





A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

The past fiscal year has been a remarkable outlier for all arts organizations—cast by ups and downs, the high note of a new decade's dawn to the low of COVID-19 right on its heels. In late Fall 2019, we were toasting the 80th birthday of our founder, Micky Wolfson, and celebrating a new exhibition; and by the end of June, The Wolfsonian—FIU entered a 4th month of temporary closure alongside its institutional peers.

Yet the tough decisions, adaptations, and technological growing pains that are reshaping museums around the world have proven a bittersweet boon for The Wolfsonian. Fiscal Year 2020 marked a turning point, a clear separating line between life “before” (digital as an added plus) to “after” (digital as a necessity). Using our pandemic reality as testing grounds for online experiments and virtual engagement, our team not only reacted to the limits of the moment, but also laid the pavement for the digital highways critical to our future. We sparked creativity in young minds on Zoom; we shaped the next generation of young professionals and academics through remote internships and assistantships; we reached art and design lovers in countries across the globe with our web-based programs, experiences, and tools. We made thousands of new friends.

We couldn't have achieved what follows in these pages without our supporters and members. Thank you to all who helped us weather the storm well.

Casey Steadman, acting director

THE WOLF BY THE NUMBERS

107,627

online visitors

25,422

on-site visitors

1,465

special event and
fundraising attendees

436

group tour participants

1,673

guests welcomed on
Free Fridays

75

public programs

10

member experiences

880

objects displayed

10

student workers hosted



HONORING MICKY WOLFSON



HONORING MICKY WOLFSON

The 80th birthday of our founder, Mitchell “Micky” Wolfson, Jr., brought cause to celebrate the remarkable achievements of one of the world’s most charismatic and provocative collectors. Recognizing his philanthropy, his contributions to scholarship and preservation, and his gift for storytelling, we organized a year of activities designed to examine the legacy of a cultural legend.



Founder's Choice

Micky's new publication, *Founder's Choice*, is a capstone to 7 decades of collecting and the first in a new series by Scala Publishers. The book showcases 37 selected objects from the singular collections of his two namesake museums—The Wolfsonian and The Wolfsoniana—and shares his personal insights.

EXHIBITION

A Universe of Things: Micky Wolfson Collects

Opened November 15, 2019

Examining Micky Wolfson's life of collecting, *A Universe of Things* features beloved icons and unexpected finds in a presentation highlighting key collection objects selected by Micky himself. Made possible by Cowles Charitable Trust, Funding Arts Network, Inc., and the Sain Orr Royak Deforest Steadman Foundation.

Covered in



Visitor Praise

"Thought-provoking and beautifully installed."

"An engrossing reminder of the things we've lost."

"Major kudos to a world-class collector."

"A feast for the eyes, mind, and soul."



Devotion





A BIRTHDAY TO REMEMBER

\$375,000 raised
1,403 participants

Fall 2019 saw The Wolfsonian toasting to Micky's 80th birthday with a series of events at home and abroad, embracing friends past and present. Our season of Micky kicked off in October as 70 high-level donors traveled to Genoa for a 3-day whirlwind trip with private events and a lavish banquet at the Palazzo Ducale. The excursion coincided with the opening of a new exhibition by The Wolfsoniana, our Italian sister museum, and included a captivating itinerary with Genovese hosts—Giacomo and Emanuela Cattaneo Adorno, Anna and Marcello Cambi, and Rachele and Giovanni Guicciardi—graciously opening their homes and castles for memorable evenings.

A free City of Miami Beach-sponsored community block party followed in November, with 1,044 partygoers enjoying pomp and circumstance, Bacardi drinks, fanfare by NuDeco Ensemble and the FIU Marching Band, speeches, and officials awarding Micky with a key to the city. The festivities concluded with a privately underwritten, 300-person, invite-only VIP party on Star Island during Miami Art Week.

Special thanks to: Dr. David and Linda Frankel; Bacardi USA, Inc.; Florida International University; Ellen and Louis Wolfson III and family; and the trustees of the Mitchell Wolfson, Sr. Foundation.





NEW ON VIEW

Cuban Caricature and Culture: The Art of Massaguer

June 7, 2019–March 1, 2020

Featuring recent gifts to The Wolfsonian Library from Vicki Gold Levi, this installation brought forth graphic artist Conrado Walter Massaguer's legacy through dozens of works that helped shape the visual culture of his native Cuba between the 1920s and 1950s.

Covered in



“Lively and colorful...fun and interesting summer fare”

– The Miami Herald

Included key loans from:

Enrique Caravia Papers, The Cuban Heritage Collection,
University of Miami Libraries

