CORAL GABLES.

"I still remember the wonderful designs he provided for my audition for the movie *La Mala*, which I starred in, and for the video for "Que Seria de Mi," which I recorded in Valparaiso," she recalls. "But above all I remember that form-fitting, aubergine dress I wore the day I won the Latin Grammy."

The sultry singer, who describes this point in her career as one of "magic and maturity," considers it essential to have "a sense of style that is distinctive and identifies you as an artist."

B

Burke muses, "I have a cross between the gypsy and rocker look because of all the accessories I like to wear, but at the same time I feel I can also identify with the romance and glamour of haute couture."

For both Ozcar and Lena, the future is full of possibilities. "I want to stay true to myself as an artist who makes people feel special," says the designer. "I would love not only to have my collections sold at specialty boutiques, but also to create a space where I could personally attend to the clientele that is looking for something truly unique."

On her end, Burke's days are tightly scheduled with a slew of projects, performing what she refers to as "the music I'm passionate about."

"I want to keep recording, acting and writing for myself and for other musicians. I also hope to hold special concerts and galas and, of course, to continue being fortunate enough to wear my dear Ozcar's exquisite designs."

Jewelry and accessories: Shiroiy Darius Cama
Makeup and hair: Lolaester
Special thanks to Gloria Hincapié Spa
Photos shot on location at The Biltmore hotel in Coral Gables



Opposite page: Magenta silk crepe dress with plunging back and draped sleeves.
This page: Aubergine taffeta silk dress with bustier in overlapping shaped pins.



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by Andrew Printer

F

or more than a century, Japan has been the place we look to for a shot of adrenaline when our own cultural routines become overly familiar.

Every few years it seems our mouths collectively drop as we are exposed to one extraordinary Japanese import after another. We gasp in delight at an unlikely new food or a ridiculously cute toy and then promptly incorporate it into the fabric of our own culture. And in case you are drawing a blank, let me direct you to some of our all time favorites: sushi, Godzilla, karaoke, anime, emojis, edamame, Pokemon, and let's not forget the grand dame of it all, Hello Kitty!

From fashion and gaming to food, Americans are obsessed with Japan, and that society just continues to cultivate ever more fantastic fuel to feed that obsession. So whether you want to travel back in time at a *ryokan* — a traditional inn, where you can sleep on the tatami floors, partake in communal baths and wear *yukata* (summer kimonos) — or need to stock up on adorable erasers, now is the ideal time to experience the land where it all began.

the art of dining

Take ramen noodles. The inexpensive instant meal was first introduced to the U.S. market in the late 1950s, and it was love at first slurp. If you are already a fan, then you'll fall in love all over again at the Momofuku Ando Instant Ramen Museum in Osaka or at the more extravagant Shin-Yokohama Raumen Museum. Billed as the world's first food-themed amusement park, it houses a miniature neighborhood that's built to resemble a streetscape from 1958, lined with ramen shops. Wander the three-story building sampling noodles from different regions of the country. But try not to get too disoriented by the strange lighting. It's just an artificial sun that sets every 15 minutes to help stimulate your appetite.

If you prefer your noodle experience to be less fabricated, travel about an hour by rail from Tokyo to the old capital city of Kamakura and visit Chaya-Kado restaurant, where you can catch your own refreshingly cold *nagashi somen* noodles



as they flow past your table along a hollowed out bamboo pipe.

If you are more the sushi type, then there's plenty for you. After all, Japan is home to Tsukiji Market, the world's largest fish market. Sushi stalls and restaurants abound, but tucked away in the basement of an unassuming office building attached to the Ginza Metro Station in Tokyo is Sukiyabashi Jiro. Perhaps the most celebrated sushi restaurant in the world, it was the first to earn three Michelin stars. With that kind of acclaim and only 10 tables, reservations need to be made at least two months in advance, so plan accordingly.

The Robot Restaurant is a must for anyone seeking an out-of-this-world — and yet quintessentially Japanese — experience. Fluorescent lights, flashy colors and mirrored glass fill every corner of the spectacular arena. The dinner show features robots made to resemble action heroes, dinosaurs, pandas and Transformers, among many other characters. The women who put on the show ride bikes, tanks and glittering horses while dressed in showgirl glitter and armor with flashing LEDs. Oh yeah, and they





do this while they play drums, too. It is a sensory overload unlike anything else you will ever experience.

it's play time

Those of you who are regulars at your neighborhood karaoke bars will feel right at home in just about any corner of Japan. For starters, a visit to Smash Hits in Tokyo is a great option. Located at the west end of the Hiroo *shotengai* (neighborhood shopping street), it offers a familiar karaoke experience and features a large English-language catalog. Once you've found your voice you can try something a little different. Lovenet in Roppongi offers private themed lounges with names like Candy, Sunshine, Aqua and Heaven. In the Aqua suite, for example, you can belt out your best "Billie Jean" while soaking in a Jacuzzi.

For a more relaxing experience that still borders on the wild, visiting one of Tokyo's owl cafés should be at the top of your list. These establishments offer almost exactly what they say, as they are places where you can mingle with owls. The healthy and tame — though rather underwhelmed — birds can perch on your arm, shoulder or

head, and attendants are there to help with anything. But don't get misled by the "café" portion of the name. While there is plenty of avian interaction, there isn't much in the way of food or drink.

