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The 4th Anniversary Edition "THE STYLE ISSUE"













Handbags: Antonio Ortega & Mixt Studios







Hardwear, 18k Gold bead wrap bracelet, 18k Gold beachdrop earrings, 18k yellow gold bead necklace 32 inches by Tiffany & Co.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

The Estates at Acqualina, Acqualina Resort and II Mulino Restaurant. Photographer Geraldine Pavan.

Ricardo Malisano from Ricardo Malisano Miami Hair & Spa at 111 Alton Road South Point, www.ricardomalisanomiami.com



Isabelle Beaubien

She is young, artistic and hails from London. Her colorful paintings are great for high end condos or homes where the sublime reign. Born in 1980 in Canada, she has perfected her art career in the last 10 years in England. Now a resident of the Sunshine State, Beaubien is making a name in South Florida with her creations, sometimes described as: "accidents waiting to happen. Driven by emotion, spirituality and chance.



When I finished an art piece, I look at my work and am happiest when I feel that is totally unique." Similar to Richter's technique, she does not use brushes but creates her own tools, and also adds texture to her acrylics by using a resin that replicates an amazing gloss. For more information go to **www.isabellebeaubien.com**





Art from Italy in South Florida

The artist Yaneth Alarcon was born in Venezuela and has been living, studying and establishing a critically acclaimed and well recognized fine painting practice in Saint Antonio di Padua, Italy for several years.

Since she was a child, she began painting on old canvases and her mother's sheets and tablecloths, chopping cardboard and using wooden planks. Since early on, she displayed her passion and talent for art by painting using oil, enamel, watercolor paints, tempera and acrylic. Later on, her career was inspired by figurative art and still life, landscapes and the

seabed, especially by her attraction to the depth and mystery of the sea, stressing the red coral understood as a symbol of the tree of life with its red color representing blood.

Yaneth studied Management of Human Resources in Poland and at the same time attended the Academy of Fine Arts. After working as an Office Manager for several years, Yaneth studied Law in Italy, where she works in the field of Human Resources and her Legal Practice. In 2007 Yaneth graduated as a "Superior Technician for Industrial Design" and studied "Exhibition Design in Fashion and

Photography" at the E. U. Ruzza Higher State Institute in Padua.

She attended the North South Foundation
Onlus Luigi Centra Academy in Veroli
(Frosinone). She received her Degree in
General Art in Painting in all its forms, including
Dripping Art Techniques on canvas and
American Pictorial Techniques featuring Action
Painting. Abstract Expressionism and
contemporary art using as an example the
famous American Master Painter Jackson
Pollock. For more information go to:

www.yanethartalarcon.com











Kerri Nicole Smith is an inspiration for style

The realtor in Miami Beach is one stunning woman

What is art for you?

Art for me is a form of freedom and creativity.

Who inspires you?

My mom. She is so strong and beautiful inside and out.

Why did you move to miami beach?

I moved to Miami because of the weather and the water.

It's heaven for me coming from Philadelphia.

What do you like about living next to the ocean?

I love waking up to the sound of the ocean and then I love to go running at the beach.

What is your goal in real estate?

I would like to expand my knowledge on commercial real estate.

Favorite designers?

Chanel and Balmain.

What can't you live without?

My friends. I'm so blessed to have so many amazing friends in my life!

BENNETT UOMO

After more than twenty years of tailoring for discerning clientele in South Florida, Vincenzo DeCaria finally brings a his passion for sartorial excellence to Palm Beach at bennett Uomo, the only men's clothier on Palm Beach where suits and pants are tailored on site. And now his newest location in prestigious Palm Beach with full concierge design consultation and on site tailoring as well.





Vincenzo studied at Ligas Torino, Italy (Scuola di Alta Specializzazione Sartoriale). bennett Uomo offers only the best in fine European fabrics, for both readymade and custom made trousers and suits, as well as a selection of fine luxury leather goods including Italian leather shoes and belts and fine light weight Italian leather and suede jackets. This bright, immaculate shop features a spacious sitting and fitting area where you can sip an espresso as you select your fabric and describe your style, as Vincenzo performs his craft. Also opening a new location at the Conrad Hotel in Fort Lauderdale in the Summer of 2017.

For more information go to www.bennettuomo.com or email info@bennettuomo.com

reanette Limas

is a Dominican fashion designer that has worked on the design team of Urban Zen by Donna Karan as well as Jolibe Atelier.

Recently she presented her third collection during Fashion Week at PS 109, and did an incredible photo shoot with local photographer Carlos David. Her designs are ultra-edgy, modern, and can dress any svelte woman up to the nines. Her talent is unique and she is one of the up and coming fashion designers in New York City.

Her next show will be in September at PS 109.

For more information go to: www.jeanettelimas.com



Art Wynwood, the premier winter contemporary art fair presented by Art Miami, celebrated its sixth edition over President's Day Weekend. The fair highlighted more than 60 international galleries, representing nearly 500 artists from two dozen countries and 38 cities. Art Wynwood reported significant sales of noteworthy works from 20th and 21st century artists, and welcomed prestigious art collectors, connoisseurs, advisors and notable museum professionals.







MIXT Studio is a pioneer in exploring and experimenting with innovative materials and has successfully taken Tyvek, an utilitarian substrate, commonly used on the side of buildings, and has printed it with rich patterns and vibrant hues to make fashionable and eco-friendly bags, totes, pouches and more. One Mixt totes are great! www.mixtstudio.com





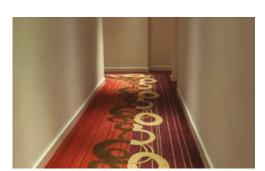
Macy's Cynthia Rowley Collection

daddy O hotel miami Bal Harbour boutique hotel in Miami



Daddy O Miami is a unique boutique hotel experience offering well-appointed rooms, attentive staff and refreshing value. Centrally located in Miami's Bay Harbor Islands, our relaxed-vibe and comfortable accomodations make the hotel the ideal location for excursions to The Shops at Bal Harbour, nightlife in South Beach and famed Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue, Haulover beach as well as fine-dining at The Palm, one of Miami's most beloved restaurants. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, daily continental breakfast, Thursday afternoon happy hour-featuring wine and cheese for guests over 21.

Book now! Mention Art Bodega Magazine Rate to receive a 20% discount and a VIP amenity upon arrival!









THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE



...with a good conscience

How Nic Roldan is taking the world by storm

PHOTOGRAPHY by Geraldine Pavan for Art Bodega Magazine at the Wanderer's Club

STYLING by Rebeca Herrero

SPECIAL THANKS to The Wanderer's Club, Arkwear, Rolls Royce Motor Cars, Maestro Dobel Tequila, Trina Turk and Li-Lac Chocolates.

He's got dreamy eyes and a natural attitude and very confident demeanor. Nic Roldan is one of the best polo players in the world and one of the most sought after bachelors in the country. At the age of 36, he says he is ready to enter a new phase in his life. More mature, ready to take the world by storm, his constant traveling has brought a new insight onto his life, a pre-disposition for goodness.



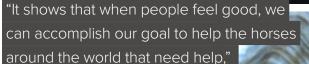
The polo player wears a white western bumble bee (\$95) by Arkwear and Trina Turk Alex Trouser (\$248). Here he enjoys a Maestro Dobel Tequila Margarita mixed by the staff at the Wanderer's Club.

"I feel like there is more to do besides bringing awareness for the sport that I am most passionate about, Polo. I believe this new stage in my life is to take care of others, to guide people that have been less privileged than me. When you live in Wellington, we treat horses with the utmost care. We kind of live in a bubble. Here horses are just so important, we treat them with so much dignity. When I realized that in other countries that is not the case, it shocked me," said the handsome polo player who was born in Argentina but raised in the town of Wellington, in South Florida.

His passion for riding horses was inherent. His father is the very well-known Raul Roldan, an Argentine polo player who was part of the Sultan of Brunei polo team. His mother is Dee, a beautiful woman from German descent who fell in love with Raul when she came for a visit to Wellington. Their children are Nic and daughter Lupe.