James and Mindy Cassel and Family Private Collection

Emilio Cueto

Rafael Díaz Casas

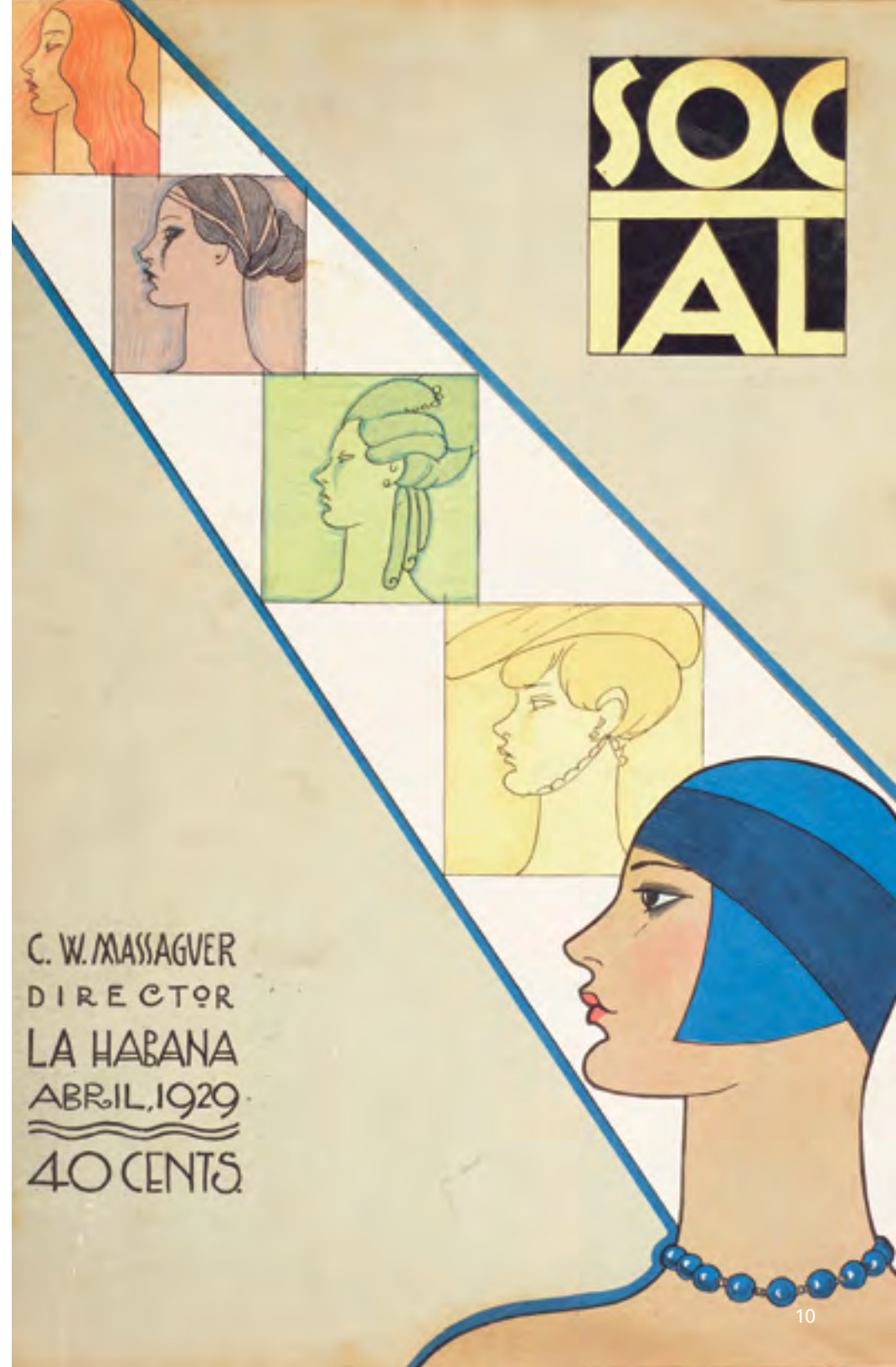
Ramiro A. Fernández

Elena Kurstin Collection

Roberto Ramos Private Collection

Luis Santeiro

Mana Zucca Collection, Special Collections and Archives,
Green Library, Florida International University







ADDITIONAL INSTALLATIONS

Destination Deco | Miami International Airport

April 17–October 16, 2019

Presenting a selection of Art Deco objects from the Wolfsonian collection including exquisite handcrafted works and streamlined product design

Deco Designs

April 25–August 25, 2019

Displaying books and portfolios with vividly colorful illustrations meant to inspire designs for Art Deco interiors

PosterFest: Design for Good 2019

April 26–July 16, 2019

Debunking misinformation, challenging stigma, and encouraging empathy through a design initiative centered on HIV/AIDS awareness

Cover Girls

June 7–September 30, 2019

Exploring the Art Deco aesthetic through Miami artist Andres Conde's contemporary reinterpretations of Conrado Massaguer's historic "ideals"

Caricaturas

August 29, 2019–January 26, 2020

Featuring caricatures by major Cuban and other Latin American artists from the 1930s through the 1950s

Radicals and Reactionaries: Extremism in America

January 30–March 12, 2020

Showcasing Depression-era books and pamphlets used to demonize enemies or recruit for right- and left-wing causes

Then + Now

February 20–March 12, 2020

Placing Wolfsonian objects in dialogue with present-day counterparts (curated by media personality Martha Stewart)



RECOGNITION + EXPOSURE

216 media placements: 10 international, 31 national, 175 local
 110,323,827 impressions
 \$2,103,479 ad value

THE ARTS NEWS PAPER.COM ART BASEL IN MIAMI BEACH FAREDITION 7 8 DECEMBER 2019 21

EXHIBITIONS

Previews & listings around town



Caricature with a Latin twist

Cuban illustrator's astute work mocked figures from both sides of political divide

Cuban Caricature and Culture the Art of Massaguer

The Wolfsonian in Cuba is the work and mind of the Cuban caricaturist and publisher Carlos Massaguer. In an exhibition that opens this week, Massaguer's work is shown in a way that is both a tribute to his art and a critique of his life. Through the magazine, book, and online work he produced from the 1950s to the 1980s, Massaguer bridged the gap between Cuban culture and the world.

See pages 22-24 for full exhibition listings

LA ART SHOW MODERN + CONTEMPORARY
 FEB 5-9, 2020 LAARTSHOW.COM
 YAMAGUCHI AI | PRESENTED BY MIZUMA ART GALLERY | CORE
 LA CONVENTION CENTER | SOUTH HALL

Johnson & Johnson



Our Heritage J&J Museum Find of the Month

Windows on the Past: The Johnson & Johnson Employees Who Were Forever Commemorated in Stained Glass

In the 1930s one of the original founding Johnson brothers commissioned a series of colorful panels to pay homage to men and women who worked at the company. For Employee Appreciation Day, we tell the story behind the art.

By Marisa Cohen | March 06, 2020

When you think of majestic stained-glass windows, you might picture a soaring Renaissance cathedral, a university library or a grand estate. But for many years, a glorious series of 12 stained-glass windows designed by Frederick Soldwedel also adorned the walls of a building at Johnson & Johnson's headquarters in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

And the subjects of these works of art were not biblical figures or monarchs, but hardworking employees of the company, proudly putting in a day's work.

November 15, 2019 — Antiques and Fine Arts Weekly — 1

Mitchell Wolfson Jr

Collector Mitchell "Micky" Wolfson Jr is a man of action. His sprawling 155,000-object collection is housed between two eponymous museums on opposite sides of the Atlantic, the Wolfsonian-FIU and the Wolfsoniana, both of which still receive a steady stream of objects and scrawled notes from the collector who has no intention of stopping. Curators at the Wolfsonian-FIU have launched an exhibition to tell Wolfson's tale: "A Universe of Things: Micky Wolfson Collects," on view for a year beginning November 15. Wolfson's endeavoring mission is unique in quality, scale and theory among his peers, so we caught up with him, on the occasion of his 80th birthday year and in the midst of a trip through Bulgaria, to listen to but one chapter of his monumental story.



Tell me about the Wolfsonian-FIU and The Wolfsoniana's mission. Where in those institutions do we see the collecting and personal spirit of Micky Wolfson?

I'm an avid collector of my spirit and my methodology and my mission. We collect linguistically. I believe the language that men and women make. Between the spirit and the matter that people work. The language is the DNA. It is the relationship on. We collect in seven languages: Italian, French, German, English, Japanese, Slavic and Celtic. We try and now we collect more and more who speak these languages. It's a mission of ideas — the art and function of ideas. The material manifestation of the spirit. It's a very interesting juxtaposition because I'm one, a Marxist or a Leninist but I believe in humanity that destroys the future and changes in the future makes, they believed economic determined everything in a man's life. But it's the human condition that influences and controls who we make.

What guides the collector? Do you have a favorite area?

I create mission. Each fragment of the mission given to me, I've never had a favorite. I only ever have a favorite in the moment. Only interested in the now and in particular. I'm not interested in the whole mission of objects. I don't believe in history or the world through my eyes and mine. I only believe in what I see and mine. But make because that's the material manifestation of the spirit.

This exhibition does not venture earlier than pre-1850, is that specific to this exhibition or your focus in general?

I'm only interested; my collection should be 1885-1945, but because I listen to the curators, they have expanded my collecting to 1800 to 1950.

Why those years?

For the trading date of 1945, the war was over, it was the dawn of a new day, though we still 1940 with the fall of the Berlin Wall. Like 1885 because the United States reached the GDP of the power in Europe. It's an interesting comparison. In 1885, which was the dawn of a new age after the revolution in Europe.

This exhibition is as much about you as it is about the objects. Is it a collector's tale. An object means everything to an owner, but how important is an owner to an object?

It's a portrait. I believe that in the curators did. They have done a portrait of me using the language of the objects that I collect. I never wanted anything but their design to be. I wanted a team and a quality and the ability to be able to meet when and when I wanted. I am not in the least bit interested in property. It's easy to get greedy and it will be. The green hall of it, and I'm curious. I have no sense of property, none.

Do you think you'll live your portrait?

I haven't seen it yet. I don't know. I'll let you know when I do. It probably like because they know me better than I know myself. And so far since they know me as well as anybody else, a portrait and I would never consider. The view doesn't interfere with the view.

Where did you draw the line in the exhibition?