If plush or toy animals are more your speed, or you are traveling with children, make a stop at Legoland Discovery Center in Tokyo, where more than 3 million LEGO bricks offer endless possibilities under one roof. Here, you can rediscover Godzilla in his lego form and introduce your children to the iconic lizard. Sanrio Puroland is also a must for kids of all ages. *Kawaii* (pronounced ka-wah-EE), the Japanese term for "cute," is a cultural badge that is taken to a whole new level at this indoor amusement park. Dedicated to all things Hello Kitty — and friends — Sanrio Puroland is sure to charm all the kids in your party.

cute pursuits

Speaking of *kawaii*, when it comes to shopping, just about anything that falls in that category makes a great souvenir. Your friends and family will surely be thrilled to receive any of these novelties: an eyelid exerciser from Tokyu Hands at Ikebukuro, deodorant candy (eat a piece and smell like

Opposite page from top:
Daigoji Temple in autumn,
Kyoto; the hot spring at a
ryokan in Nikko;
This page: Godzilla statue
in Roppongi





throughout April. Just as they are the world over, Japan's pride festivals are loads of fun, and, in a society where LGBT rights still have some way to go, they serve as an important reminder to the country that its gay population is present and strong.

Also in the spring time, the city of Kawasaki hosts the Festival of the Steel Phallus. Commonly known as the penis festival, this popular celebration isn't the byproduct of an over-active gay imagination. However, the event does involve a giant pink steel phallus carried aloft through crowded streets as smiley-faced spectators of all ages nibble on similarly shaped lollipops. The festival's roots date back to the 17th century when prostitutes are said to have prayed for protection from sexually transmitted infections. Nowadays, the event draws attention to safe sex practices and raises money and awareness for HIV organizations.

Once the parades are over, you can continue your support by taking a trip to the Shunkoin Temple (Temple of the Spring Ray) in Kyoto. Shunkoin is the first temple in the country to welcome same-sex wedding ceremonies. It is home to beautiful gardens and an exhibit of decorated sliding door panels, too.

Tokyo, of course, is the springboard for most journeys across Japan. LGBT travelers will feel welcome throughout the teeming metropolis of 13 million, but the main area of interest is a warren of narrow streets called Shinjuku Ni-chome. This district is home to many shops and hundreds of gay bars, each catering to a specific subset of the Japanese LGBT community, with some reserved for Japanese patrons only. GB is a video bar that is foreigner-friendly, and Arty Farty is an old-school favorite. But keep your eyes peeled. Many of the businesses are easy to miss. They are tucked away and discreet, so be prepared to pop into the wrong kind of bar a few times before you find the right one for you.

For most Americans the streets, customs and geography of Japan alone will be a breathtaking revelation. So next time you grab a bag of frozen edamame or add a wink face emoji to a text, consider taking a trip to their country of origin. The Land of the Rising Sun is brimming with possibility. •

a rose), a magic umbrella (flowers appear once raindrops wet the fabric), a cupcake shaped contact lens case, a pair of socks designed to resemble two pieces of sushi side by side at Loft in Shibuya or something none of us can do without: a pair of lucky red underwear from Red Underpants. I mean, who wouldn't want a pair?

Those who are a little more serious about fashion must make a pilgrimage to the shopping district of Harajuku, which is also the name of a uniquely Japanese style of dress. The elements of Harajuku style may include punk, school uniforms, manga-inspired baby-doll dresses and pigtails, goth makeup, platform shoes and kimonos. Once you've got a sense of the mash-up look, check out vintage clothing stores Dog, Flower or Ragtag Harajuku to assemble your own outfit.

Ginza is to Tokyo what Times Square is to Manhattan — only on steroids. Located in the heart of the city, the bright neon lights of thousands of signs illuminate the evening. Those who are in the market for luxury goods should definitely see what Ginza has to offer. From Dior and Louis Vuitton to Bvlgari, you can find it all right there.

feeling proud

If you want to coincide your trip with local LGBT events, then spring is the best season. Enthusiastic gay pride celebrations take place in Osaka, Sapporo and Tokyo

From top: Ginza district; A kawaii egg character at a food festival at the Tsukiji Fish Market





Clockwise from top left: Shunkoin Temple; Hello Kitty Show at Sanrio Puroland; Harajuku street fashion; Akiba Fukuro owl café; the Festival of the Steel Phallus in Kawasaki



Clockwise from top left: © Yasufumi Nishi / JMD; © Piya Ledaprad / Dreamstime.com; © Narito433 / Dreamstime.com; Carina Mask; © Aflo Co. Ltd. / Alamy; © Trevor Mogg / Alamy



Arts in the Fall

BY SHAYNE BENOWITZ

No matter what your artistic inclination is, South Florida's explosive lineup of exhibits and performances has got you covered.

AS FALL APPROACHES, the temperatures cool and the local art scene heats up. Art Basel and its satellite fairs loom large in the horizon, but South Florida's museums and art galleries gear up well before December's annual artistic blowout. The same goes for the opera, ballet, theater and symphony. Here's a look at what the winds of autumn have in store.