As Roldan walks around The Wanderer's Club in Wellington, a prestigious private club in Wellington, Roldan says hello to all the staff who respect and admire him. His low-key demeanor shows an uncanny elegance that translates admirably to the sport of Polo. Although he enjoys a good cocktail with family and friends, or the luxuries that this lifestyle brings, his attention is more dedicated to the sport of Polo and his horses.













"I travel the world, I live in the most beautiful polo settings and I meet amazing people, but there is no bigger reward that the smiles of underprivileged children when they get to meet you, or to watch the horses we try to aid after toiling

"I started riding when I was 2 years old. Surrounded by horses, of course it was natural that I would live this life. What people do not realize about this sport is that besides the luxury and glamorous feel it has, it can be very dangerous and demands so much training as well as being in top athletic shape. You have to wake up early in the morning, be ready to train several hours a week and get ready for competition. It's an old and glamorous sport with so much risk, sometimes it is unimaginable," explains Roldan, the Ambassador to Brooke USA and the Kids Cancer Foundation.

"In selfish times we have to be selfless," commented the man named one of the most eligible bachelors in the country by the prestigious Town & Country publication. As he travels all over the world, there is no sign that Roldan is planning to slow down. In fact, his new fundraising event for Brooke USA is aptly titled: "Sunset Polo & White Party". This was the second year in a row that Roldan planned probably the most entertaining



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THE GIRL IS FROM NEW YORK, AND HER LIFE COACHING TASK IS JUST THE RIGHT THING FOR YOU!

Photography by Luciana Pampalone | By Rosanna Perez All clothes provided by Designer Revival in the Upper East Side





o her benefit, Christina has had a strong upbringing. Her mother Connie Stathis is a well renowned Engineer in the country and operates one of the premier construction companies in the State of New York. She has always been an inspiration for Christina. Her father Sam Stathis, has also inspired her, "he always had ideas and I was amazed at how hard he worked at it," confessed the North East Coast Graduate who now lives in Portland.

She travels constantly throughout the country, and even though her major in college was Chemistry (she also majored in English), she decided to start her own business because she has the real vocational capacity to put it in practice. "We elaborate plans in a six-month basis. Maybe the first 2 months we are trying to figure out what to accomplish, in the following two months how to implement action, and later on, in the last two months your daily routine, to acclimate you to a life-changing experience," admits Stapholopous.





Her ravishing beauty comes from her Greek roots, and her savviness, a natural disposition to help others. She is one beautiful girl. "I've believed she has a unique gift and the right instinct to connect to women in a special way, to understand their needs, and to actually help them. Not every day you find someone with that vocation."

After two years of starting her own enterprise, Christina keeps busy with different types of women/clients who start a challenging process, with the simple goal of improving their lives. "It can be a challenge because sometimes they don't want to hear things that are realistic, pragmatic, and that are difficult to change. Once I had a client who was reluctant to continue with me, because every time she was trying to finish publishing her book, she would self-sabotage. I knew she was trying to avoid the possibility of failure. I explained this to her and she realized that this process would entail some hardship, with great results at the end."

The young entrepreneur has some great goals in expanding her small business. "I want to bring it to a corporate climate too. How many companies would be able to improve if their employees would feel better, if their atmosphere would change. It's a long term plan, but we can expand our goal by accommodating to large scale model of groups instead of just individuals," concludes the young female business owner who is helping bring out that roar inside of all of us.









STEVE LYONS

brings his art to Manhattan and South Florida

CHATHAM, CAPE COD BY ROSANNA PEREZ

ABOVE: Two Parts Harmony, Night at the Opera Carmen BELOW: Painted Ladies Fever Dream, Random #2 RIGHT TOP: Verdi: Rigoletto, A Night at the Opera, The Forest Kissed at Sunrise. RIGHT BOTTOM: Women and the Universe









From a young age, New England based artist, Steve Lyons, dreamt of becoming one of the world's best known contemporary artists. With a successful gallery in Cape Cod, Lyons' dream is now reality, and one with a brighter future.

Recently awarded as one of the Top Five Abstract Expressionist Painters in the World by American Arts Award, Lyons has, over the years, reinvented the Impasto technique into what is now called "Sculptural Painting". His talent, creativity and expertise is revealed within a substantial portfolio of contemporary abstract works, gold-leaf adorned paintings, and coastal studies saturated with perspective.

His studio and gallery, located on Main Street in the heart of Cape Cod, is as many say, 1500 square feet of creativity. When he isn't traveling and exhibiting in Berlin, Mexico or Miami, you will more often than not find Lyons transcending artistic genres and bringing his community together through the power of art.

"You have to understand that Chatham has many accomplished artists, but its reputation for art has been a quiet one." On any given day the Steve Lyons Gallery, located in an Old New England fishing village turned upscale destination, plays host to collectors, art lovers and critics, and nearly 200 people a day. "People come from across the globe, as well as local cities, to see the ever-changing gallery walls," explains Lyons.

His sales have skyrocketed ever since, sometimes art collectors from New York can acquire 5 or 10 pieces at the same time. From upscale hotels to renowned designers and Bloomingdale's, you can find his glorious coastal studies and landscapes of dunes and water that ranged from figurative to conceptual at these places. Some of his pieces consist of strokes with outstanding color. There's a fluidity to them, where the paint blends but never melts together. Even his "white" paintings have the masterful touch of knowing where a shadowy hue will make the white even more profound.

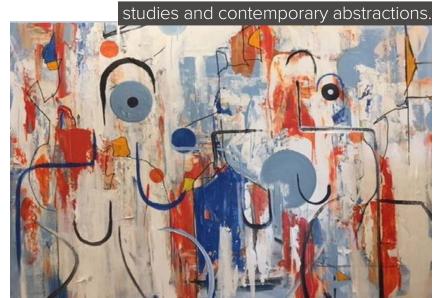
With an undergraduate and graduate minor in art history, Lyons creates from the gut imbued with his entire body, not unlike de Kooning described, and with the ghosts of the masters and their techniques drifting through his soul.

Lyons was born and raised in an impoverished home in Southern Ohio and grew up for large periods of time on welfare. After getting his Masters of Journalism from LSU Baton Rouge, he migrated to New York City. Everyone wants to know why he didn't major in studio painting. "I'm asked that question a lot," he says. "The fact is they tried to turn me into an academic painter. Emotion and expression was not encouraged. I remember thinking, 'this doesn't feel right for me', then I figured out, they wanted me to be a painter and I wanted to be an artist. There's a big difference."

His multiple art collectors include a German woman who bought two of his paintings and placed them next to her Goya and Picasso pieces in Berlin. Other executives and hedge funders have bought from Lyons in complete awe of his talent. "It's an exciting time for me, and I'm truly honored," admits Lyons who just signed a deal with a series of hotel chains in the Northeast. As he heads back to his easel, Lyons has several canvasses in different stages of development. It's the start of a busy day and you can feel the angels of creativity about to be given flight.

The expertise he shows in his work is

revealed in his magnificent works of coastal









is everywhere...