I always set more or less. But the curators are more practical, and they are the colonies of my mind.

Sideboard designed by Edward William Godwin (British, 1833-1880), produced by William Wau, London, circa 1876. Photo, abandoned malapropos, after deconstructed hardware. The Wolfsonian-FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson Jr Collection.

(continued on page 10)

KEY LOANS

Evelyn Rumsey Cary Painting Study

Loaned to:

Votes for Women: A Portrait of Persistence

National Portrait Gallery, March 29, 2019–January 5, 2021

A celebration of the centennial anniversary of women's suffrage, *Votes for Women* chronicled the efforts of activists in the late 19th and early 20th century to achieve the vote for women in the United States. The National Portrait Gallery included American artist Evelyn Rumsey Cary's 1905 painting study, which depicts a feminine figure representing women as an essential part of nature and society, in a section of the exhibition titled "The New Woman: 1893–1912."

Due to its inclusion in the Smithsonian show, The Wolfsonian's *Woman's Suffrage* study was featured prominently in the articles "Nevertheless She Persisted" (*The Magazine Antiques*) and "How Women Got the Vote Is a Far More Complex Story Than the History Textbooks Reveal" (*Smithsonian Magazine*), which describes Cary's painting as an "iconic" depiction of the activism of the period. In addition, a detail of the work also graced the cover of the 19th Amendment-themed summer issue of *Humanities*, the seasonal magazine published by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).





Hugo Gellert Mural Study

Loaned to:

Vida Americana Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925–1945

Whitney Museum of Art, February 14, 2020–January 31, 2021

The Whitney's exhibition explores the powerful influence of Mexican muralists on American painters, particularly artists who held leftist political views. An outspoken Communist, Hugo Gellert executed this study, *Us Fellas Gotta Stick Together or The Last Defenses of Capitalism*, for a 1932 Museum of Modern Art exhibition, *Murals by American Painters and Photographers*, critiquing the capitalist system with his caricatures of some of the most powerful men in the United States. President Herbert Hoover, J. P. Morgan, John D. Rockefeller, Sr., and Henry Ford are all lampooned and shown in league with the gangster Al Capone.

The Whitney's show has been extensively covered by the press, including articles on Art Fix Daily and Widewalls that mention the presence of Gellert.

ACCOLADES

Silvia Barisione, senior curator

- Selected to participate in the *International Visitors Programme of Het Nieuwe Instituut* organized in collaboration with the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York for Dutch Design Week
- Served as a juror for *Fountainhead Residency Open Call: Foreign Born Artists Living & Working in the U.S.*
- Became part of the advisory board of the Italian journal *CAD900-Ceramica e Arti Decorative del '900*

Shoshana Resnikoff, curator

- Elected to the board of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Decorative Arts and Design (ICOM-ICDAD)

Marlene Tosca, art director, and Brittany Ballinger, senior graphic designer

- Awarded a Gold Medal in the Mailers & Calendars category by the 2019 SEMC Publications Competition jury



Silvia Barisione



Shoshana Resnikoff





RAISING OUR PROFILE

As authorities on the modern age, Wolfsonian staff have joined colleagues at institutions across the globe to present, publish, and lead conversations about art, design, architecture, and cultural preservation.

Contributions

- “Lyda Levi e il rinnovamento del design italiano del dopoguerra [Lyda Levi and The Renewal of Italian Design in the Postwar Period,” in *Ceramica e Arti Decorative del '900* # 5, January 2020. (Silvia Barisione)
- “The reception of World War I monuments: From the Ossari to the Case del Mutilato”, in Kay Bea Jones, Stephanie Pilat (eds.), *The Routledge Companion to Italian Fascist Architecture: Reception and Legacy*, Routledge: New York, 2020. (Silvia Barisione)
- Carl Milles; Loja Saarinen; Waylande Gregory; Marianne Strengell; and Frank Okada, in *With Eyes Opened: Cranbrook Academy of Art since 1932*, Cranbrook Art Museum: Bloomfield Hills, 2020. (Shoshana Resnikoff)

Talks

- September 2019 | Panel Discussion: Tel Aviv’s White City and South Beach’s Art Deco District, Miami Beach, Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. (Silvia Barisione)
- December 2019 | Panel Discussion: Curator Speed Round: 10 Objects, Miami Beach, Design Miami/. (Silvia Barisione)
- December 2019 | Lecture: Modern Dutch Design as part of Dutch Design Lecture Series at the Mint, Charlotte, Mint Museum Uptown. (Silvia Barisione)



THE COLLECTION

GIFTS

30 donors generously added to the museum's collection through 834 gifts.

Highlights are:

Cuban Graphics and Caricatures | Vicki Gold Levi

Augmenting previous donations, board member and longtime Wolfsonian supporter Vicki Gold Levi has promised a gift of works by the influential early 20th-century Cuban graphic artist Conrado W. Massaguer as well as caricatures by other Cuban and Mexican artists. The collection includes images of Massaguer's "New Woman" flapper ideal (the so-called "Massa-girls") in his magazine *Social* to depictions of tropical paradise for the Cuban Tourist Commission. Massaguer's transnational reach is shown in his covers for *Collier's* and *Life*, while cartoons of visiting dignitaries and Hollywood stars reveal how he rubbed shoulders with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Walt Disney, Albert Einstein, and the King of Spain—all evidence of an artist at the center of Havana's cosmopolitan culture in the decades before the Cuban Revolution. Caricatures by his contemporaries include such revered and reviled world leaders as Queen Elizabeth II and Fidel Castro and celebrities like George Bernard Shaw, Sarah Bernhardt, Diego Rivera, and Charlie Chaplin.





Coffee Service | Sandy Seligman

Designed by Catalan silversmith, jeweler, and painter Jaume Mercadé, this sterling silver and oak service typifies the designer's mastery of form, balance, and detail. Created in Barcelona in 1929, the service—which includes a coffeepot, teapot, sugar bowl, creamer, and tray—reflects a formal response to Art Deco with its stylized botanical elements and simplified organic forms. Mercadé participated in the Exposition des Arts Decoratifs in Paris in 1925, garnering a silver medal, and in the 1929 Barcelona International Exposition, where he won the grand prize and a gold medal. This superb example of Catalan decorative arts was a birthday gift to Micky Wolfson from friend and Wolfsonian board member, Sandy Seligman.

Dragon King Vase | Arthur Wiener

Designed by Daisy Makeig Jones in the early 1920s, this multicolored vase was the second largest produced in Wedgwood's Fairyland Lustre range. It showcases a variation of Makeig Jones' Dragon King design—partly inspired by Chinese folklore, partly a product of the artist's own imagination—and depicts a fanciful scene by the sea complete with towers, a cave, multiple dragons, and dancing pixies. Decorated with iridescent shades of blue, green, purple, bronze, and gold, the vase is an 80th-birthday gift to Micky Wolfson from a much-admired peer, Arthur Wiener, founder of the Wiener Museum of Decorative Arts (WMODA) in Dania Beach, Florida.

RCA Radio | Harvey Mattel

In honor of Micky Wolfson's 80th birthday, donor and collaborator Harvey Mattel gifted an RCA Victor Model 96X radio, American designer John Vassos's iconic work featured on the cover of his first monograph, *John Vassos: Industrial Design for Modern Life* (2016) by former Wolfsonian fellow Danielle Shapiro. An illustrator and advertising artist, Vassos was hired by the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) to update the design of its radio lines in 1933. As a consultant designer, Vassos created hundreds of appliances such as the portable phonograph RCA Victor Special model N and the RCA Victor TRK-12 television presented at the 1939 New York World's Fair, both items also represented in the Wolfsonian collection along with another seminal Vassos design, a New York subway turnstile from the main lobby of the Brooklyn Museum.





