

# ArtisSpectrum

## The Art of Healing Spaces

Designer, Gay Kanuth,  
Accepts a Sublime Challenge

**Painting with Sand:  
The Art of the Mandala**

**Healing and  
Transformation  
Through Art**

Profiles of Contemporary Art and Artists

# ArtisSpectrum

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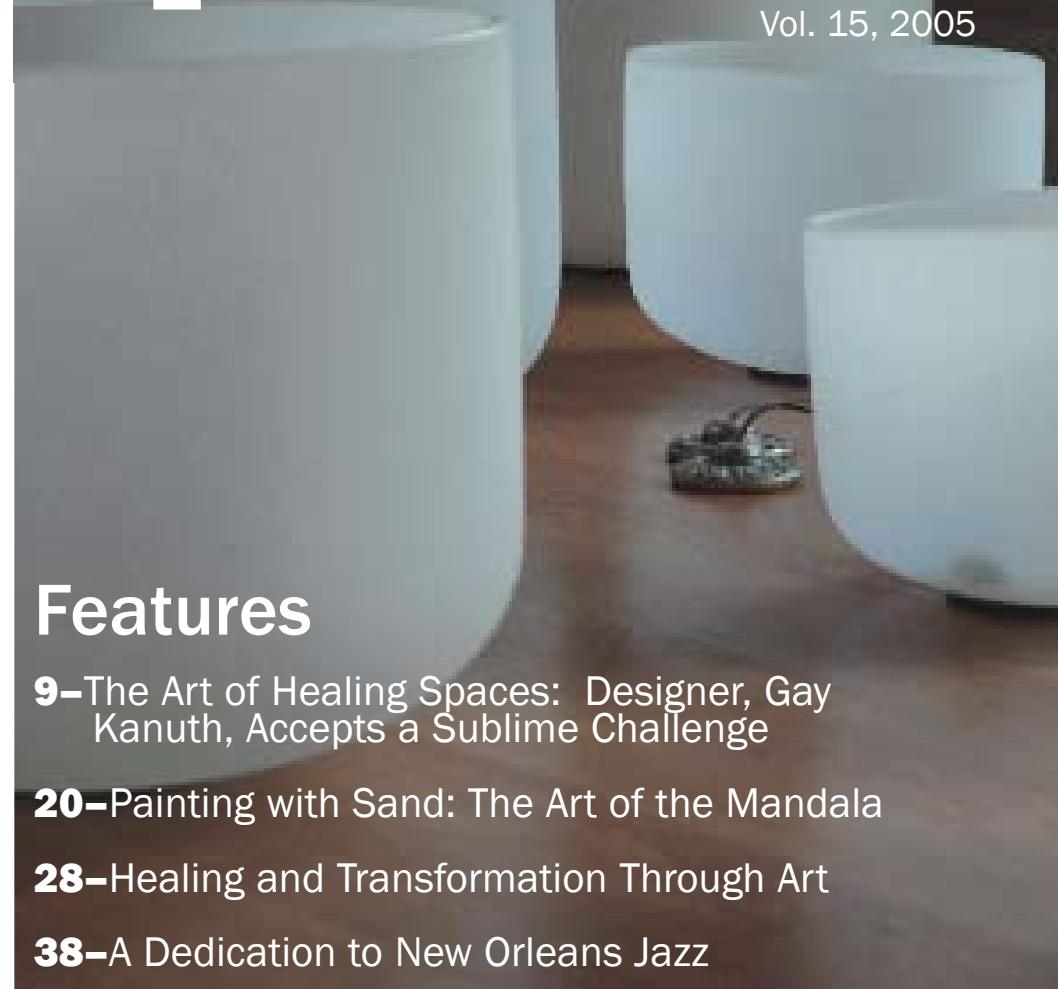
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## Features