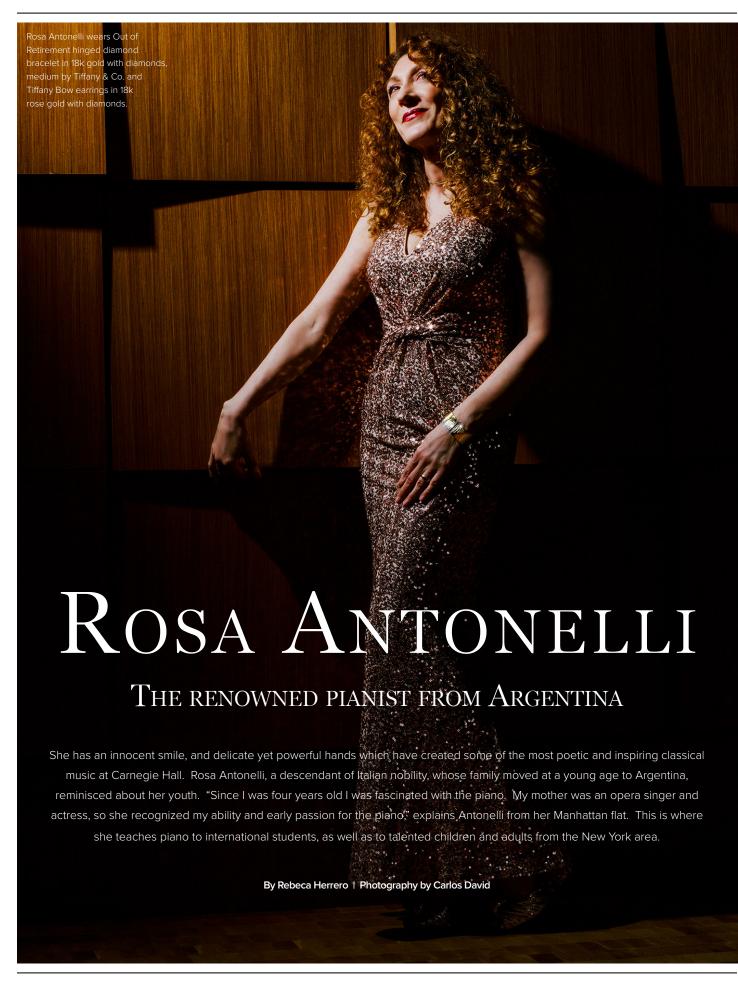
Jewelry provided by Tiffany & Co. $\,$ Location: Steinway & Sons, Manhattan Photography by Carlos David



BELOW: Rolls-Royce Dawn LEFT: Tiffany & Co. and Steinway & Sons for Art Bodega Magazine











raveling constantly all over the world, headquarters in Manhattan, she explains the L best by practicing several hours each day. "It can be a very strenuous routine if you do not know how to take care of your body. The pianist must have intense awareness and control of the technique in order to stay in mastery of the instrument." It is there that she has delighted many top music critics and fans of Astor Piazzolla, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Ernesto Nazareth, Enrique Granados and Isaac Albeniz amongst others.

"I want to let the world know that Latin music is not only salsa, bachata, mambo, or merengue. Even though I personally love to dance these rhythms, my mission has been for the past seven years to promote and expose music lovers everywhere to the incredible classical composers from Latin America through my performances and recordings. I was the first pianist to perform a program consisting of Latin masterpieces in the United States. Having that feeling and responsibility can also be nerve wracking," explains the iconic figure who is also one of the top artists at in 2011, because of New York traffic and street Steinway & Sons in Manhattan.

an idea of the great cultural contributions she has given us. As she visits Steinway & Sons from my house to get there."

Antonelli makes sure she stays at her attributes of being part of this illustrious brand.

"The new hall is a perfect realization of what cultural contribution these pianos provide to the world. Steinway has been synonymous with the pinnacle of artistry. Since I feel that the best classical music is played in New York City, even after being a world renowned pianist that traveled to many continents it was still daring for me to come here," said Antonelli.

Steinway& Sons is like a family for her. "They come to all of my concerts in New York and encourage and support me. They expressed how much they like the way I play, they think it is unforced and spontaneous, but perhaps, more like a technique that comes naturally and that is played with so much sensibility and heartfelt feelings," admits Antonelli. .

"I got very nervous before my first big concert at the Carnegie Hall; I couldn't believe it was sold out. But I have this remarkable gift that when I walk onto the stage and especially when I start playing, I feel a strong spirit is protecting me and guiding me. I remember my first concert closures, I did not arrive until a few minutes As we did our photo shoot with Rosa, before the show. The staff at Carnegie Hall was wearing jewelry from Tiffany & Co., you get calling me, and asking, "are you coming Rosa?" She said: "oh sure, I just have to walk two blocks

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"When I finally arrived, I was praying to God to do a beautiful and heartfelt performance. I was nervous thinking that not too many people would come to listen to this particular repertoire and also because even though I had performed in the best halls all over the world, Carnegie Hall is Carnegie Hall! It marks your final reputation in the United States. When I finally entered the stage, the venue was packed. I was not nervous then, I was so proud," admits the lovely Rosa.

At her home, a luxury apartment she shares with her husband Dr. Robert Veligdan, Antonelli has posters of some of her best performances from around the world. She has performed and toured extensively with more than 1000 concerts all over the globe.

An Argentinian musical prodigy, Antonelli received American Citizenship from the government of the United States as an "Artist of Extraordinary Ability". "It was not easy; I had a lot of setbacks in life and lost many of my relatives in Argentina. In Buenos Aires I held the position of Professor of the Piano Department at the National University of La Plata, at the National Conservatory of Buenos Aires and a Chairwoman of the Piano Department at the Provincial Conservatory Alberto Ginastera . As I was losing my loved ones including my mother, who was my heart and soul, I decided to not be a coward and move to New York, once Steinway had included me as one of their roster of Steinway Artists in 1998."

Antonelli said it was tough at the beginning, she had to learn English and did not know anyone. Her struggles were hard, but she had perseverance and people loved her.





"Having delivered the Latin American and Spanish music to the classical world of New York has been my biggest mission and accomplishment,"

several classical recordings of the Latin American masters.

"Remembranza, Remembrance of Latin Sounds", "Esperanza, Sounds of Hope" and "Abrazando, Latin Embrace" have become big hits in the classical music industry.

admits Antonelli. Under her label ALBANY RECORDS, Antonelli has

The New York Concert Review critic Frank Daykin has described Rosa's recordings as full of surprises and melodious compositions. In his own words: "Two of Piazolla's Four Seasons, Spring and Summer are played with great poetry and longing, amid the angular musical gestures of the tango underlying all: the seduction, rejection, re-approach, and eventual union of two imaginary dancers in the brothel district. Also Villa-Lobos is represented Bachianas Brasileiras No. 4, its prelude movement showing the "Brazilian Bach" at his most neo-baroque with perfectly descending sequences that satisfy the ear to no end.....







Q: How would you describe your style? Urban chic.

Q: Your favorite items in your closet?

My white Gucci Backless Dress with gold zipper, Jimmy Choo Anneli Lace Up Peep Toe Boots and a sable and python fur vest - all gifts from my husband.

Q: You have a fantastic store, how do you approve the items to be sold?

We only take gently loved clothing, handbags, shoes and accessories. We have a list of approved designers and most items are from the last 3-4 years. We also take vintage pieces from select high-end brands like Chanel and Hermes.

Q: What do you recommend your clients to collect in terms of brands?

You cannot go wrong buying Chanel, Hermes and Louis Vuitton- they maintain the highest resale value. Gucci and Celine are also really hot right now

Q: Why is this store unique?

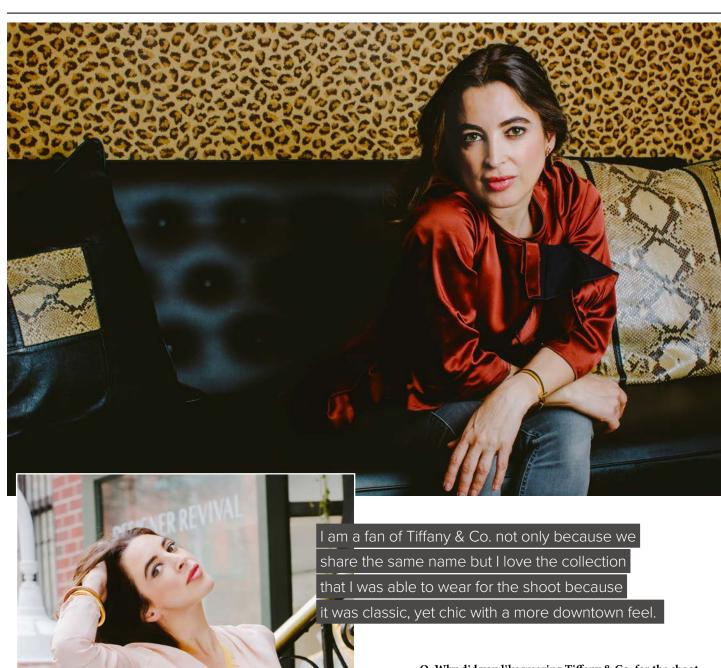
We are different from other consignment stores here in New York because we are one of the largest and oldest consignment stores and provide a "glamorous treasure hunt" for our clients. We also offer more of a personalized experience by offering styling services, an on-premise tailor for alterations and a Closet Revival service where we come and organize your closet for free if you have 10 or more items to consign.