THE CITY'S DARLING

Art Basel Miami Beach is back December 3-6, for a 14th year. After the success of last year's show, featuring 267 galleries from 31 countries and drawing over 73,000 international show-goers to the Miami Beach Convention Center, the 2015 edition promises to be another splashy spectacle with cutting edge art, glitzy parties and, yes, gridlock traffic, too.

SATELLITE FAIRS

With the convention center serving as the sun to a slew of orbiting satellite fairs, art patrons have a lot of ground to cover. *Design Miami/* — Art Basel's sister show — is the global forum uniting designers, curators and critics. *SCOPE Miami Beach* returns to the sands of South Beach for its 15th anniversary. *Pulse Miami Beach* (which moved from its downtown location last year) will celebrate its 10th anniversary at Indian Beach

Park, and Art Miami and its sister show *Context* will hold down the fort in Midtown. Amidst these well-established fairs many rising stars have also become must-visits during that week.

EXHIBITIONISTS

The landmark Pérez Art Museum Miami will be celebrating its third anniversary this December, just in time for Art Basel. Its exciting lineup of exhibitions will include the fascinating *No Boundaries: Aboriginal Australian Contemporary Abstract Painting*, which brings together the works of nine artists who came to painting later in life. The works, many of them large scale pieces reflecting a wide range of influences, offer a fascinating look at the crossroads between a people living on the edge of society and the larger movements of 21st century abstract painting. Also opening this fall is Dominican born Firelei Báez's exhibit

Bloodlines, which explores the experience of the Caribbean diaspora by weaving together a pastiche of symbols that range from depictions of black women in 18th century Louisiana to signs of the tumultuous Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. Báez's hypnotic, large scale images are a flurry of color and pattern.

Founded by a Board of Trustees and the former staff of the Museum

Previous page (from top): *Long Day's Journey into Night*; Firelei Báez's *Bloodlines*; Momix *Botancia*; Nick Gentry's *Zone*, part of the Robert Fontaine Gallery collection. This page (from top): Paddy Bedford's *No Boundaries*; *Barber of Seville*



Clockwise from top left: Inside Out Public Art Projects' *Broward 100, Once*; Shannon Ebner, *A Public Character*

of Contemporary Art, North Miami, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami took up temporary residence in the Design District's Moore Building in December 2014 while awaiting the completion of its permanent home in the same neighborhood. Ever on the cutting edge, the institute's slate of shows includes *A Public Character*, Shannon Ebner's first comprehensive selection of her ongoing collection, *Blackbox Collision A*. Also on the calendar is a provocative solo exhibition by video and performance artist Alex Bag. The museum will display her 2001 video *The Bag* in the Atrium Gallery and a new site-specific installation, marking the New York artist's first major U.S. show since 2009.

On South Beach, the Wolfsonian—FIU — dedicated to exploring the persuasive power of art and design and what it means to be modern — is gearing up for two major fall exhibitions. *Philodendron:*

From Pan-Latin Exotic to American Modern charts the migration of tropical plants to North America and Europe and the cultural ramifications.

Margin of Error explores societal responses to engineering catastrophes of the modern age, like shipwrecks, plane crashes and explosions and how those events interrupt the path of progress.

Further north, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale will explore modern art and the birth of American television with *Revolution of the Eye*. The museum will also host the annual GLBX fundraising event, ARTOPIA. The Palm Beach's Norton Museum of Art will look at Israel through photography with its exhibit *This Place*.

INTIMATE AFFAIRS

As the nerve center of Miami's international contemporary art scene, Wynwood's galleries are primed to present their most



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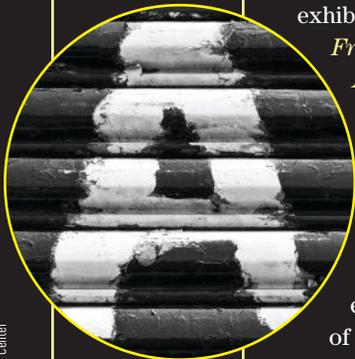
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dynamic exhibitions as the legions descending for Art Basel roll into town. Many top galleries showcase their artists at the major fairs and also host special exhibitions. The Fredric Snitzer Gallery, which has exhibited at Art Basel in the convention center in the past, will display new works by famed street artist Kenny Scharf from November through December. New works by Miami artist Hernan Bas will be on display in January. In addition to its group show entitled *Mixed Media*, the Robert Fontaine Gallery will show at both Scope and the Miami Project this year. In fact, fall is the perfect time to visit one of Miami's famed private collections like the Rubell Family Collection, the Margulies Collection at the WAREHOUSE and the de la Cruz Collection.

A COMMUNITY'S SOUL

As part of Broward County's 100th anniversary celebration, the county participated in *Inside Out*, The global project that turns images of everyday people into works of art. On July 25, at the the grand re-opening of Mickel Park, an Inside Out photographer snapped black and white head shots of Wilton Manors residents. Now 50 black and white images from that shoot are installed in front of city hall.

Every Inside Out project has a theme — a bigger message that is communicated to the the world. The message of the *Broward 100 – Celebrating the Art of Community: Hollywood Creatives* is “the real building blocks of a community.” The installation is made of disintegrating paper that can last one to five months, depending on the weather.