**9-The Art of Healing Spaces: Designer, Gay Kanuth, Accepts a Sublime Challenge**

**20-Painting with Sand: The Art of the Mandala**

**28-Healing and Transformation Through Art**

**38-A Dedication to New Orleans Jazz**

## Profiles

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Jesus Moctezuma        | 26 R. Sawan White         |
| 4 Miguel Paredes         | 26 Koichi Kamidozono      |
| 5 Howard Woody           | 27 Maxime Stamati         |
| 5 Jackie Black           | 30 Valery Beljakov        |
| 6 Andrei Acris           | 30 Jonah Kinigstein       |
| 12 Ta Barbanakova        | 31 Zoë Sherwood           |
| 14 Christine Drummond    | 31 Leigh Rosenberg Ernest |
| 14 Thomas Gruber         | 33 Henri Descluz          |
| 15 Kim Stratford         | 34 T. Mikey               |
| 16 Cliff Kearns          | 34 Erin Gleeson           |
| 17 Evangelos Mikropoulos | 36 Shandiz Zandi          |
| 18 Kristine Gade Hansen  | 40 Felizitas Wermes       |
| 18 Robert Hinkelman      | 43 Markus Wanger          |
| 19 Judith Brust          |                           |
| 22 Shikou Furuichi       |                           |
| 22 Carlos Maneiro        |                           |
| 23 Michael Friedman      |                           |

Cover Photo: Designer Gay Kanuth / photo by Toni Harith

# Miguel Paredes

**H**IP-HOP RHYTHMS TINGED WITH the frenetic energy of a graffiti tagger inspired by the visionary Parisian artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, seasoned with a Latin sensibility that employs explosive color to emancipate pop culture icons, and you partake in the emotionally charged pasticcio Miguel Paredes creates on canvass. This sumptuous visual feast is no metaphoric coincidence. Paredes is as accomplished a culinary artist as he is a painter, a former executive chef who plied his artistry at some of Miami Beach's most posh locations. He declined a prestigious restaurant position in New Orleans in favor of creating conceptual art and mixed media presentations at his private studio in Miami Beach, where he still lives and works.

A native New Yorker, Paredes grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side and his work draws heavily on the physical and metaphysical urban landscapes of his youth. Simple subway travel is transformed into cultural tableaus of lush island vegetation, bursting with the vibrant color of imagined tropical delights in the paintings Paredes creates for his Train Series. Young Hispanics ride the subway not merely between two destinations, but between two cultures—the natural beauty of their island heritage juxtaposed with the unnatural beauty of urban New York. The rain forest ambience that perfumes each subway car is also populated by Pop Art icon figures taken directly from Saturday morning cartoon classics. They are dualistic transports of ancient and modern culture that does not end when these youthful riders exit at the next subway stop.

In Paredes' series New York Stories, the artist often splays text across his visual narratives populated by wraith-like expressionistic figures striking out against, as well as embracing, the destructive nature of urban life. Within this series of monumental canvases that are often incorporated as installation pieces, the artist pays tribute to one of his earliest and most significant influences, Keith Haring, who he accidentally encountered while Haring was drawing inside a subway car.

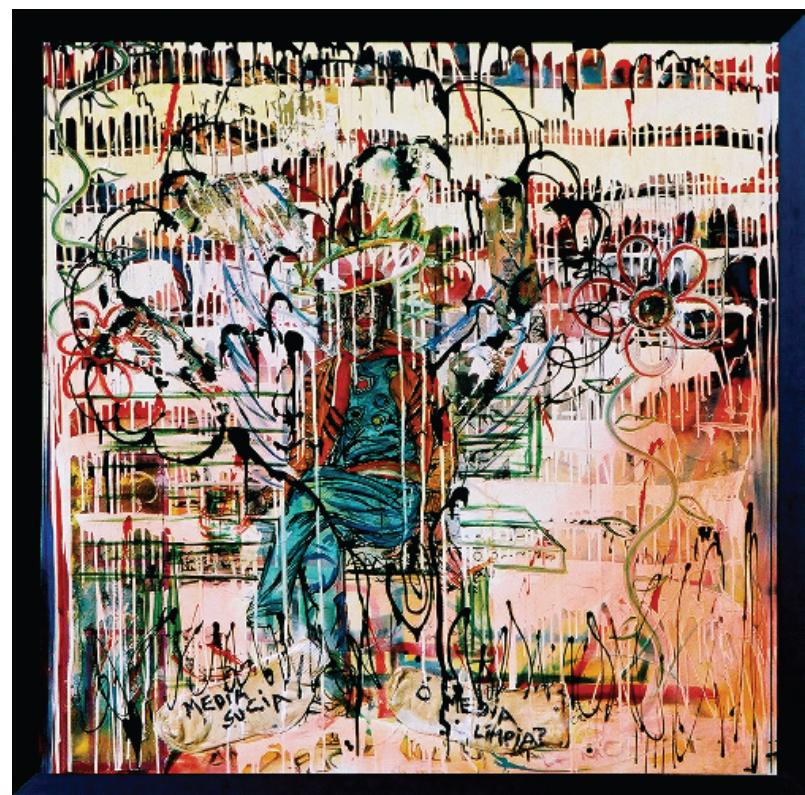
Miguel Paredes began his artistic exploration as a graffiti artist called Mist. A unique aspect of his art education occurred when he came under the tutelage of former F.B.I. art forgery expert Paul Kus. As Kus' apprentice, Paredes worked on legal replicas of some of the world's greatest paintings. This experience afforded him a new found respect for the craft, sensibilities and techniques of master artists from the past, a lesson Paredes continues to incorporate into his original and highly stylized paintings. -Mark Blickley

