

# The Miami Herald

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## LIFESTYLES

**BEACH AMBASSADOR:** 'People walk so close to the buildings on Ocean Drive, they don't see the beauty of the buildings,' said French artist Alain Despert, whose exhibit is on display at the LaMar Gallery.



CANDACE BARBOT / H

## French artist puts Art Deco District all over his canvas

Bora Bora, New York and Ocean Drive have been transported to the LeMar Gallery at 859 Washington Ave. through the paintings of Alain Despert.

The LeMar Gallery, owned by Alexis Ougrik, who also owns BASH nightclub, opened Feb. 18 to present Despert's three exhibits.

"I feel like the ambassador of Miami Beach and Bora Bora for the time I'm here," said Despert, who was born in France and lived in Bora Bora in the south Pacific for four years, working as a hotel manager and painting as a hobby.



**LYNN CARRILLO**  
ON THE BEACH

After Town and Country magazine featured his art and Absolut vodka commissioned him as an "Absolut Artist of the '90s," Despert moved to New York and created his New York exhibit, which features classic cars of the '50s. The French consulate in Miami honored Despert for his New York exhibit.

While on vacation in Miami Beach, Ocean Drive's Art Deco buildings captured his imagination.

"People walk so close to the buildings on Ocean Drive, they don't see the beauty of the buildings," said Despert, who moved to South Beach about a year ago. There are no special messages in Despert's works. His purpose for painting is the enthusiasm and delight in the viewer's reactions.

"It makes me feel happy and I like the colors," said Stephanie

Dickstein, who works at the Lowe Art Museum and stopped at LeMar out of curiosity.

Despert portrays what he sees as the core and beauty of the subject, using pastel colors and silver paint.

"I pick up what I like and put it on canvas in a simple way," Despert said.

As part of his Ocean Drive series, Despert has painted the Colony Hotel, Larios on the Beach, News Cafe and Gianni Versace's house.

"I do what I want to do, I'm just lucky that what I like to do is accepted by the public," Despert said.

### Farmer's Market

The feature presentation from 10 a.m. to noon at today's Lincoln Road Farmer's Market is Keith Adams' photography.

Adams will demonstrate how to make image transfers using instant film, a technique for making greeting cards for Passover, Easter or birthdays.

Adams will be under the rainbow shelter in the 1000 block of

### TO VIEW

**The LeMar Gallery**, 859 Washington Ave., is featuring Alain Despert's *Ocean Drive* paintings. Hours are noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, noon to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Lincoln Road between Lenox and Michigan avenues.

The children's corner features the agricultural students of Miami Beach High School in a presentation of *A Growing Project* at 11 a.m.

Market hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Dance Alive series

The modern dance company, Pilobolus Dance Theatre, will perform at 8 p.m. Friday at the Jackie Gleason Theater of the Performing Arts, 1700 Washington Ave.

Ticket prices range from \$10 to

\$42.50. Call Ticketmaster at 358-5885.

### Performance project

The Dan Froot Performance Project, featuring the Black Sheep and David Dorfman, will be at 8 p.m. today at the South Florida Art Center, Ground Level, 601 Lincoln Rd.

Black Sheep will perform *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*, accompanied by Dorfman on saxophone.

Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8 for students, seniors and artists. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

### Alliance exhibition

A three-dimensional photographic slide exhibit "With Both Eyes," by William Keddell, will be on display at The Alliance Cinema gallery, 927 Lincoln Rd., through April 1.

The cinema's gallery is open from 7 to 11 p.m. Admission is free.

### Light and fantasy

The Chad Elliott Gallery presents the opening reception for

the "Trip the Light Fantastic" exhibits from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Friday at 922 Lincoln Rd. The artists will be present.

The exhibit features a motion light sculpture by Stephen Bornstein, art holograms by Larry Lieberman, desert light and shadow photographs by John Giacotti and paintings and sculptures by Kevin Duffy.

Gallery hours are noon to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday and noon to midnight Friday and Saturday. The exhibit will run through May 5.

### Bass fashion

A Harwood menswear fall fashion show will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Bass Museum of Art, 2121 Park Ave.

The women's fashions are courtesy of Fernando Garcia.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Call 673-7844 or 673-7530 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

### Smithsonian photo exhibit

A World War II black and white photo exhibit, "A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto: A Birthday Trip in Hell," will be on display Friday through May 4 at the Miami Beach Branch Library, 2100 Collins Ave.

The photographs were taken by German officer Heinz Jost on Sept. 9, 1941, who illegally strolled through the Warsaw Ghetto on his birthday. Nazi forces confined 500,000 Jews to the ghetto.

Library hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays. The library is closed on Sundays.

For group student tours, call the Miami Dade Public Library system at 375-5016 between 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. weekdays.



**BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE:** Photographs taken inside the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II will be on display at the Miami Beach Branch Library beginning Friday. The pictures were taken by a German officer who illegally strolled through the ghetto on his birthday.