Q: Why the Upper East Side... can you describe the area for people who don't live here.

Designer Revival was one of the first consignment stores in New York City and the Upper East side is the perfect location because we are on a pretty, treelined street which gives the store more of a "neighborhood feel" and we have a loyal consigner/customer base that live near the store and have been coming for years. Our location is very residential but is also very close to the best shopping in the world on Madison and Fifth Avenue.

Q: Future goals? Expansion? Are people buying more at consignment stores...

Our website continues to be a big focus and we are looking at opening alternative locations outside of New York City. The resale market continues to be hot and especially for high end handbags and accessories.



Q: Why did you like wearing Tiffany & Co. for the shoot.

I am a fan of Tiffany & Co. not only because we share the same name but I love the collection that I was able to wear for the shoot because it was classic, yet chic with a more downtown feel and I love the ad campaign they did with this collection and Lady Gaga- very refreshing to see for the brand.

Q: What makes you a powerful woman?

While inner beauty is the true coat of arms, a little Gucci or Chanel on the outside makes everything better! My friends and customers would say that when I help style them I help them feel their most confident and what is more powerful than empowering women to feel their best.

Q: Describe your life in a few sentences...

Five years ago if you told me I would be running one of my favorite consignments stores I never would have believed you. That is what I love about my life, it is full of joyful surprises and I never know what is around the corner and as my husband would say I always make the best of any situation.



From left to right: Adriana Santander and Kike Santander, Rafael and Lina Feliz, Tiffany and DJ Cannava, Smilka Melgoza and Patricia Delinois





Above: Two entertainers, Patricia Delinois, Biany Carrascal, Briyidt Ripamonti & Rebeca Herrero



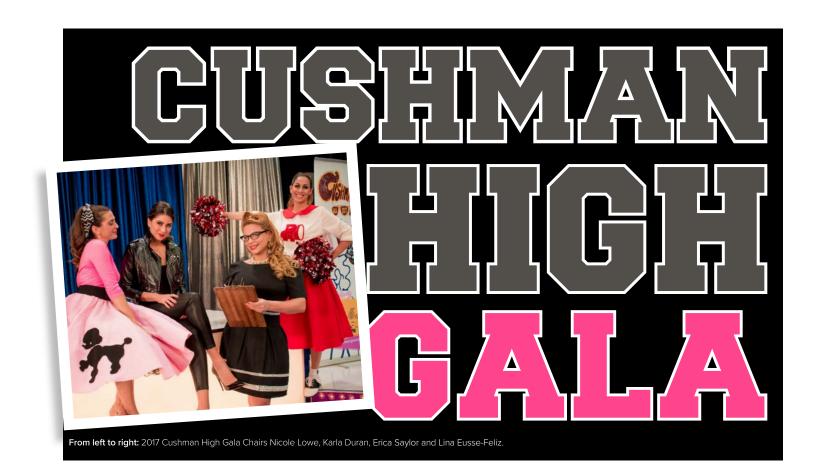








From left to right: David Carroll, Emily Carroll, Juan Carlos Cachoua and Mayela Cachoua, Karla Duran, Marina and Fabian Basabe, Tammy Napoli, Arvi Balseiro and Victor Napoli



MIAMI - VERY FEW WOMEN ARE CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE OF MIAMI.

They are young, successful and have one important mission, progressive education. At The Cushman School, women like Lina Eusse- Feliz (Gala Chair), Karla Duran (Gala Vice-Chair), Nicole Lowe (Gala Vice Chair), Lilaj Segal Battista (Gala Marketing Chair), Erica Saylor (Gala Event Production Chair), Maky Hinson (Gala Auction Co-Chair) and Kim Carver (Gala Auction Co-Chair) are producing one of the top 5 Galas of 2017 in Miami; A fabulous fundraising event that ultimately benefits students by furthering the school's Master Property Plan and offering scholarships to ensure a diverse student body.

BY REBECA HERRERO
Photography by Travis Horn

This year's "Grease-themed" evening is inspired by the 93-year-old school's recent expansion to include a high school division, hence the 1950s-style photo shoot that took place with the Gala Chairs. 500 supporters will attend the event taking place at the Viacom International Studios on 50 NW 14th ST in Miami from 7 pm - 2 am.

The naming opportunities at the new gymnasium, music room, dance studio and performing arts and athletic center are some of the structures where influential donors can leave a legacy with their name, solely to enhance the best in education. Progressive? Absolutely! Some of the alumni includes the famous Colombian Fashion Designer Esteban Cortazar and Grammy Award Winner Enrique Iglesias.

The Cushman School has excelled in education since 1924. Last year, an influential group of parents that are heavily involved in the well renowned private school raised more than 1 million dollars to improve the facilities of the new high school. More than 5 million dollars have been raised and another 5 million are necessary to hit the 10 million mark.

With the help of this great event, the parents and alumni of the school in the heart of Miami will gather for a special evening of fun, glamour and music while raising the funds needed to complete their mission.

For tickets and naming opportunities go to: www.cushmanschool.org



Mike Fernandez TAKES US ON A JOURNA JOURNA

HIS NEW BOOK SHOWS US A MAN OF STRONG CONVICTIONS

Photography by Anita Andrade By Rebeca Herrero

Miami-It takes a smile to know the kind of person behind goodwill and great achievements. Mike Fernandez is one of those individuals, a man whose strong mind and passion for giving are revealed within seconds of meeting him.

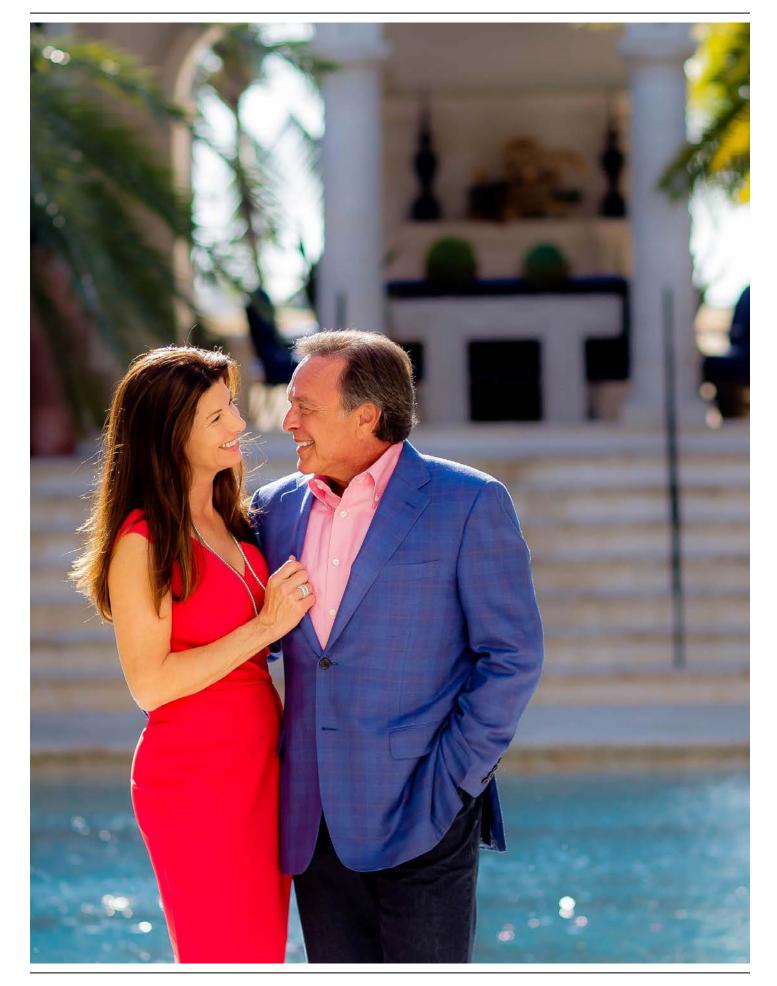
Receiving us at his home in Gables Estates, alongside his beloved dogs – Fernandez's personal demeanor stands out. Inviting us to the respite of his office, it is not necessary as the house exudes comfort and luxury. This is clearly his personal oasis.