[www.miguelparedes.com](http://www.miguelparedes.com)  
[www.art-mine.com](http://www.art-mine.com)



Descending Angels, mixed media, 53" x 53"

**The artist pays tribute to one of his earliest and most significant influences, Keith Haring, who he accidentally encountered while Haring was drawing inside a subway car.**



Doña Laura, mixed media on canvas, 60" x 60"

# Evangelos Mikropoulos

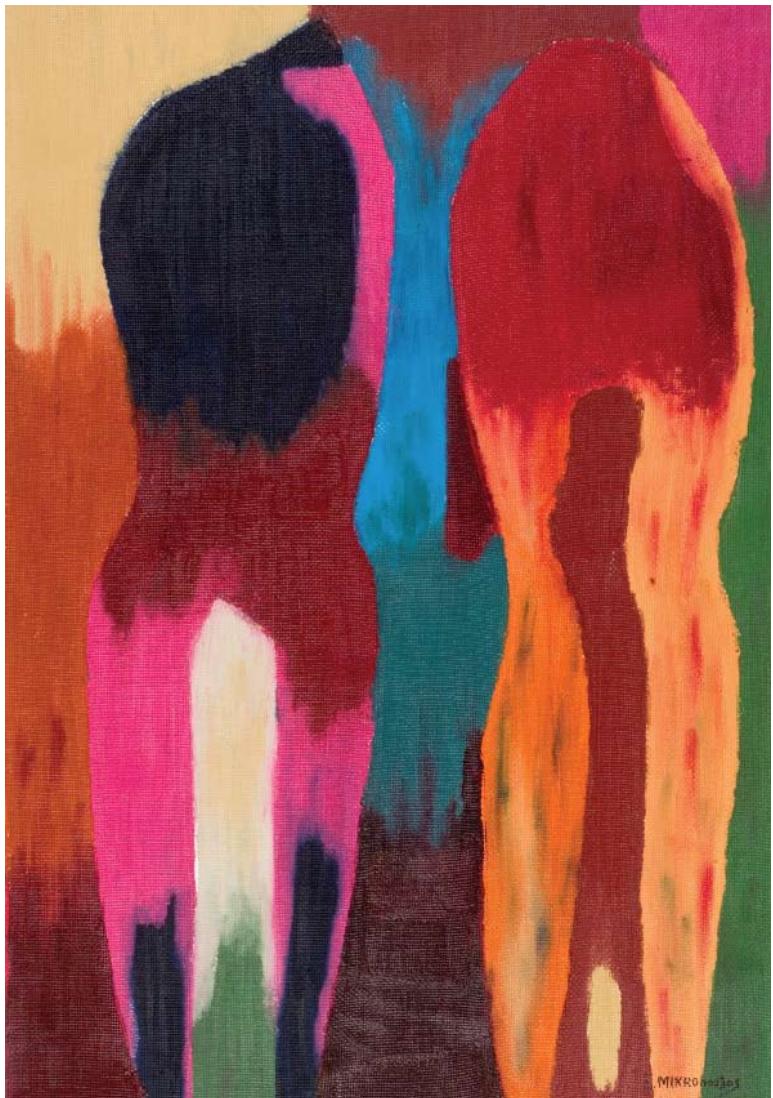
**A**COLORIST OF enchanting proportions, Greek painter Evangelos Mikropoulos captures and reflects rays of light on his canvas much like the Aegean Sea captures and reflects the rich phenomena of overhead skies, mirrored through a watered prism of pristine blue. Mikropoulos, a native of Athens, imbues his paintings with a fluidity that gives rise to a sensuous richness of hue, yet his corresponding dispersal of light and display of color is infused with a strong conceptual streak.