Opposite page:
 Alberto Helios
 Gagliardo's *La Pietá*
Uma from
Margin of Error
 This page (from top):
 Publicity photograph
 for the Electrohome
 Courier portable
 television, late 1950s;
Swan Lake;
Kinky Boots

Another communal experience that shouldn't be missed is the Art! Key West! festival. The six-day celebration of the local arts scene offers an insight into the island's unique artistic heritage, along with artist panels, gallery exhibitions, performance art and music.

TIMELESS PLEASURES

Autumn also marks the start of the performing arts season in South Florida. The Florida Grand Opera starts things off with Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* at the Ziff Ballet Opera House at the Arsht Center in Miami and will later take the performance to the Broward Center for the Performing Arts' Au-Rene Theater.

Miami City Ballet will also kick off its season at the Arsht Center with *Program One: Swan Lake*,

Thomas. The show features Stravinsky's "The Fox" and "The Wedding" and Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 1, Winter Dreams."

The Cleveland Orchestra Miami returns in November to celebrate its 10th season in the Magic City. With Giancarlo Guerrero conducting and Johannes Moser on the cello, the orchestra will start its four-weekend residence with the *Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony*.

ON STAGE

Just across Biscayne Boulevard, the Arsht Center's Broadway musical season gets off to a rollicking start with the six-time Tony Award-winning *Kinky Boots*. Other highlights of the season include *The Sound of Music*, *Motown the Musical* and *Cabaret*.

Over at the Broward Center, Tony Award winning musical *Once* takes the stage and the center's dance series is scheduled to feature Momix *Botanica*, *Blaze The Show*, the Moscow Festival Ballet performing *Sleeping Beauty*, *Pilobolus* and *Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo*.

The Kravis Center has also proposed a varied lineup, with artists and performers that range from Jerry Seinfeld and the Munich Symphony Orchestra to Blue Man Group. And the Aventura Center is sure to pack the house the day the inimitable Bernadette Peters takes the stage.



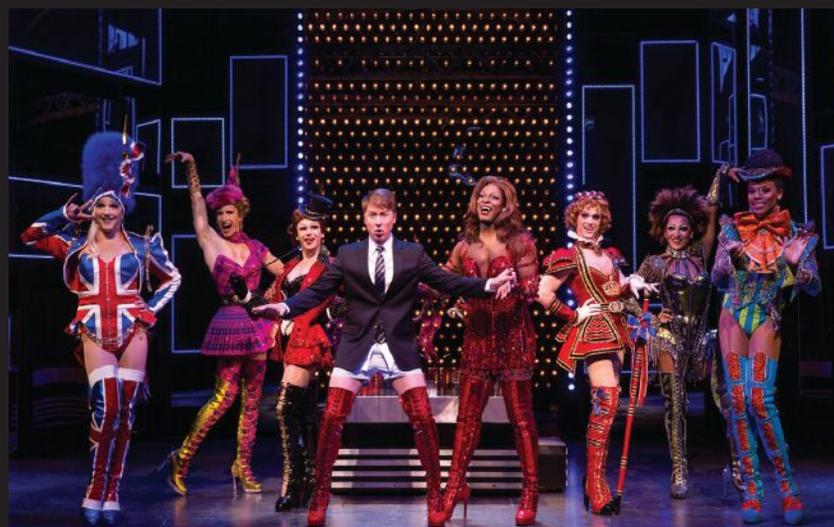
Palm Beach Dramaworks' season of plays will engage audiences with productions like William Inge's classic *Picnic*, Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* and Alan Bennett's *The History Boys*.

For a tongue-in-cheek treat, head down to the last key. *The Sexy Side of Star Wars: A Burlesque Parody* will be presented by Key West Burlesque at the Waterfront Playhouse. The Conch Republic gets only slightly more serious late in the season when the Fringe Theater presents *Alice's Parlor II* — four plays by Alice Gerstenberg — and the Red Barn Theatre puts on the Neil Simon comedy, *Fools*. •



Viscera and Fancy Free. As with all of the performances, the show will travel to the Broward Center and Palm Beach's Kravis Center. *Programs Two and Three* will feature choreography by Twyla Tharp, George Balanchine and Justin Peck. The season ends with Balanchine's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The New World Symphony's 2015–2016 season will open with *The Russian Musical Soul*, conducted by Michael Tilson



PARTY SCENE

From art galleries to historic mansions, any one of these unexpected locations will elevate your next gathering.