"I love to lie in my hammock, look out at the ocean, and read a good book," says Fernandez pointing at the doors that take you to the back of the house. The mansion is truly beautiful, with spectacular paintings and a marvelous library filled with books. He describes himself as having an incredible appetite for learning, reading, and willingness to put ideas into action. It is easy to gather why he enjoys such great success.

Fernandez mentions how he first learned social etiquette and how to navigate the world of the very wealthy while growing up in New York, "I had a music teacher who would give me tickets to the philharmonic. I did not go there for the music, I went there to watch how people behaved."

Reflecting on the world he grew up in, Fernandez says, "I did not want to be like some of the people in my neighborhood in Spanish Harlem. I wanted to achieve things in a responsible manner, educate myself and never give up." Now Fernandez runs a conglomerate of companies that have made him one of the richest men in South Florida. He has a beautiful wife, Constance, and five children who all work as hard as his father, Cristofer, Michael, Alex, Michelle and George.

But it was truly a special experience that inspired him to write his first book. Venturing to finish "El Camino de Santiago de Compostela" also known as "Way of St. James" pilgrimage, Fernandez realized that this was one going to be one of the most fulfilling experiences of his life. "You walk this in 32 to 71 days, I've done it several times. Here everyone is the same. You meet amazing people on this pilgrimage, and it is tough. You walk in hazardous weather, it can be hot, and it can be chilly. It is truly remarkable."





He describes himself as having an incredible appetite for learning, reading, and willingness to put ideas into action. It is easy to gather why he

enjoys such great success.

Fernandez's memoir is titled, "Humbled by the Journey. Life Lessons for my Family....and Yours." Inside the publication are tales of his life and images of his family, who were forced to leave Cuba during the Castro regime in the 60s. After leaving Cuba for Mexico, the family obtained a visa to move to New York City. Once in New York, Fernandez lived with his parents and sister in East Harlem. "I got a scholarship, but my dad said to me, 'You have to work Mike. We are very proud people." And indeed, young Mike worked hard. He was cleaning animal cages at a psychiatric lab even while attending Xavier high school.

Realizing that hard work pays off, Fernandez's career began in health insurance at a young age. He has been the Founder and/or majority shareholder of 25 healthcare companies, and most of these companies have been acquired by publicly traded companies. The key to success for him has been to create profitable companies while providing high-quality service to others.

He now serves as Chairman of MBF Healthcare Partners, a private equity firm founded in 2005 in Coral Gables. The firm focuses on investing healthcare service companies nationwide. His rise to wealth has not changed him. "I can't tolerate arrogance or selfishness, having wealth does not change your character. You have to help others and inspire the young to achieve great things."

He also served in the military and has had more brushes with death than most individuals. With jest, he says: "hierba mala nunca muere" ("bad seeds do not die"). Of course, he is joking...but that's the way Mike Fernandez sees life. He realizes how fragile the gift of life is and that it's up to us to make a difference, "Each day is unique and we must use it wisely and with generosity."

Now he lives a day-to-day routine that is a testament to his life's philosophy. "You have to live day by day," shared the business leader and







philanthropist, who also owns a farm in Tallahassee aptly titled: "Havana Here he raises Friesian horses and cattle stock.

"I've taught my children to give. We used to go out on the streets of Miami during Christmas and hand out cash to people that we thought needed it. I showed this to my kids, this is the biggest satisfaction you can have in life." Fernandez struck up a friendship with basketball legend Earvin Magic Johnson, and their unique partnership brings HMO plans to urban communities. They passionately play the game of business to bring value to Hispanic and African Americans. "I seek the greater good in order to enhance the quality of people's lives, particularly among God's poor, oppressed and neglected. One must always rise to the opportunities life presents you with an entrepreneurial spirit while following your pursuit of excellence. We are always surrounded by opportunities, but it requires effort to see them and act upon them." He does not stop working, but now it seems that his goal to do great things has surpassed even personal desires.

"When my granddaughter Daniella underwent open heart surgery, I knew I had to do something beyond myself for humanity. That's when I decided to walk the 508-mile journey, which is about 3 million steps from France to Spain 'El Camino de Santiago de Compostela.' It really opens your eyes to what is real." There are many values and principles he learned during this journey that can help build a successful life and make a positive and everlasting change in the lives of others. To build a successful life, you need to have a strong philosophy and attitude, which will help you be disciplined to walk day in and day out in your life journey with consistency and persistency. The key is not to avoid adversity but to redirect your efforts by reestablishing your successful habits while keeping your vision and your purpose in life at the forefront. "This journey gave greater meaning to my life and for the people I love."

Mike has inspired and made a positive contribution to the lives of millions and has donated over \$100 million to charitable causes. All proceeds from the sale of his book will go to Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, which aims toward "universal readiness" that is making available and affordable high-quality health, education and nurturing for Miami-Dade community's 160,000 children between birth and 5 years old.





Volpi, Banderinhas com

Oiticica, Metaesquema







Gego, Untitled

Herrera, Untitled

Pape, Livro





Tamayo, Tres Amigos

Orozco, Samurai Tree







人

Lam, Senza Titulo

LATIN AMERICAN MASTERS AT THE PHILLIPS AUCTION HOUSE

BY ANTONY DODDS

Manhattan- Art Bodega visited the Phillips Auction House recently to get a view of the much anticipated upcoming sale of Master Latin Artists on May 18th. We were shown around to different areas by an expert Latin American art historian Kaeli Deane who eloquently supplied us with background information on each artists' pieces. Deane showed us to a gallery and the skyboxes that overlook the auction room displaying the work on sale.

These art pieces revealed to us some fascinating insight on a marvelous and extraordinary group of artists. Each of whom are seeing increasing values at auction. There was as vast an array of styles and imagery, contemporary to early 20th century, modern to conceptualism, as there were artists. From Gabriel Orozco's (Mexico) urban sensibility to the high conceptualism of Jose Davila (Mexico) to the modernist idealism of Lygia Pape (Brazil).

Surprising revelation in who was once an unknown minimalist painter Carmen Herrera (Cuba/US) who made her first sale while in her 80s although she was working at the same time as other well known minimalists during that era such as Barnett Newman and Ellsworth Kelley whom she also associated with. Other works of note included Olga de Amaral (Colombia), Helio Oiticica (Brazil), and Beatriz Milhazes (Brazil) who seemed to have the highest estimates for her sensual abstractions.

All the work was incredible and differed wildly; no two artists were alike other than their Latin roots. Many of the artists no longer lived or worked in their country of origin which shows the strength and diversity of the struggle of artists to achieve success in life as these artists certainly have.