SS Normandie Chair | Henry Hacker

After the success of the 1925 Paris world's fair, the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique embraced Art Deco in their suite of new luxury ocean liners: *Île-de-France* (1927), *Atlantique* (1931) and *Normandie* (1935). This chair from the *Normandie's* First-Class Grand Salon reflects an update on 18th-century French furniture by Jean-Maurice Rothschild, famous for his design for the interior of the Eiffel Tower's restaurant in 1937. Featuring carved giltwood frames and needlepoint wool tapestry, Henry Hacker's gift is a vital component in *Deco: Luxury to Mass Market*, enabling us to tell a more well-rounded story about the evolution of the style in Europe after the 1925 exposition. This is one of three *Normandie* chairs gifted by Hacker, a longtime donor and board member.

Rare Books, Photographs + Objects | Daniel Morris

Daniel Morris, proprietor of the Historical Design gallery in New York and a longtime resource for Micky, donated an incredible cache of beautifully bound and illustrated books to The Wolfsonian Library. The gift includes many rare titles that build upon existing areas of strength in our collection, including works on the Arts & Crafts movement, Wiener Werkstätte, Austrian Secession, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and Italian Futurism. In addition, the new titles fill in gaps that we have long been eager to augment, including first-rate collections of original books on the Harlem Renaissance, artistic photography, and Bauhaus architecture. Morris also enriched our holdings with portrait photographs of writers, artists, and performers taken by Carl Van Vechten; a set of more than 100 photographs documenting the Wiener Werkstätte; a wood and aluminum chair attributed to French architect Robert Mallet-Stevens; and, as a birthday gift to Micky Wolfson, a metal presentation case commemorating 25 years of service by a foundry director in the Central European city of Brno.





ACQUISITIONS

The Wolfsonian purchased 590 works over the course of the year, including:

- Architectural watercolor-on-paper design drawings (1921) by Gimbart Charles featuring the French Agency and Consulat building in Cairo
- Carlo & Nello Rosselli Archive (1934) relating to the lives, careers, and deaths of the Tuscan-born Jewish brothers who were assassinated under the order of Mussolini by a band of French fascists
- Rare books from the Irish Industrial Exhibition of 1853 and Exposition des Arts Decoratifs Modernes, Paris, 1925
- A portfolio trade catalogue for pochoir-printed store signs (1914)
- Ephemeral items including rare periodicals, collecting cards, school notebooks, membership cards, postcards, etc. from the Spanish Civil War, First World War, Italo-Ethiopian War, and Japanese Empire

CONSERVATION

Treatment was performed on 470 objects, including:

- 1938 K. K. Culver Trophy designed by Viktor Schreckengost**
Reduced heavy tarnish while avoiding damage to thin silver plating
- 1944–45 Alfred Clauss poster, *Fontana Dam. Power to Win***
Removed contact tape, mended tears, and in-painted color losses
- 1892 secretary by Maison Krieger, Damon & Colin**
Replaced missing decoration, repaired broken finials, added reproduction fabric panels, and reduced grime and wax buildup
- 1931 John Vassos *Phobia* book**
Saved and reattached heavily damaged spine fragments and reinforced the cover
- 1942–44 Donald Delue sculptures, *Saint Michael* and *Knight Crusader***
Improved surface appearance and stabilized and filled cracks

In addition, The Wolfsonian cleaned 2,127 books and vacuumed 3,595 volumes as part of ongoing care in the library.





THE WOLF ONLINE

A SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP

We salute John S. and James L. Knight Foundation for its prescient support of digital assets and tools available to our curators, educators, and public. Thanks to Knight, The Wolfsonian dramatically advanced its online engagement during 2020, with new technologies and a wide range of experiences accessible across multiple platforms, from in-person interactives to virtual programs.

DIGITAL CATALOG VIEWERSHIP

29,572

visitors

479,470

pageviews

DIGITIZATION

13,459

new photographs
captured

13,709

new images added to
the digital catalog

ART OF ILLUMINATION

Extending the world of The Wolfsonian beyond the galleries and into the fabric of Miami Beach's vibrant nightlife, this initiative employs an innovative system of lighting design and digital technology to project contemporary art onto the museum's landmark facade after sunset. In FY20 we unveiled our latest commission, *Live Inventory*, Miami artist Leo Castañeda's surreal animation combining game-engine techniques with 3D-scan models from the collection.



DIGITAL PROJECTS DEBUTED

Interactive Timeline

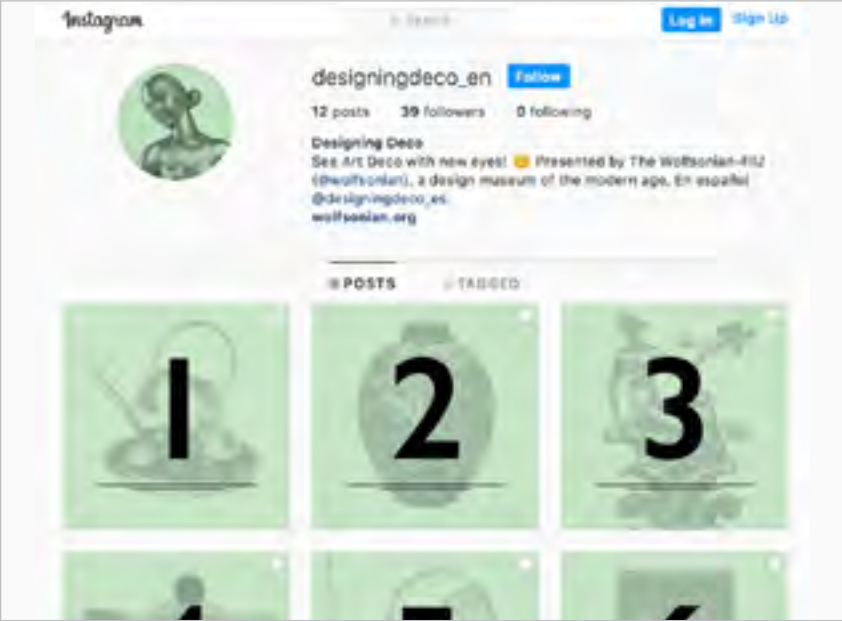
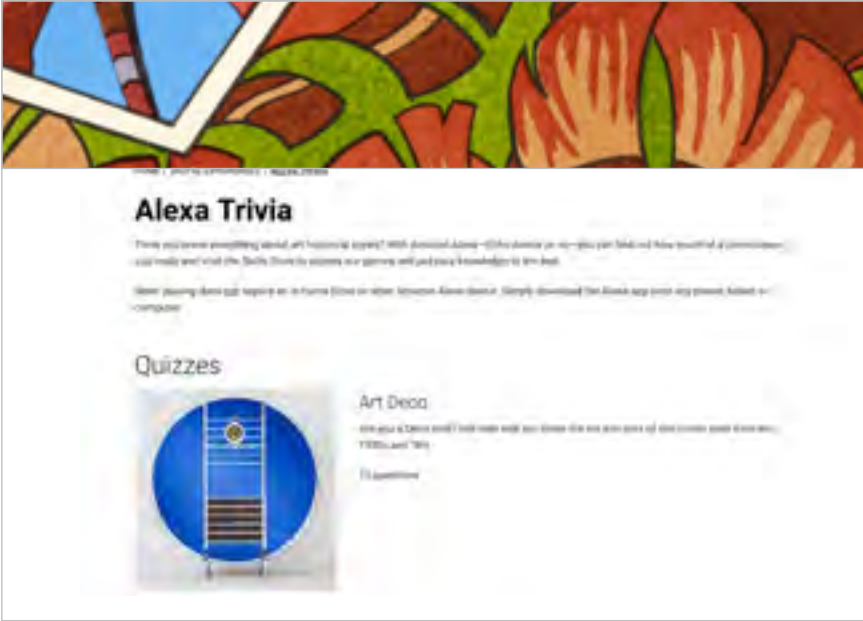
A dynamic in-gallery touchscreen connects the objects on view in *A Universe of Things* with Micky Wolfson's life and major moments in history.

