

Latin jazz at MDC

"Nuestro Ritmo Music Fest" will be presented Sunday, Dec. 11 at Miami Dade College's North Campus. Page B3

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# THIS WEEK



An untitled oil painting by Matt Lamb from 1990 is one of the works in a new exhibit at ArtSpace/Virginia Miller Galleries.

## 'Matt Lamb: The Art of Success'

New exhibit coincides with release of artist's biography

"Wild, crazy, wonderful" paintings of Matt Lamb, who sold one of the nation's largest funeral-home businesses to become a self-taught artist, are featured along with his new biography at ArtSpace/Virginia Miller Galleries.

Titled "Matt Lamb: The Art of Success," the biography was written by the award-winning art critic and journalist Richard Speer. The author will hold a book reading and signing at Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9.

At the entrance to Lamb's first exhibition at her gallery in 1999, Virginia Miller posted this warning: "This is not tame art. This is wild, crazy, wonderful work that engages the emotions and challenges the in-

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### ART

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tellec of the viewer."

Public television's art critic, Sister Wendy Beckett, notes that Lamb "is an artist who celebrates life, with big, free shapes and unabashed color.

Donald Kuspit, the renowned art historian and critic, feels that "Lamb renders the comedy of life with a general sense of its absurdity...For Lamb, the world is a fool's paradise."

According to Dr. Carol Damian, chair of the Florida International University art department, "Lamb's fantasy is created as a domain for creatures of love and harmony, "a covenant with the natural work and with spiritual forces...to express issues of

universal significance."

Lamb's transition from a highly successful funeral home director to an internationally recognized artist, covered in detail in his biography, is ready-made material for a Hollywood movie. After he was told he had only a short time to live, Lamb sold his 32 companies and took up his life-long ambition to become a painter. By the time he learned he was misdiagnosed, his career as an artist was launched. Over the past 20 years, Lamb has become a well-respected artist whose work has been widely exhibited and collected. Some of the major collections that include Lamb's paintings are the Lowe Art Museum; Vatican Muse-

# New exhibit coincides with biography release

LAMB

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urns; Knoxville Art Museum, Tennessee; Rockford Art Museum, Illinois; Pierre Cardin, Paris; the National Treasury, Washington; D.C.; the State of Illinois Collection, Chicago; Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, Chicago; Beverly Art Center, Chicago; Richard M. Daley, former mayor of Chicago; Edward J. Derwinski, former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs; the Spertus Museum of Judaica, Chicago; St. Xavier College, Chicago; and the VA Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Lamb has held some five dozen solo exhibitions in leading galleries, museums and public spaces around the world. He was the first living artist to have a one-person exhibition in London's Westminster Cathedral.

He also has held one-person exhibitions in both the Picasso Museum in Horta de Sant Joan, Spain, and at the Centre Mirti in Mont-roig, Spain.

ArtSpace/Virginia Miller Galleries featured his work in one-person exhibitions in 1999 and 2000 as well as at ArtMiami and Art Palm Beach.

In recent years Lamb's foundation has opened a series of "peace centers" and museums in Germany, Argentina, and

Japan.

The exhibition will be comprised of a mini-retrospective, featuring paintings from the 1990s through the present. Lamb's subject matter ranges from his invented iconography of stylized animals and figures symbolizing the gamut of human strengths and foibles to creamy abstractions.

His self-taught techniques, which include blasting some painted areas with a blowtorch, can result in an incredible depth of color, along with unique patinas and textures.

Located at 169 Madeira Ave., ArtSpace/Virginia Miller Galleries is open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and by appointment. "Matt Lamb: A Salute to Success" will be on exhibit until Jan. 28, 2006.

For more information on the artist and the gallery's historical exhibitions, visit [www.virginiamiller.com](http://www.virginiamiller.com).

An exhibition reception will be held from 7-10 p.m. on Jan. 6, 2006, to coincide with Gables Gallery Nights, held on the first Friday of every month.

Matt Lamb will be present to autograph books on Jan. 6, 2006.

Also on hand will be gallery owner and director Virginia Miller, subject of one of the book's chapters titled "Doyenne in Leather Pants."