ART RITISTOPPER Eric Wesley, a contemporary artist based in Los "I thank the artists for having accepted to contrib-

Angeles, has been named the winner of the 2016 Artisti per Frescobaldi Award. Eric Wesley won with the piece "Not Yet Titled 2016", which was selected by an elite judging panel of Massimiliano Gioni (Artistic Director of the Trussardi Foundation of Milan). Samuel Keller (Director of the Beyeler Foundation of Basel), and Gianfranco Maraniello (Director of the MART in Rovereto). Artisti per Frescobaldi, created and directed by Tiziana Frescobaldi, and curated by Ludovico Pratesi, aims to promote contemporary art from the newest generations. The Award is tied to the Frescobaldi tradition of arts patronage. For over 700 years the family has cultivated relationships with the likes of Donatello, Michelozzo Michelozzi and Filippo Brunelleschi. Artisti per Frescobaldi represents the family's commitment to support contemporary artists, and Tiziana Frescobaldi's goal to continue the family tradition with a program that links wine to art. "I'm happy to celebrate the third edition of the Artisti per Frescobaldi award at GAM Milan's Gallery of Modern Art," says Tiziana Frescobaldi, artistic director of the project.

ute with great passion and important artworks to an award inspired by a contemporary concept of

Following the 2012 Italian and 2014 German editions, the 2016 edition is dedicated to the United States and involved two American artists -Matthew Brannon and Eric Wesley - and one Italian artist – Patrizio di Massimo. Each artist was chosen to create an artwork inspired by CastelGiocondo, the Frescobaldi family's historic estate in Montalcino, and the feature of all future editions of the Award. The artists interpreted the world of wine and its traditions in different ways: Matthew Brannon worked on the daily consumption of wine, Patrizio di Massimo on its conservation, and Eric Wesley on the relationship between wine, science and technology. In May, 999 limited edition magnums of CastelGiocondo Brunello featuring the three labels designed by the artists launched in the US market. Tiziana Frescobaldi introduced the new labels in Los Angeles and New York.



OBALDI

RTISTIPER

ESCOBALDI

TASTES GREAT!

WORKS FAST!

Eric Wesley was born in 1973 in Los Angeles where he lives and works. His sculptures and art installations offer an original point of view and often irreverent reality. In particular, his work offers an ironic view on the changeable relationship between art and society, artist and citizen, and seriousness and surreal comedy. His many exhibitions include the China Art Objects Galleries in Los Angeles among several other galleries throughout Amsterdam, Basel and

NOELLE'S ART UNIVERSE

AND HER INTERNATIONAL LIFE



Ambassador Negroponte & Director Zhang Yimou

A multifaceted and tri-lingual lady, Noelle Xie advises art collectors and art lovers around the world on contemporary art in English, French and Chinese. Her passionate life in the arts started at a young age, when she befriended an important Chinese artist, Chen Zhen (绝唱) in the mid 80's; she taught him French in China. "He introduced me to the world of modern and contemporary art. It was in the late 80's that we subsequently moved from Shanghai to Paris. While in France, we toured hundreds of museums and art galleries, submerging in the art of Picasso, Cezanne, Monet, Andy Warhol, Jeff Koons and Basquiat...." We loved France and French culture which brought us tremendous "Joie de Vivre", and inspired unlimited possibilities in the future.

"You have to remember at the time, Chen Zhen was a street artist in Paris. He spent several years painting portraits around the Centre Pompidou. I was a law student at the Sorbonne then. We would hang out at Sacré-Cœur, Beaubourg, Ecole little charming streets and cafes... We were free friends. spirited, everything was so real and imaginative in the same time. I spent endless evenings with Chen Zhen and his artist friends to discuss philosophy, politics, history, literature, and contemporary art of course". Noelle expressed her nostalgia towards her youth in Paris.

"I introduced Chen Zhen's art works to a group of French collectors and co-organized his first solo show 1989 in Verdun, a historical city in France. Chen Zhen later became a world renowned contemporary artist with his large scale conceptual installations," narrated Noelle.

Some examples were "Stock Exchange", "Round Table" and " Jue Chang" (陈藏). While studying international law in Paris and preparing her career with the United Nations, Noelle had also become an art advisor for Chinese contemporary des Beaux Arts, La Seine and also explore those art pioneered by Chen Zhen and his artist

> Noelle is currently a global advocate and special advisor for international development and art initiatives. An avid connoisseur of modern and contemporary art, living between New York and Paris, Noelle's working and traveling experiences worldwide including her African journey serving UNICEF enlightened her passion for multiculturalism and multilingualism. "I believe in dialogue and partnerships. I promote sustainable development and cultural exchange between U.S.-China, France-China, and Africa-China." In 2016, Noelle served as







US- China Museum Summit, Armstrong, Guggenheim & DSL Collection

the Chairwoman of the "Fantastic Art China" opening gala in New York, and she also presided the contemporary art panel at the US-China Museum Summit together with Mr. Richard Armstrong, Director of The Guggenheim

Having majored in international law from the Sorbonne University in Paris, Noelle's love for culture and art translates to her daily life and work. She advises museums, auction houses, art galleries and art fairs around the world. Noelle also organizes global summits and leadership forums. In her own words: "while working with the United Nations to promote sustainable development and culture diversity, I am also trying to discover good and original art creations and introduce them to museums, collectors, and to the general public."

THE WORLD OF WEALTHY CLIENTS & THE INDEPENDENT CLIENTS FAMILY OFFICE

By Rebeca Herrero | Photography by Aaron Bristol



The Morgans, Mellons and Rockefellers didn't take their financial affairs to a public institution. They sought out the most competent and talented professionals they could find, assembled a private, FinancialTeam of experts, and hired them to serve the best interests and objectives of their family. This was America's first glimpse of the "Family Office" in the early 1800's.



ith a dedicated team of experts standing at their front line, the family was insulated from conflicts of interest and the constant barrage of sales pitches. They could independently evaluate investment opportunities, evaluate the offerings from multiple banks, brokerages and trust companies across the globe, and obtain those that serve the best interest of their clients; not a corporate profit agenda.

They didn't have to pay retail prices or make large purchases without professional research and negotiations. They employed sophisticated strategies to reduce risks, minimize taxes, and take shelter from financial predators. And they safely transitioned the family's legacy and stewardship values to multiple generations of future children and grandchildren.

The cornerstone of this family office relationship, in a word, is "Trust". These families confidently relied upon a collaboration of the best and brightest minds, and a consensus-driven, financially-forensic process that objectively guided each financial decision the family made – with absolute discretion.

Ahhh, the exclusive benefits of being super-rich, right?

That depends upon whom you ask. After 30 years in the financial service industry, Michael Koenig believes there is a significant need for the level of trusted advocacy that has only been available to the super-rich. "An affluent family trying to navigate the potholes on Wall Street can get seriously hurry without guidance from a truly independent expert."

In 1994, Koenig established a company in Orlando called FirsTrust, and created an Independent Family Office model to serve a broader scope of affluent families. For over 20 years now, FirsTrust has been custom-designing Independent Family Offices for multiple families, both large and small, domestic and international; including The Adi Dassler International Family Office that serves three generations of heirs to Adi Dassler; the founder of Adidas.*

For over 20 years now, FirsTrust

has been custom-designing Independent Family Offices for multiple families, both large

and small, domestic and international

Of course, not all affluent families are world famous. In fact, many don't necessarily regard themselves as "wealthy" or feel the need for an entire Team of experts. A customized solution for some families, therefore, may only consist of a FinancialTeam's investment guidance. With a platform of savvy, modern-day technologies and a competent home office staff behind them, FirsTrust can advise and manage a family's comprehensive financial assets, regardless of what they are (investment accounts, real estate, farms, art collections, etc.) or where they may be held (US or internationally). Plus, with consolidated, real-time data and customized reporting, each family can remain fully informed and track their performance against the family's established benchmarks.









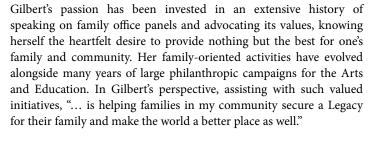


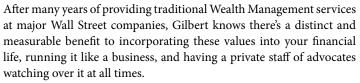


Gilbert's passion has been invested in an extensive history of speaking on family office panels and advocating its values, knowing herself the heartfelt desire to provide nothing but the best for one's family and community.



Today, Firs'Trust is bringing these Independent Family Office services to beautiful Palm Beach, Florida under the direction of Barbara M. Gilbert; the firm's Managing Director of Family Offices, and a long-time resident of Palm Beach.