Alexa Art Deco Trivia

An Amazon Alexa Skill available on Alexa devices and through the Amazon Alexa app tests knowledge on Art Deco's style, history, and trademarks in 10 questions.

Designing Deco

Art Deco is decoded in an eye-opening Instagram-hosted video experience revealing the design decisions behind Deco objects.



GOING VIRTUAL

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Wolfsonian joined art institutions around the world in temporary closing for the protection of public health. To keep members, longtime fans, and new audiences informed about—and invested in—the museum’s activities, our team quickly pivoted to focus on virtual experiences and new communication strategies.

LIVESTREAMED PROGRAMS

EXILE Books’s Post Zine (guest) | March 31, 2020
25 viewers

In lieu of their annual Miami Zine Fair, Exile Books hosted an Instagram Live series of interviews with local arts figures including Wolfsonian education manager Zoe Welch, who highlighted teen-made zines from the 2019–20 cycle of our high-school outreach program, Zines for Progress.

Dancing Deco | May 6, 2020
518 viewers

Offered live to members, this special program featured a recording of Liony Garcia’s Wolfsonian performance of *Corporeal Decorum* as well as a Q&A with the choreographer/dancer about his practice, Art Deco research, and interest in architecture.





#WolfWatch: The Stranger | May 20, 2020

398 viewers

The kickoff to our #WolfWatch series encouraged fans, followers, and film buffs to gather for a chat-based group viewing of Orson Welles' 1946 noir *The Stranger* followed by a conversation between curator Shoshana Resnikoff and education manager Oscar Rieveling.

Lair: Architecture of Villainry | June 24, 2020

346 viewers

Dedicated to Tra Publishing's new book, *Lair: Radical Homes and Hideouts of Movie Villains*, this event dissected the "architecture of persuasion" found in films. Panelists included architect and *Lair* co-author Chad Oppenheim, Wolfsonian curator Silvia Barisione, and moderator John Stuart from FIU's Miami Beach Urban Studios.

Curator's Choice: Revivals | June 30, 2020

72 viewers

In the launch of a new member program series, curator Shoshana Resnikoff presented her favorite examples of historical revival styles in the collection and opened up the floor for members' pressing art and design questions.

Viewership counts include registered attendees, Facebook Live viewers, and YouTube watches.

ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGNS

Facebook Member Group

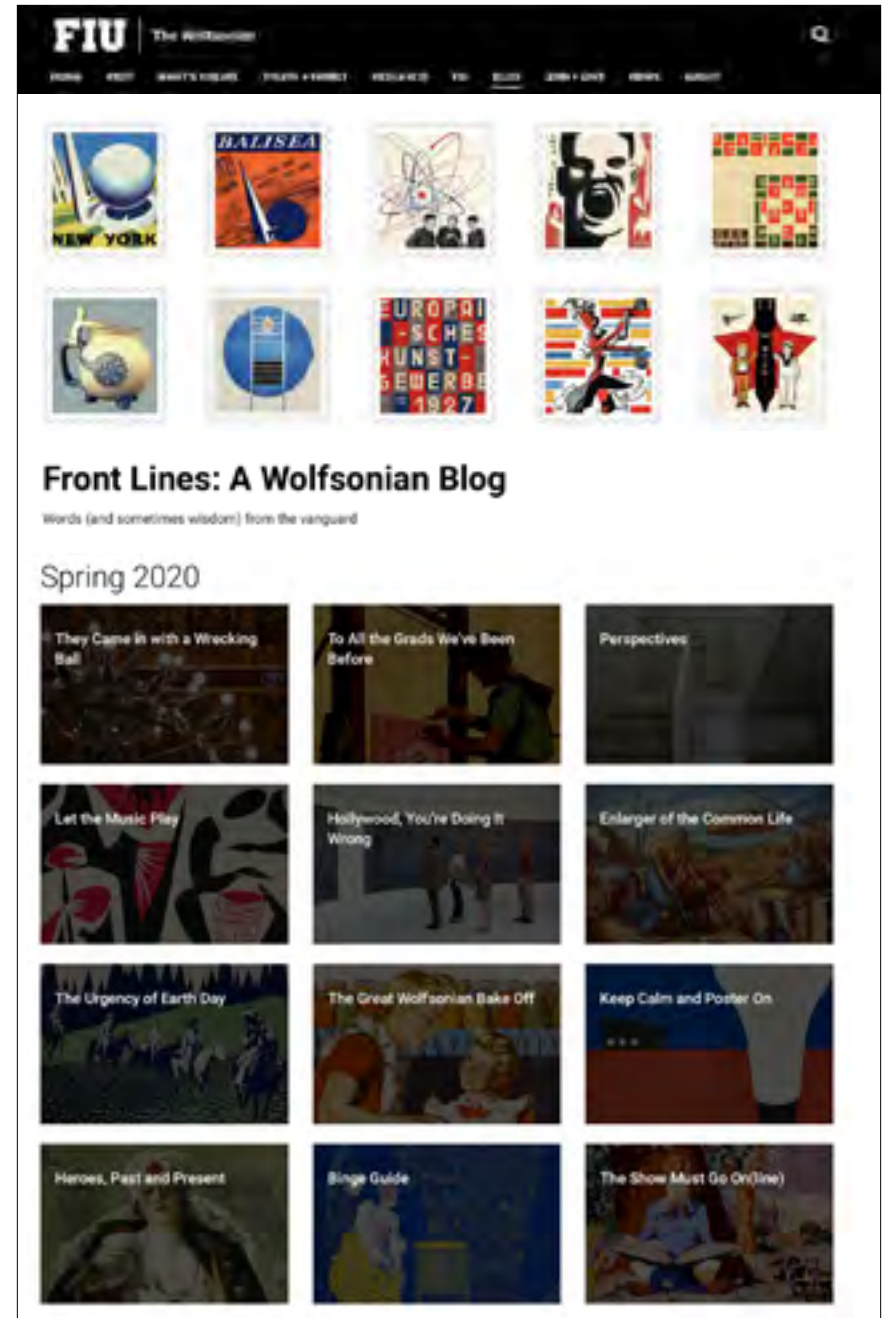
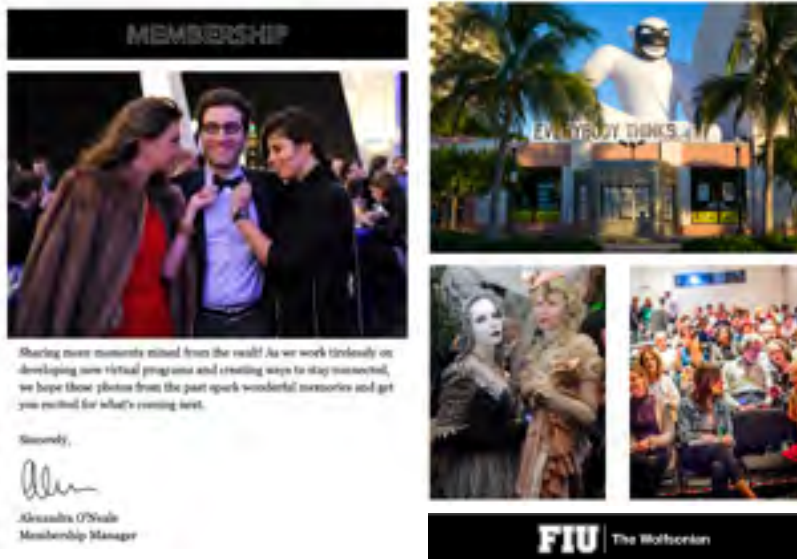
This initiative sparks conversation and encourages connection between Wolfsonian members on Facebook, home to one of our more active social media followings.