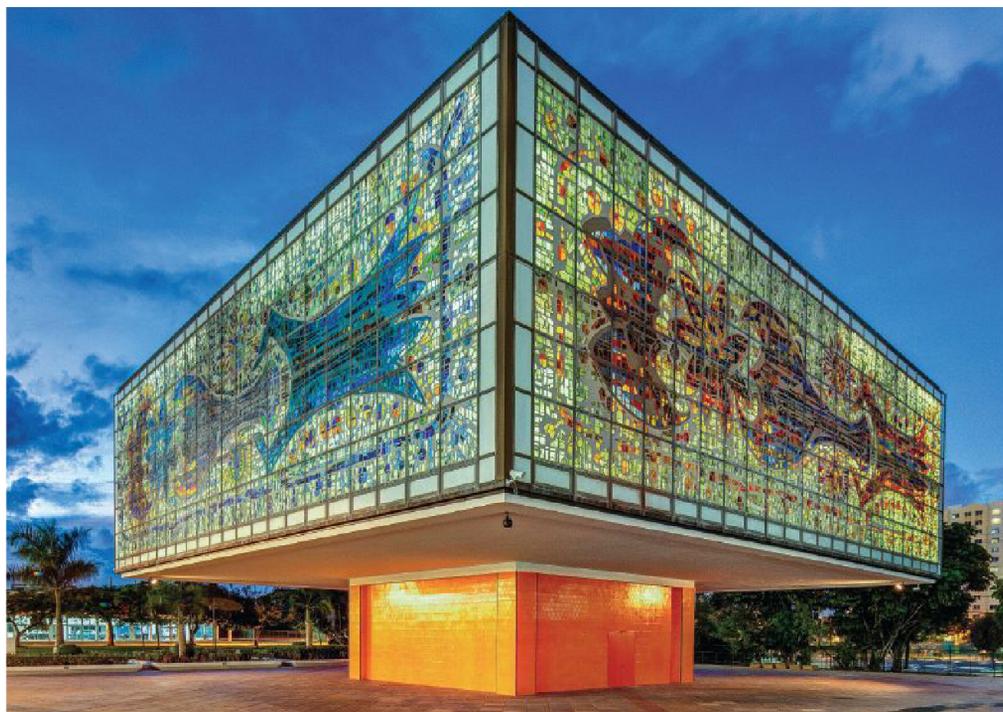
by JUSTIN TRABERT

Many visitors choose South Florida to celebrate their major life events.

They come here seeking one thing in particular: that one-of-a-kind venue you can't find anywhere else, so they can say to the world, "Eat it! My party has topped all others to come." And why not? From South Beach to Palm Beach, each city along our beautiful coastline offers a bevy of unexpected spaces that are primed and ready for your unforgettable celebration.

Creative Spaces

Looking for something that will reflect your artistic side? There are



• From top:
The Jewel Box;
Gallery of Amazing Things

plenty of spaces where you can let your imagination run wild and create your own world within their walls.

The Pavilion Studio within Soho Studios in the Wynwood Arts District is a 6,300-square-foot studio that will astound your guests. With polished concrete floors and wooden rafter ceilings, any production or event hosted there will not go unnoticed.

The Jewel Box at the YoungArts Foundation in Miami was designed to dazzle. The outstanding square building is raised 47 feet off the ground by a pedestal and the exterior is covered in thick hammered stained glass "tapestries" based on an abstract painting by German artist Johannes Dietz.

In Dania Beach, the **Gallery of Amazing Things** can impress even the harshest critic, as you party among vast treasures. Think: rooms of impossibly perfect sculptures, monumental crystals, 50-million-year-old fossils and a chandelier that is comprised of 300 porcelain fairies.

Otherworldly

You can always opt to take your guests on a trip without having to travel far. The **Morikami Museum**

and **Japanese Gardens** in Delray Beach can transport your whole event to Kyoto, Japan. This cultural center is comprised of a museum and six distinct tranquil areas inspired by classic Japanese gardens. It also features various multi-level terraces, a lobby, a theatre and a traditional Ashwood-lined foyer.

The Cruz Building in Coconut Grove is straight out of Bourbon Street, with ornate cast iron balconies, gas lanterns, a fresco terraces and a beautiful stained-glass window ballroom inspired by the Tuscan countryside. Featuring a brass and marble staircase — perfect for making a grand entrance — this three-story gem is ideal for an elaborate affair.

Built in an area known as "Millionaire's Row" in the 1930s, **Villa Woodbine** captures a taste of old Miami. With its Spanish arches, open courtyards and gardens of oak and bougainvillea, the 300-guest-capacity mansion is great for a Gatsby-style soiree.

With all of the amazing and unique spaces at the tip of your fingers, your next event is sure to be the talk of the town. So please don't forget to send my invitation! •



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 Nu Deco Ensemble | March 25 + 26
 O, Miami | April 29 + 30
 Alumni Elena & Samora Pinderhughes | May 27 + 28
 Alumnus Doug Blush | June 24 + 25

* dates subject to change



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The National YoungArts Foundation identifies and supports the next generation of artists in the visual, literary, design and performing arts; assists them at critical junctures in their educational and professional development; and raises appreciation for the arts in American society.





● Jessica Aguilar
aka JAG

ANATOMY OF A KNOCKOUT

UFC strawweight Jessica Aguilar is a fighter, both in and out of the cage.

by JULIE BALTER

Jessica Aguilar, the South Florida-based, mixed martial arts champion, is affectionately known as “JAG” to her avid following. It’s not because of her amazing bod or Amazonian girl-on-girl aura. And it’s not because she delivers a swift sense of justice and a fierce message for gender equality in a supremely male-dominated sport (okay, it’s these things too).

But rather it’s because the 115-pound, 5’4” strawweight instinctively — and seemingly effortlessly — overtakes her opponents with her arsenal of

intellect, athleticism and agility. She knows which weapon to wield and how much pressure to apply; it’s a technique mere mortals just don’t know how to employ.

“When I’m in the ring, I might start out with a boxing 1-2-3, so my opponent is forced to defend,” says Aguilar, “and then I can go for the takedown, which is a wrestling move.”