It may be exactly what the Chairman of your family could use. And, believe it or not, by disintermediating third-party vendors, agencies and brokerages, the cost of an Independent Family Office is probably less than you'd expect.

"First, find Trust", says Gilbert- "and then enjoy the life you deserve".

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Photography by Geraldine Pavan exclusively for Art Bodega Magazine Clothes provided by Angel Sanchez, Julian Chang and Trina Turk Make and Hair by: Riccardo Malisano Miami Hair & Spa



Smilka Melgoza

STYLING BY Rebeca Herrero
PHOTOGRAPHY BY Geraldine Pavan
DESIGNER for Smilka-Julian Chang

Q: Which celebrity or cultural icon inspires your style?

I can relate to Meryl Streep's character in the Devil wears Prada movie. As a workaholic one must have passion and intensity for what they do and is so much better when you do it with grace and style. Sharon Stone is definitely an icon of inspiration. I love her sensual yet classy and elegant style from Roberto Cavalli to Valentino.

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina? I love luxury oceanfront living

Q: What type of art inspires you?

Being born in Mexico I am proud to say that my favorite painter is Frida Kahlo and admire her as a feminist icon. Despite her health and physical challenges, she was able to emotionally connect and depict her life experiences and feelings through her art. I admire these words from Kahlo: "Feet, what do I need you for when I have wings to fly?"

Another form of art that brings joy to my soul is Classical Music and that is why I am one of the founders and donors of the St. Hugh Steinway Concert Series. I love the magical and transformative powers that art and classical music have.

Q: Why are you a game changer in Miami?

At age 25 became a young successful entrepreneur and millionaire with the sale of Multicultural Marketing firm to Goldman Sachs.

Founded ShareKindness, to help nonprofit organizations fundraise. ShareKindness with the TODAY Show and NBC has reached over 1 Million Acts of Kindness.

President of Smilka & Associates a leading PR & Ad Agency for a select group of Athletes, Celebrities and Business Executives.

"I love helping people leave a legacy beyond their lifetime to their loved ones or to a charitable cause that is close to their heart."

As a Financial Planner, I am most happy to provide families with financial security in order for them to achieve financial success and freedom. My clients have over \$100 million in life insurance. My goal is to break the Guinness World Record for the most valuable life insurance policy, valued at a total of \$201 million.

I love helping people leave a legacy beyond their lifetime to their loved ones or to a charitable cause that is close to their heart. I am able to multiply and distribute their gifts in a tax efficient form.

Q: What I am most proud of?

My daughters, Vivian (11) & Vanessa (9) who attend Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Coconut Grove, FL $\,$

Q: What fashion item is a must for you?

Rolex Oyster Perpetual Datejust. Sangre de mi Sangre designer jewelry. Panthere de Cartier sunglasses are jewelry for the eyes. Blazer from VOLVÉR because of its versatility, I can dress it up or down.

Q: Favorite fashion moment in your life and why?

Marc Anthony's Maestro Cares Annual Gala in Cipriani, the New York City red carpet event with singer Marc Anthony is a very glamorous gala that benefits orphan children. Grand opening of VOLVÉR, it was exciting and fresh with Maxfield LA vibe in Miami!

Biany Carrascal López



Q: Which celebrity or cultural icon inspires your style?

Diana Princess of Wales The "people's princess". She devoted her life to charity work as well as being honored with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina?

I think the designer did a great job mixing classic, elegant and refined aesthetics.

Q: What type of art inspires you?

I'm in love with art, no matter what kind of art it is but I'm most inspired by the most colorful pieces that are able to transport me to another dimension.

Q: Why are you a game changer in Miami?

I was Born in Colombia but I have an Italian citizenship too so after living in Italy for many years, I started to live between Rome, London and Miami. I managed to combine all these cultures, these different lifestyles taking the best part of each while I was working as an actress. What fascinated me the most about Italy, was the fashion and Italian style, mixing this with my Latin character, I think made everything more interesting.

I think traveling around the word and being immersed in different cultures has been the most extraordinary school in my life. My worldly experiences helped me to form the foundation of what I am and that I have continued to build upon.

So with my background I decided to express myself by opening Farfalle Miami a fine Italian Restaurant as well as The RM - Riccardo Malisano Hair & Spa in South Beach, which imports and uses products that are 100% Italian.

So I'd say I'm a game changer because I have all those talents as well as the intelligence of how to use them, the class and the beauty that makes it a treat to work here in Miami.

I'm a leader who does not lead by making others feel weak but leads by making others feel strong. Compassion and wanting to help the less fortunate shows my catholic upbringing and the ways I was raised.

Q: Why did you choose these styles

Because they are elegant and classy like me but with a touch of mischief that Llove

Q: What fashion item is a must for you?

Jewelry, but wearing them with a big smile and charisma that gives them a different value and become more that just simple objects.

Q: Favorite fashion moment in your life and why?

Every day of my life! Being the owner of the Riccardo Malisano Hair & Spa in South Point means working with beauty every day! I have to be (and enjoy) always well-presented and fashionable. Though I do think the most special fashion moments, for me, are the important social and charity events I attend because I can wear something elegant – haute couture - and get to show off my Colombian-Italian culture which I'm very proud of! I try to take advantage to show that mix of as much as possible.

Q: What do you think of...?

Trina Turk: Very nice, the perfect blend for a relaxing moment like sailing. **Julian Chang:** Great mix between casual and elegant at the same time. **Angel Sanchez:** The maximum expression of elegance but with a modern touch, it is a magical combination.

"I think traveling around the word and being immersed in different cultures has been the most extraordinary school

in my life."



Q: Which celebrity or cultural icon inspires your style? Coco Chanel, Jane Birken, and Sienna Miller.

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina?

It's amazing in the sense that it is truly luxurious and full

Q: Why are you a game changer in Miami?

I'm a game changer because I'm determined to make it a better place for all of us to continue living here. We need to protect our nature and water that draw people to this town. We could have better recycling programs, roof top gardens on every building. Also I would like to bring more television shows and films back to Miami.

Q: Why did you choose these styles?

The colors and tones resonated with me and flow of the garments. I was thinking spring.

Q: What fashion item is a must for you?

Scarves! I love them, wear them year round and one can never have enough colors in their wardrobe.



DESIGNER for Susan-Julian Chang

Susan Dean

water that draw people to this town.

Q: Favorite fashion moment in your life and why?

Karl Lagerfeld was here in Miami Beach dining at CasaTua with his close elite fashion crew the night before the Chanel Resort 2009 Collection. I was so nervous! I've always loved Chanel and did my French essay on Coco Chanel in High School. His male model muse Brad Kroenig invited my ex and I to attend! Zoe Kravitz and Diane Kruger were in attendance looking amazing as always. What a fabulous and unforgettable evening at the Raleigh Hotel!

Q: What do you think of... Trina Turk, Julian Chang and Angel Sanchez....

I felt like a princess trying on dresses at the salon of Angel Sanchez - truly gorgeous evening wear! I also think I would get a bridal dress by Angel if I ever get married again!

Julian Chang - the hangers don't do the clothing justice - you really have to try them on to see his vision and what a vision he has. It's timeless and his price points are really fair.

Trina Turk: I love her Cali Mod mood inspired lines that are so vibrantly colorful and lively and even if contemporary it evokes retro and their current SS collection is perfect for Miami!



Catherine McGlennon



"...nothing you wear expresses your personality or the mood you are in, quite as much as the jewelry you're wearing!"

Q: Which celebrity or cultural icon inspires your style?

The Cultural icon that inspires me is definitely Coco Chanel. She was responsible for some of the most ground breaking fashions the world has ever seen - such as the little black dress and that is why I chose Julian Chang's little black dress for our photo shoot.

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina?

They are luxurious with impeccable quality, design and elegance.

Q: What fashion item is a must for you?

Jewelry; because nothing you wear expresses your personality or the mood you are in, quite as much as the jewelry you're wearing!

Q: Favorite fashion moment in your life and why?