Front Lines Blog

Launching a Wolfsonian blog helped provide consistent educational and entertaining content for our feed and channels, opened up new avenues into discovering the collection, and gave voice to staff members whose work is rarely brought into public light.

Eblasts

As we prioritized maintaining a dialogue with those in our mailing lists, we ramped up email communication through new regular series including #WednesdayWatch (videos of past programs) and #FlashbackFriday (a photo album-style reminder of Wolfsonian moments).





ENGAGEMENT, OUTREACH + IMPACT



TOURS

18 tours given to 16 Miami-area schools
420 students brought through the museum

COMMUNITY

3 seasonal workshops hosted
116 participants

DISCOVERING DESIGN FREE FAMILY DAYS

Educator-led activities with contemporary artists nurture a positive museum experience and build children's confidence in their ability to solve problems creatively.

Traveling with The Wolf! | August 3, 2019

Art Deco Friezes | November 2, 2019

My Mini Museum | February 22, 2020

ZINES FOR PROGRESS (Z4P)

The Wolfsonian's signature education program returned for its 4th year, welcoming 4 veteran and 6 new teachers representing various language arts and visual arts classes across Miami-Dade County.

10 schools (4 Title I)

264 students

74 zines

Topics: racism, mental health, gender identity, empowerment, biodiversity, beauty standards

The program "taught me to stand up and fight: whether it is gun violence in America or racism, I feel equipped to write and speak about it."

—student zine-maker



Ripple Effects

Graduate student Diana Levy discovered Zines for Progress through a writeup on the program published on FIU News. After reading the article, Diana redirected her PhD research to focus her dissertation on the use of zines in the classroom, and in June 2020, she successfully passed her defense. For the Fall 2020 semester, Diana is teaching Beginning Literacy Methods at FIU and plans to return to Z4P as a volunteer instructor.

"[Zines] just have it all: art, literacy, voice...Zines for Progress was the impetus for my interest."

—Diana Levy

Toaster

I'm as electric as lightning.
Touch me and you'll get burned.
I smell like Sunday morning
and make people very happy.
My mom calls me "Toastie"
but I'm really a toaster.
I feel big, but I look small.
My silver skin looks like the moon.
I'm not an oven, but we are friends.
I have a huge question:
Would you like me to warm up your bread?

Shelcy, Joselyne, McKeena, & Couture.
3rd grade, Poinciana Park Elementary



IF TOASTERS COULD TALK

Following museum fieldtrips, two Miami elementary-school classrooms (grades 3 and 4) fused their newfound storytelling and poetry know-how to pen poems from the perspective of Wolfsonian collection objects. The students gave voice and agency to inanimate things, imagining inner thoughts and challenges in remarkably creative ways. Their lyrical work and companion sketches became mini films projected onto the Wolfsonian building after dark through April as part of O, Miami's celebrations for Poetry Month.

Juicer



Busy Worker

I am a busy worker.
I am a busy juicer.
I am a healthy-drink-maker.
I am a loud machine.
I am a thing that makes a lot of juice
for thirsty people. I am a juice maker
that is made out of tools, and I'm busy.

Kumara, 3rd grade, Poinciana Park Elementary

Toy trailer

I love to play with kids.
I hook up to a car,
and I roll and I crash!
Sometimes they drop me.
They look in my door.
I have lines on me, and windows,
and a peg, and a circle on my roof.
I am red and good and curved
like a car or a crayon.
I have wheels that spin and a flat, yellow bottom.
I want to tell the kids, "I like you."

Angel, 3rd grade, Poinciana Park Elementary



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS, MATHEMATICS (STEAM)

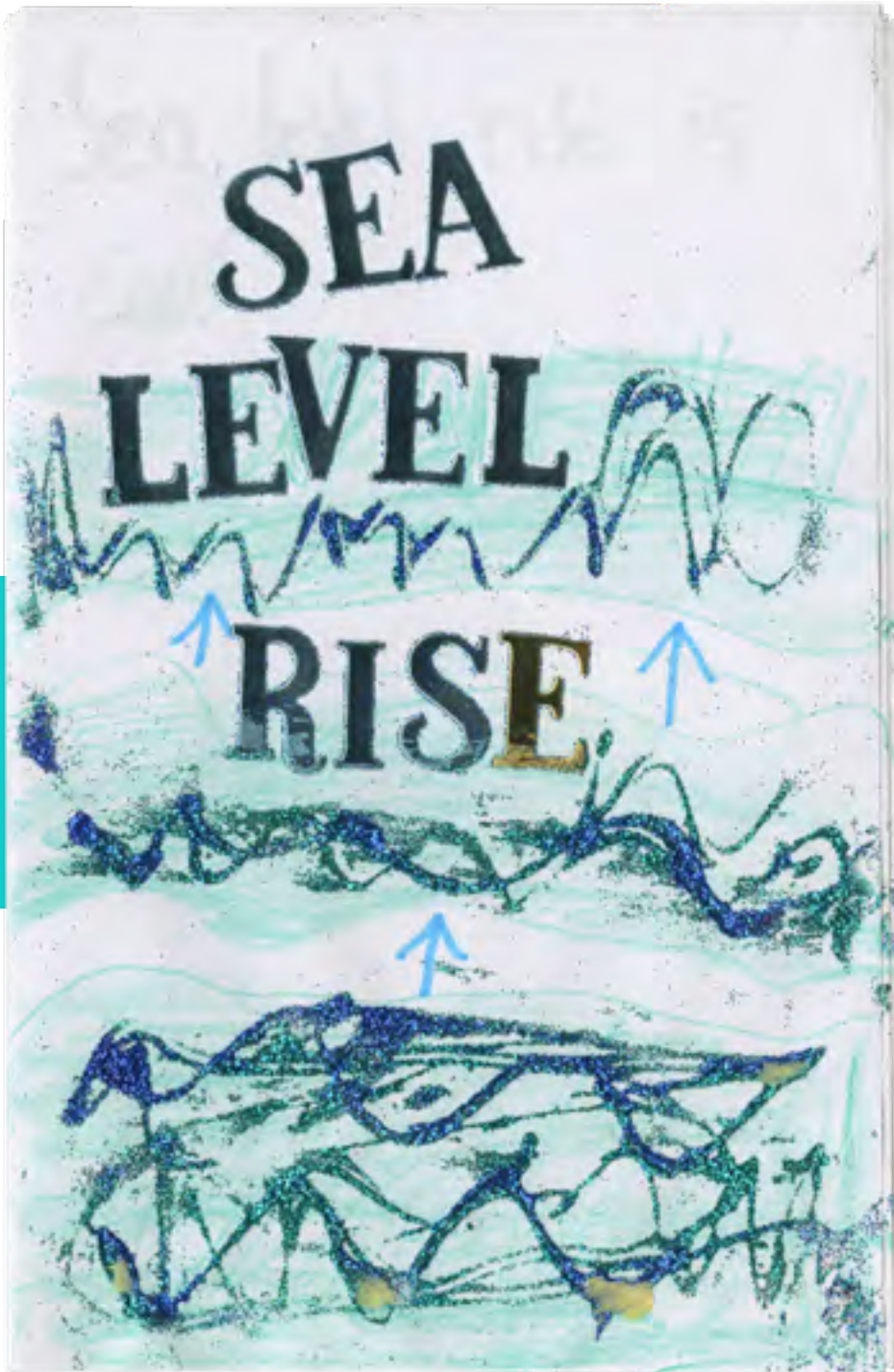
STEAM x Design (SxD)