As much as Mikropoulos is a celebrant of color's effervescence, he also sets about the technical task of liberating contingencies of perception from masses of dark and muted color. In many of his works Mikropoulos suffuses time with a subliminal drama detailing the havoc its passage reaps on emotional and environmental issues. Through painterly surfaces that Mikropoulos raises up with vigorous and quite visible brush strokes-- as well as sparse integration of foreign objects such as mesh netting and bits of metal-- he tears away at the constructive aspects of shape and form to reveal the depths of a darker vision that plummets beneath the surface in his search for "the frail existence...balancing between layers of colour."

Mikropoulos is an ardent admirer of the Greek philosopher Eucleides of Megara, renowned for his fondness for controversy and a practitioner of the art of disputation, who perpetrated the doctrine that all multiplicity, as well as motion, are illusory. Mikropoulos' pictorial response to this ancient tenet is present in his painting, *Helixes*. In this evocative abstraction there are elements of composition, technique and emotion that are as apparent as the piece's symmetrical lines and sumptuous colors. Yet within these varying components there is a mystical hint that the work is an imaginative, holistic rendering of the famed sixteenth century windmills on the island of Mykonos.

An engineer who studied and worked within the discipline of building design, Mikropoulos has devoted the past decade exclusively to his art and the construction of a body of work that explores an amalgamation of transforming imagery. Mikropoulos writes, "everything is changing into a new element: intersecting axes, imaginary landscapes, concrete shapes." When the artist is not painting, he writes poetry that echoes his visual aesthetic of placing the highest value not on the object created, but on the journey itself: "Without remembrance, I stroll on history. Passions become paler, a sudden gain." Mikropoulos' journeys continue to originate from his hometown of Athens where light radiates and is absorbed, producing a dream-like sensation that inspires and penetrates his paintings. -Mark Blickley

[www.mikropoulos.com](http://www.mikropoulos.com)  
[www.art-mine.com](http://www.art-mine.com)



*Man and Woman*, oil on canvas, 39" x 27"



*Helixes*, oil on canvas, 39" x 27"

# R. Sawan White

**T**HE PAINTINGS OF R. SAWAN WHITE are pictorial searches for a narrative hidden beneath layers of oil paint and wax. Her colorful mixed media abstractions are executed on board and wood and offer the distinct impression of a communicator carving out primal messages with an emotional force that reinforces the artist's contingencies of perception. The artist reveals, "A misspoken word and a jumbled metaphor are my starting points." The titles of White's paintings read like found fragments

of poetry, and their visual interpretations wring a lyrical effect that is achieved through his changeable complexities of color and texture. This lyricism is realized by a patina of pigment and wax that often goes from dark to light with dynamic brush strokes that intertwine one color with another. White has worked with British artists as a master printer, and is currently an artist and lecturer for the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. -Mark Blickley

[www.rawanwhite.com](http://www.rawanwhite.com)  
[www.art-mine.com](http://www.art-mine.com)



**For Doing, For Being**, oil paint waxes on wood, 12" x 12"

# Koichi Kamidozono

**K**OICHI KAMIDOZONO IS A SELF-TRAINED JAPANESE artist who works in a variety of painterly styles. His Complication is a work of "Sensibilitism" – a unique style that Kamidozono developed out of the principles behind kendo, a Japanese mar-

tial art that he has practiced since childhood. Sensibilitism asks the artist to suppress his consciousness in order to achieve a free-flowing artistic expression. In this abstract work, Kamidozono uses intense primary colors to create red and blue forms that embody an uncanny physicality and echo each other in a polarized

**Full of movement and verve that suggest the artist's personal, emotional investment, Kamidozono's work emits a strong sense of power and freshness.**

dialectic. Full of movement and verve that suggest the artist's personal, emotional investment, Kamidozono's work emits a strong sense of power and freshness. As his painting style excludes any premeditation or conscious resolve, the artist tends to experience his art in the same way as the outside audience. In this way, Kamidozono is able to make art that exerts a visceral reaction from his viewers.

-Sasha Vasilyuk



**Complication**, oil on canvas, 31.6" x 39.4"

[www.kami-online.jp](http://www.kami-online.jp)