My 1st Communion - it's my first memory of having to pick a special dress for a special event. It was the first time I became aware of my style and the different looks I could create

Q: What do you think of... Trina Turk, Julian Chang and Angel Sanchez....?

All of these incredible designers are known for their beautiful fabrics, great fit and fashionable designs. They each bring must have pieces to your wardrobe, effortlessly!

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Sandra Fiorenza



Q: Which celebrity or cultural icon inspires your style?

Jennifer Lopez, Heidi Klum, and Victoria Beckham.

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina?

The Estates at Acqualina is an amazing project and for me, having lived on Fisher Island for 16 years, is a true option to move there! It is so beautiful and truly exclusive and has an elegant ambience.

Q: What type of art inspires you?

I love Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol

Q: Why are you a game changer in Miami? I immigrated to Miami in 1998 from Germany because I believed Miami was the best place on earth. Since the first time I visited in the early 90's, I was in love with the energy of Miami: the sun, the ocean, the diversity of people. And now it has become so international and even more fabulous than ever! I feel like a true pioneernow so many people think like me, not in 1998, and that is why there is such a tremendous influx of international people here now. I sold real estate to international investors when very few people did it. I helped put this amazing city

"Since the first time I visited in the early 90's, I was in love with the energy of Miami: the sun, the ocean, the diversity of people."

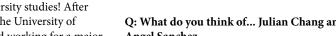
Q: Why did you choose these styles?

into a lot of people's heads

My parents were in the fashion industry so I grew up in it! At a very young age I was working at the major European fashion shows alongside my mom and dad and continued to do so during my university studies! After receiving an MBA from the University of Duesseldorf, I first started working for a major advertising company and eventually building up my own consulting business for high end fashion houses.

Q: What fashion item is a must for you?

Hermes bags in any size and color are my must fashion item.



such an Avant Garde style. His dresses can make any woman look fabulous. I just became acquainted with Julian Chang and very much like his form fitting, innovative style and is wearable any day and looking fabulous on a regular day or sexy for an event!





Patricia Delinois

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina?

I'm of big Karl Lagerfeld fan and he has brought such whimsical sophistication to this ultra luxurious 1.5 billion dollar residential development. The Estates at Acqualina offers amenities including a Circus Maximus, bowling alley, spectacular spa and fitness center, speakeasy, world class restaurants and so much more. Genius developer Jules Trump has truly created a lifestyle masterpiece.

Q: What type of art inspires you?

I have been painting since I was four years old, Art has become a part of who I am. I am truly inspired by all forms of Art. I believe art is a form expression, inspiration, emotion and there is some form of art in everything around us.

Q: Why are you a game changer in Miami?

As a leader in the real estate industry, entrepreneur, philanthropist, artist, mentor and social media influencer, I've invested in being the best person I can be and the success of those around me in all aspects of our lives.

Q: What do you think of Julian Chang and Rene Ruiz?

I believe in supporting local Miami based fashion designers. Two of my favorites Julian Chang and Rene Ruiz. Julian Chang's personality flows into his style of sophisticated elegance and effortless style with timeless striking designs. I have known Rene Ruiz since he was starting off his fashion design career and now he is famous and still going strong. I love the way he brings Hollywood glamour into his gowns.

"I am truly inspired by all forms of Art. I believe art is a form expression, inspiration, emotion and there is some form of art in everything around us."

Q: What was your favorite fashion moment?

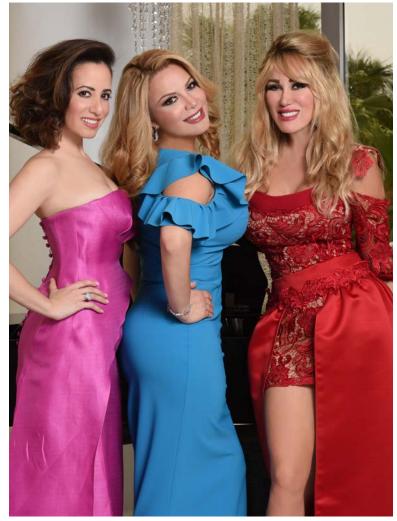
My favorite fashion moment was on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival for the "Sicario" premiere wearing a magnificent red gown by Rene Ruiz. I'm looking forward to going again this year to celebrate the 70th Cannes Film Festival anniversary.

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Q&A

"I love Julian Chang,
I wear his designs
because they are fun and
flowy you are always well
dressed and look very chic
in a Julian piece."

Q: Which celebrity or cultural icon inspires your style?

I am pretty fashion forward and like to play with many styles and combinations, sometimes I get inspired by Jennifer Lopez or Sofia Vergara because they are curvy women like me.

Q: What do you think of the Estates at Acqualina?

I love the Estates at Acqualina, they are spacious and glamorous yet you feel in a beach resort, like it's vacation everyday.

Q: What type of art inspires you?

I am an art lover in its fullest expression, I cannot say I have a favorite style. Once I see a piece of art and connect to it, that's my favorite.

Q: Why did I choose the style of dress?

It's a classic yet fun and vibrant.

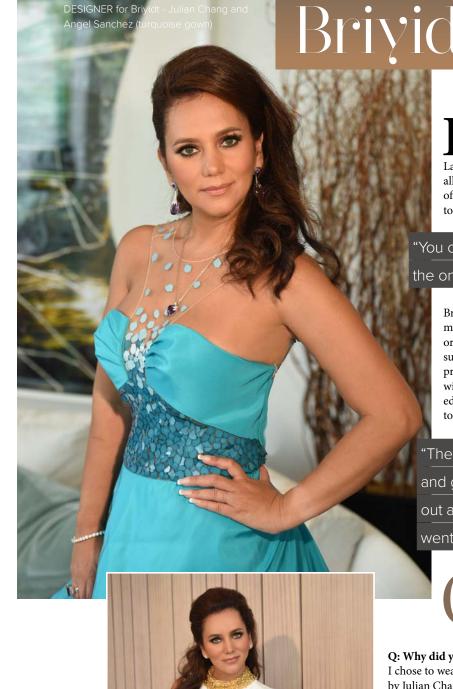
Q: What item is a must for you?

To wear a positive attitude and enjoy the moment.

Q: Favorite Fashion moment in life and why? Themed parties, it is just fun to dress up.

Q: What do you think of Julian Chang?

I love Julian Chang, I wear his designs because they are fun and flowy your always well dressed and look very chic in a Julian piece.



Briyidt Ripamonti

Priyidt Ripamonti, born in Colombia, is the Creative Director of Nearctic LLC, a media and PR company, and ELLAS TV, a trademarked cultural show inspired on and dedicated to the Latin Women worldwide. Briyidt has the opportunity to reach out to all people specially women, by sharing incredible stories and teachings of self-empowerment, survivorship, and growth, giving all women the tools and confidence to reach their goals and dreams.

"You can tell who the strong women are, they are the ones you see building one another up"

Briyidt's passion for empowering people and especially women started many years ago by starting "Redencion por Colombia", a philanthropic organization dedicated to helping displaced families and children that suffered the harsh realities of the drug wars in Colombia. Their latest project Colinas Verdes Farms, an NGO, dedicated to providing families with the tools and support to start their own businesses, bringing education to the rural areas and providing cultural and art workshops to all those in need and without the resources to do it alone.

"The women whom I love and admire for their strength and grace did not get that way because things worked out as expected. They got that way because things went wrong and they had the strength to handle it."



Q: Why did you choose these styles?

I chose to wear two contrasting pieces. First, a white gown with a necklace accent by Julian Chang, with a minimalist approach that allows the natural beauty of all women shine over the dress. A classic, elegant and sophisticated look yet sensual and flattering. The second gown, a princess cut emerald green night gown by Angel Sanchez, signifying that within every woman lies a princess inside, we just need to let it out and embraced.

Q: What fashion item is a must for you?

While gowns and fashion items embellish our beauty, it is our smile, our eyes and expression that really communicates who we are and what we strive for.

Q: What do you think of... Trina Turk, Julian Chang and Angel Sanchez....

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