With a revamped curriculum, we relaunched SxD with a new tour and workshop focused on chairs. Students were led to think about chairs as design objects, as built material objects, and as part of our living and work environments that must be considered in ergonomic and sustainable terms—healthy for our bodies and for the world.

STEAM Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

A Mellon Humanities Edge grant allowed us to partner with MDCPS's Department of Exceptional Student Education to pilot STEAM x Design ESE in four middle school classrooms. The condensed curriculum focuses on a single object or theme at a time per tour, allows students to work independently if preferred, and offers the choice between maquette making or sketching during the hands-on workshop.





STEAM Zines

As part of the City of Miami Beach's STEAM+ initiative, STEAM Zines explores environmental responsibility and self-expression. Students conduct research on current-day issues like sea-level rise and greenhouse gases, and they present their solutions in zines—a medium that combines language arts, visual arts, and sciences—to become change agents and to gain confidence in voicing their opinions and thinking proactively. In FY20, we were asked back to Nautilus Middle School to deliver our program to a creative writing class with 45 students in grades 6–8.

"This partnership has impacted our students positively...activities have been invaluable, memorable, and unique."

—Nautilus Middle School teacher Lisette Burns

PROGRAMS

Deco + Drag | August 2, 2019 + February 28, 2020
200 attendees

Art Deco's legacy and the creative style it continues to inspire today are at the heart of Deco + Drag, an ongoing program that expands on the themes found in our *Deco* exhibition and establishes an inclusive environment for artistic expression. The series invites top drag performers to host an evening of spectacle and song that reflects the vibrancy and dynamism of the city we call home. Each evening begins with a lively and captivating tour led by curator Shoshana Resnikoff and Karla Croqueta, Miami's Ultimate Drag Queen 2019, followed by performances in front of our Art Deco fountain that pay homage to 1920s and '30s glamour.

The popular program consistently attracts a packed room and is a signature series aligning with our DEAI values, providing a space for the LGBTQ+ community to celebrate the beauty of art and performance.





Corporeal Decorum | Debuted October 11 + 12, 2019,
encores held during Culture Crawl and Art Deco Weekend
397 attendees

In a successful project bridging history with contemporary art, The Wolfsonian premiered and hosted several encores for *Corporeal Decorum*, Miami-based choreographer Liony Garcia's 14-minute original dance performance inspired by Art Deco architecture. Museum staff worked closely with Garcia to provide research access to the collection and rehearsal space that enabled the artist to infuse his performance with the character of the iconic style, translating its forms into elegant gestures and motion. To give viewers a detailed understanding of the historical inspiration for Garcia's work, the first two performances were preceded by a walking tour of the Art Deco District led by Fredo Garcia, a Miami native and art historian.

Garcia and his fellow dancers offered repeat performances during Miami Beach's Culture Crawl in November 2019 and before an overflow crowd at Art Deco Weekend in January 2020. In supporting the development of *Corporeal Decorum*, The Wolfsonian was joined by the Miami Light Project and a Miami-Dade County Community grant.

Liberty Square's Legacy | February 7, 2020

65 attendees

This event expanded the focus of our Mark Mamolen-supported American Homes program series beyond the designer-showcase homes of the wealthy to consider other kinds of homes, in this case a large public housing project. Built by the U.S. government in the 1930s, Miami's Liberty Square complex attempted to improve housing conditions for African Americans while at the same time reinforcing the segregated residential patterns of the city. These conflicting aims have played out in a sometimes-contentious history over the decades since—up to today, as Liberty Square undergoes private redevelopment.

By presenting scholars who could flesh out Liberty Square's history (FIU professors John Stuart and Marvin Dunn), filmmakers who are addressing its present (Faren Humes, *Liberty*; Katja Esson, *Razing Liberty Square*), and residents who can speak to the experience of living there (Mary Griffin and Anna Williams), we provided a multi-dimensional view of a place that has shaped generations of lives of Black Miamians.

Lair: Architecture of Villainy | June 24, 2020

346 viewers

While posing many challenges, our temporary closure in response to COVID-19 spurred us to explore new opportunities to expand our regular audience and scope through digital media. We partnered with Tra Publishing, the Miami Center for Art and Design, and American Institute of Architects (AIA) Miami for our first feature virtual program, a film-focused talk that delved into the new book *Lair: Radical Homes and Hideouts of Movie Villains* and examined these spaces as reflective of the "architecture of persuasion" evident in our collection holdings.

Demonstrating the appeal of the subject to design and film enthusiasts, almost 200 guests—a number that is double what our auditorium can accommodate—joined us for a free Zoom panel with co-author Chad Oppenheim, Wolfsonian senior curator Silvia Barisione, and Miami Beach Urban Studios executive director John Stuart.

WHY DO
BAD GUYS
LIVE IN
GOOD
HOUSES?





STUDENT-CENTRIC



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

In FY20, The Wolfsonian gathered its first-ever dedicated, cross-departmental group of staff members devoted to overhauling and enhancing how we engage with students.

Efforts and achievements included:

- Building out enrichment opportunities for student workers
- Conducting exit surveys and interviews to assess internship/ assistantship program success
- Offering a new free membership level for enrolled students

FREE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIPS

With the FIU Museums Insider program, we join our fellow FIU museums in piloting an unprecedented experiment in building a vibrant, enterprising arts community within the University. Unlocking free access and benefits at Jewish Museum of Florida, Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, and The Wolfsonian, the Insider program opens up complimentary memberships and cultivates relationships with our most important audience: FIU students. A full-fledged launch—complete with behind-the-scenes experiences, branded promotions, and exclusive perks—is expected in Fall 2020.

REAL STANDS OUT.

Jane Doe
FIU Museums Insider
Expected graduation: 2024

Present along with your FIU One Card for entry
Jewish Museum of Florida, Frost Art Museum, and The W



INTERNSHIPS

Both paid and unpaid interns provided significant help to many Wolfsonian departments this year, with a strong cohort developed among our Humanities Edge interns. Resume and cover letter workshops, department talks, and hands-on activities offered moments for bonding, career guidance, and education beyond the scope of day-to-day assignments.

Interns hosted: 6



ASSISTANTSHIPS

The Metadata Squad is a group of FIU graduate students tasked with researching and digitizing Wolfsonian object records. The students conduct research both online and in the museum's library, and they network with other museum professionals to verify and add to existing object metadata.