And the MMA fighter just lobbed her biggest move this year, signing with the UFC and facing the most media-watched match of her career against topper Claudia Gadhela. Though she didn’t win, the

consensus by MMA observers is that Aguilar more than held her own. With a 19-win, 5-loss record, she still ranks as one of the top MMA strawweight contenders in the world.

To truly appreciate her ascension in the octagon ring, you may need to understand a little more about mixed martial arts. First, it’s the fastest growing sport in the world. Second, it’s not for sissies. Sparring includes a wide range of fighting techniques: Brazilian jiu-jitsu, boxing, wrestling and a mashup of martial arts (jeet kune do, judo, muay thai, sanshou and tae kwon do). For fighters to succeed, they need to adeptly draw from a wide range of combat styles and strategies.

But if you think Aguilar has trained her entire life like some tennis protégé, you’d be dead wrong. In fact, prior to her MMA career, she worked as a mild-mannered corrections officer and as an actress on *Dexter* and in a few Spanish-language films.

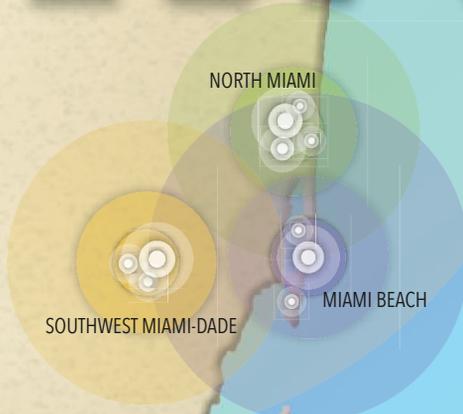
Aguilar’s fighting instincts and meteoric rise within the MMA ranks was actually influenced by a powerful maternal figure. Her mom, who was born in Mexico, was widowed at an early age and relocated the family to Houston. “She didn’t know a word of English,” says Aguilar. “And she raised us all by herself. She’ll always be my biggest superhero.”

It’s Aguilar’s strong sense of family and community that inspired her to expand her fight beyond the ring. Although she sticks to a rigorous six-day training schedule, she also battles against bullying in her spare time. She flexes her muscle volunteering with Fort Lauderdale’s Pride Center, the Miami Children’s Hospital and Sweethearts & Heroes — a nonprofit organization that works to educate society about the impact of bullying and to empower would-be bystanders.

“Words can hurt more than anything,” she says. “And now that I have the greatest platform of my career, I’m speaking out and fighting for the entire LGBT community.”●

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BATTLING THE BLUES

Depression is a pervasive problem in the LGBT community, but help is available.

by WYATT MYERS

There's no question that depression is a major health issue in America. According to the National Institute of Health's most recent estimates, nearly 7 percent of adults suffer from at least one depressive episode a year. But among the LGBT community, depression is an even more prevalent problem. "Some research indicates that the LGBT population is more than twice as likely to have some form of mental illness, which includes depression, anxiety and substance abuse," says Jose A. Cruz, MD, a psychiatrist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. "More concerning is that the LGBT population is three times more likely to try to commit suicide."

A lot of variables factor into that high rate. A study published in the

American Journal of Public Health noted that discrimination almost certainly plays a role.

Though things have improved in some areas of American life in recent years, discrimination and bias against the LGBT community is still widespread. And this can lead to a host of mental health issues. In fact, the National Alliance on Mental Illness says these problems can sometimes start early in life, with rejection from friends or family sowing the seeds of long-term conditions.

Warning Signs

Regardless of the causes, it's crucial to be aware of any signs of depression in yourself or loved ones, and then to seek out the necessary treatment before the situation spirals out of control.

Some symptoms of depression include changes in weight, appetite or sleep patterns; having no interest or concentration at work; an inability to feel pleasure; feelings of hopelessness or worthlessness; and thoughts of suicide or death.

"Major depression is diagnosed when more than five of these symptoms are present for two or more weeks," says Samir Sabbag, MD, assistant professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine. "However, if someone is experiencing several of these symptoms at the same time and they are present for several days, they should seek help from a mental health provider to rule out depression."

Getting Help

Fortunately, there are plenty of resources available. Start by asking your doctor or trusted friends for a reference to a good psychiatrist. Therapy and prescription medication are key to righting the ship.

In South Florida, the medical community is well-positioned to help. The new website MyTransHealth.com was designed to connect members of the transgender community with informed doctors and specialists who are sensitive to their needs, and it launched in Miami and New York City. Mount Sinai Medical Center has a psychiatric emergency room and numerous other resources to assist those with depression. The University of Miami Health System has psychiatrists who specialize in the mental issues that affect the LGBT community. Dr. Sabbag also suggests checking with the Association of Gay and Lesbian Psychiatrists at aglp.org and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association at gma.org.

"Many LGBT people feel uncomfortable coming out to their doctors or other health care providers, but making sure your doctor knows about you will help them provide the appropriate treatment," adds Dr. Sabbag. •



Get Tested, Get Help

Think you might be suffering from depression? Visit the [Mental Health America](http://MentalHealthAmerica) page and take a screening test. mentalhealthamerica.net/mental-health-screen/patient-health

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Q & A

Susanna Taddei • Spanish-Language Spokesperson for Equality Florida

Never one to back down from a challenge, Susanna Taddei is taking the rapid-fire changes taking place across the nation as an opportunity to effect local change.

Q: How did you get involved with Equality Florida?

A: When the ban against gay marriage was lifted in the first week of January, I immediately felt that the Latin community had no clue what had happened. They were lost. I had gotten married in New York three years ago, and everybody started asking me what was that change, if their marriage could be the same as a heterosexual marriage. I realized immediately that we were lost in translation. We needed to do something to reach the community and give them more information. So I called up Equality Florida. I had breakfast with them and in two seconds we came up with the idea of doing a series of PSAs. That was January. By April they were done.

Q: How is the Latino view of the LGBT community different?

A: It depends. I think in general the new generations are very open. But the older generations... I still have friends who are 50, 60 years old that have been with their partners for 20 years or more, and they're still not accepted by their parents. So, that's kind of hard to see. These children, who are 50 or 60 years old

and are planning for their retirement, maybe talk to their parents about legal aspects like wills, things like that, and they're not respected or considered a marriage like everybody else. Definitely I see a gap there, a generational gap that is important to close as much as we can.

Q: Please describe the *Unete a Nosotros* campaign.

A: That came up during that breakfast. We started thinking about a very short video, a two- or three-minute video to just outreach to the Latin community. And when I went back home and started seeing all the topics that we needed to go through, it became a campaign with six or seven different PSAs.

Q: Is there a goal to go national or even international with the *Unete a Nosotros* campaign?

A: It already has gone national in the sense that we did it together with GLAAD. They helped me go through the script, making sure all the statistics were correct. They helped me also on the visual part. For example, when we were doing the transgender PSA one of the things they insisted on is that Vinna, who is a transgender woman, be surrounded by family, kids, her mom or *el abuelo*. That kind of thing makes it easier for the population that we're trying to reach — that is the older general and GLBT Latin community — to accept the transgender [population]. •



• Susanna Taddei is the Spanish-Language Spokesperson for Equality Florida and also runs the Girasol Foundation with her wife Ibeti Pérez.





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NOV 13, 2015 – Friday at 8 p.m.
NOV 14, 2015 – Saturday at 8 p.m.

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Johannes Moser, *cello*

- CHÁVEZ** Symphony No. 2 ("Sinfonia India")
- SHOSTAKOVICH** Cello Concerto No. 1
- SAINT-SAËNS** Symphony No. 3 ("Organ Symphony")

**ANDSNES PLAYS
SCHUMANN**

JAN 21, 2016 – Thursday at 8 p.m.
JAN 22, 2016 – Friday at 8 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
Leif Ove Andsnes, *piano*

- TCHAIKOVSKY** Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture
- SCHUMANN** Piano Concerto
- TCHAIKOVSKY** Symphony No. 1 ("Winter Daydreams")

**BRAHMS
AND PROKOFIEV**

JAN 29, 2016 – Friday at 8 p.m.
JAN 30, 2016 – Saturday at 8 p.m.

The Cleveland Orchestra
Franz Welser-Möst, *conductor*
William Preucil, *violin*
Mark Kosower, *cello*

- PROKOFIEV** Divertissement
- BRAHMS** Double Concerto (for violin and cello)
- PROKOFIEV** Symphony No. 3

**THIBAUDET
PLAYS LISZT**

MAR 17, 2016 – Thursday at 8 p.m.
MAR 18, 2016 – Friday at 8 p.m.
MAR 19, 2016 – Saturday at 8 p.m.

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LUMINARY AWARDS 2015

It's time to give credit where it's due! SAVE recognized four young activists who have made it their mission to fight for equality at the annual Young Guardian's Luminary Awards ceremony held at the Bacardi U.S.A. headquarters building in Coral Gables.



Clockwise from top left: Adrian Paredes, Joey Wynn and Arianna Lint • David Guzman and Commissioner Levine Cava • Tony Lima and Adam Kruszelnicki • Joe Castaldi and Tiffany Brutus • Jessica Fernandez, A.J. Blechner and Nadege Green • Juan Salazar, Paul Adams and Aurelio Hurtado de Mendoza • Pamela Sweeney and Charo Valero • Father Grey Maggiano and Minister Ben Evans



Clockwise from top left: Mark Semple and Drew Miller • Angie Rewburn and Carlos Martins • Kari Hiers Struble, Solimar Rodriguez, Tim Moffitt and Joe Kim • Rob Gould and Philip Magri • Steven R. Lang and Nick Scalzo • Chuck Dinsmore and Michael Faerber

GLBX AFTER HOURS

If you want to mix, mingle and make meaningful contacts, head to the monthly networking event held by the Gay & Lesbian Business Exchange (GLBX) at the Pelican Grand Beach Resort in Fort Lauderdale.





Bernadette Peters, October 23
5th Year Anniversary Celebration



DOG FIGHT

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December 3-6
Slow Burn Theatre Company



ABBA Mania
February 12



Romance/Romance
March 10-13
Slow Burn Theatre Company

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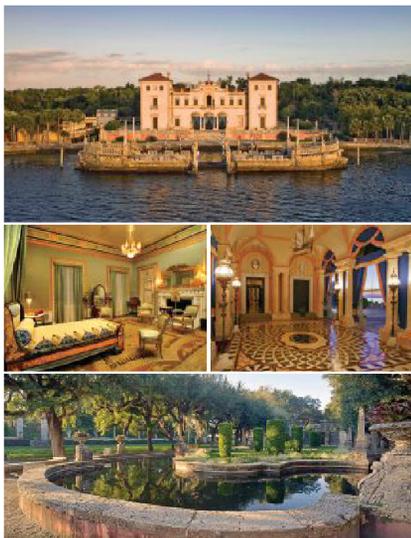
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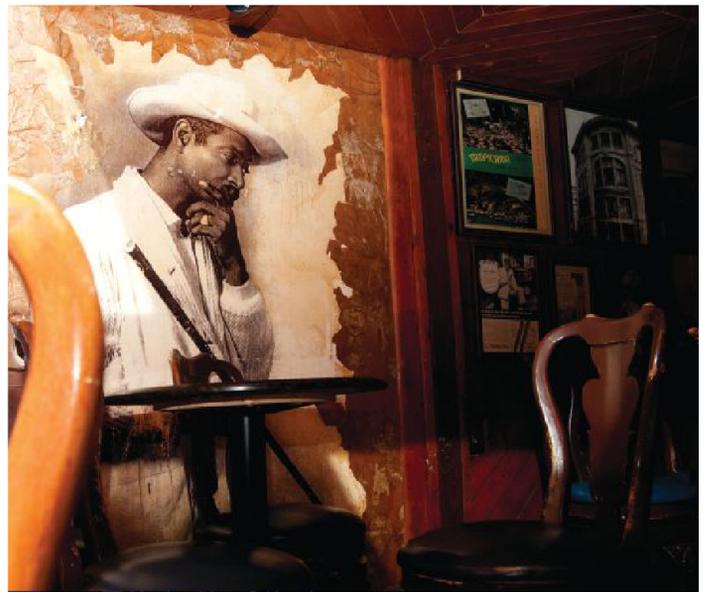
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TROPICAL HEAT

August is always hot, but the temperature was cranked up in Key West during the annual all-male festival known as Tropical Heat. The island city sizzled with four days of parties, cook outs and various other events.



Clockwise from top left: Steve Pierce • Tim Marzullo, Richard Quint and Todd Spangler • Jett Winders, Barnette Holston, Tony Fitch and Ryan Williams • Mick Smith, Rould Osvoold and Richard Stockinger • Patrick Smith and Michael Malenitza • Cris Martinez



NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE

The National LGBTQ Task Force donated a record \$262,769 to The Miami Foundation, which in turn will use those funds to serve South Florida's LGBTQ community by awarding grants to local organizations.

Clockwise from top left: Donald Hayden, Victoria Fear, Rebecca Mandelman and Russell Roybal • Heather Winters, Amy Crismond and Carolina Bonnelly • Mark Gilbert and Roberta Mandel • Sergio Papa, John Ruark and Herb Sosa • Joy Lampkin Foster and Andy Dieguez • Victor Lirio and Bryce Goodwin • Edwin Vides and Georg Ketelhohn



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DISCOVER MORE

October 31 | Wicked Manors | wickedmanors.org
November 2 | Taste of the Island | tasteoftheisland.org

City of Wilton Manors | www.wiltonmanors.com
(954) 390 - 2100   



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October:

LGBT History Month
October 1–31
lgbthistorymonth.com

Celebrate ORGULLO Carnaval
Museum Park, Miami
October 3
celebrateorgullo.com

Fort Lauderdale Gay
& Lesbian Film Festival
October 8–13
fglff.com

Cirque Éloïze iD
Ziff Ballet Opera House, Miami
October 8–11
arshtcenter.org

Pride Fort Lauderdale
Holiday Park
October 10
pridefortlauderdale.org

National Coming Out Day
October 11
facebook.com/nationalcomingoutday

Arts Ballet Theater:
Ballet with a Latin Flavor
Broward Center, Fort Lauderdale
October 17
browardcenter.org

The Naked Magic Show
Parker Playhouse, Fort Lauderdale
October 17–18
parkerplayhouse.org

Humphrey Bogart Film Festival
Key Largo
October 21–25
bogartfilmfestival.com

Fantasy Fest Key West
October 23–November 1
fantasyfest.com

Bernadette Peters
Aventura Arts & Cultural Center
October 23
aventuracenter.org

SAVE's 21st Annual Halloween Ball
Magic City Casino, Miami
October 30
save.lgbt

Wicked Manors
Wilton Manors
October 31
wickedmanors.org

November:

Taste of the Island
Richardson Historic Park
& Nature Preserve, Wilton Manors
November 2
tasteoftheisland.org

Miami City Ballet presents
Program One
Kravis Center, West Palm Beach
November 13–15
miamicityballet.org

Seed Food and Wine Festival
Miami
November 18–22
seedfoodandwine.com

White Party
Miami Beach
November 25–29
whiteparty.org

Art! Key West!
November 25–30
artskeywest.com

December:

Art Basel
Miami Beach Convention Center
December 3–6
artbasel.com/miami-beach



October 15 is Spirit Day!

Wear your favorite purple threads and share your best #spiritday selfies @palettelgbt if you want to stand against bullying and show your support for the community.

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