Research assistants hosted: 3

Items researched: 667



CULTIVATION + GOVERNANCE

CULTIVATION

PARTNERSHIPS

Miami Art Week

A packed design talk, A Dreamscape of Italian Design, and our VIP Party anchored the Wolfsonian experience for Art Basel Miami Beach 2019. The two events marked our third year in a successful long-term collaboration with the Consulate General of Italy in Miami and Automobili Lamborghini America, and they brought 2,237 visitors into the museum.

In keeping with the theme of DESIRE, Lamborghini presented an exquisite 1967 Miura and original design drawings that proved magnets for attention, and a new partner, Kartell, activated our first floor with a contemporary piece dripping in gold, artist Arianna Carossa's *The Lunch* (2019). Our thanks not only to the Consulate, but to our other partners in presenting so many examples of captivating and elegant Italian design: the Italian Trade Office, Miami; Interni, a Milan-based design publication; Bacardi; and, Salone de Mobile Milano.

South Beach Wine & Food Festival

The imagination of Ian Rand, assistant director of marketing + partnerships, and our longstanding relationship with Lee Schrager and the SOBE Wine + Food Festival once again found us in A-list company as Martha Stewart hosted this year's event. Martha graciously curated an installation, *Then + Now: Martha Stewart for The Wolfsonian-FIU*, which was the centerpiece of a wine reception featuring Heitz Wine Cellars. A tastefully extravagant dinner featuring acclaimed chefs Michael White and Antonio Bachour followed for guests of Bank of America, which made a gift of \$15,000 in support of The Wolfsonian.





MILESTONES

\$1,498,086 raised in contributions from members and donors (120% of the goal)

\$3,000 pledged from Wolfsonian staff for FIU's Ignite campaign (100% participation, 3 years running)



MAJOR GIFTS + BEQUESTS

\$300,000 | Estate of R. Kirk Landon

Ongoing giving building upon a strong relationship established largely through the efforts of director emeritus Cathy Leff and late board member Pat Wallace

\$300,000 and Gift of Maritime Materials | Tom Ragan

Planned bequest complemented by more than 1,000 ship books, bolstering our library collection

\$100,000 | John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Support for our digital initiatives and staff, including an underwritten curator of digital collections position

\$100,000 and Gifts of Artwork | Estate of David Wolkowsky

Bequest from the estate of a Key West-based longtime friend of Micky Wolfson who passed in late 2018

\$85,000 | The Batchelor Foundation, Garner Foundation, Wells Fargo, and the Seligman Family Foundation

Funds supporting our Discovering Design K–12 and family education programs, serving over 1,000 students annually and opening intergenerational museum experiences for families

\$50,000 | Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation

Lead gift in support of our upcoming reinstallation project, which will refresh our permanent collection galleries and become the signature statement about our identity for years to come

\$25,000 | Tom Ragan

Support for our Metadata Squad graduate assistants

ENDOWMENTS

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, recurring funding has become a more essential asset than ever. We thank our endowment donors and wish to recognize their critical contributions:

The Abess Family

Support for *Cuban Caricature and Culture: The Art of Massaguer*

Leonard Lauder

Support for *A Universe of Things: Micky Wolfson Collects*

Mark Mamolen

Support for speaker honoraria and expenses for two *American Homes* programs





DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

We continue to reward and acknowledge The Wolfsonian's biggest fans and closest friends with special events and experiences exclusive to those who give \$1,000 and above each year:

Summertime in the Chinese Village | June 23, 2019

In this successor to our Spring 2019 event in the French Village, Alicia Kossick warmly welcomed us into her stunning home in Coral Gables' Chinese Village and introduced us to Feng Shui expert Paloma Gallardo.

Tom Ford | September 27, 2019

Architect William (Bill) Sofield of Studio Sofield in New York hosted a reception in the Miami Design District's Tom Ford store, which he designed.

Glimmerglass Festival | March 9, 2020

Advisory board member Tom Ragan, Jean Stark, and Beth Sapery led us in a season preview with Glimmerglass director Francesca Zambello and company members of the Young Artists Program.

GOVERNANCE

LEADERSHIP

The Wolfsonian announced Casey Steadman as acting director when Tim Rodgers announced he was leaving the museum and returning to Phoenix in July 2020.

ADVISORY BOARD

In February 2020, the Wolfsonian Advisory Board appointed former City of Miami Beach commissioner Joy Malakoff as chair; her experience with city government made her a natural choice as we partner with the City and County to successfully achieve a long-awaited expansion. We also welcomed Miami Beach-based Michael Larkin as a new board member in May 2020 and celebrated milestones for Ray Marchman, Jr. (serving 20 years on the board) and Jeri Wolfson (10 years).

Over the course of the year, board members' generosity contributed a total of \$270,000 in support of the museum.

Joy Malakoff, Chair

Gonzalo Acevedo

Roger Baumann

Abbey Chase

Suzi Rudd Cohen

Jackie Weld Drake

Kevin Gray

Henry S. Hacker

Susan Hakkarainen

Nina Herrick

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Tim Rodgers, Immediate Past Director

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As of October 2020

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The Wolfsonian—FIU thanks the following for contributing to our success in 2019–20:

The Wolfsonian receives generous and ongoing support from

Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
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Darryl Zbar

Gift dates July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

We have made every effort to ensure accuracy of this list. If a mistake has been made, we sincerely apologize and encourage you to contact us at give@thewolf.fiu.edu.

p. 1: Performance of Liony Garcia's *Corporeal Decorum* during October 2019's Deco Through Dance event at The Wolfsonian. Photo by Celia D. Luna.

p. 2: Conservation on *Saint Michael*, 1942–44. From the United States Military Academy West Point Chapel, West Point, New York. Donald De Lue, sculptor. Wood, paint. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection. TD1990.159.1–2

p. 5: Hotel keys, 1951–86. Metal, wood, plastic, cloth, leather. The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Private Collection, MP2018.120.

p. 6: Trophy, K. K. *Culver Trophy: Miami All American Air Maneuvers*, 1938. Viktor Schreckengost, designer. Gorham Manufacturing Company, Providence, Rhode Island, maker. Silver-plated bronze. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection of Decorative and Propaganda Arts, Promised Gift, 83.6.5.

p. 7: *A Universe of Things* co-curators Lea Nickless and Shoshana Resnikoff.

p. 8 top: Micky's VIP party on Star Island; bottom: FIU Marching Band serenading Micky at the community block party. Photos by World Red Eye.

p. 9: Vicki Gold-Levi being interviewed during the *Cuban Caricature and Culture: The Art of Massaguer* opening. Photo by World Red Eye.

p. 10: Magazine, *Social*, April 1929. Conrado W. Massaguer, cover illustrator and art director. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Vicki Gold Levi Collection, XC2002.11.4.313.5.

p.11: Photograph, Cocktail party celebrating the birthday of Conrado Walter Massaguer (third from left), March 14, 1943. Gelatin silver print. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Vicki Gold Levi Collection, XC2016.01.1.463.

p. 12 left: Program, *Socialist Party 35th Anniversary Journal*, 1936. National Convention, Cleveland, May 23–26, 1936. National Executive Committee, Chicago, publisher. The Wolfsonian–FIU, Gift of Francis Xavier Luca & Clara Helena Palacio Luca, XC2019.08.1.22; right: Portfolio plate from *Collection décors et couleurs: Album no. 1* [Decoration and Colors Collection: Album no. 1], c. 1929. Georges Valmier, designer. Pochoirs by Jean Sauté. Éditions Albert Lévy, Paris, publisher. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection, 83.2.2104.

p. 13: Selection of ephemera in The Wolfsonian Library. Photo by Diego Rojas.

p. 15: Study, *Woman's Suffrage*, 1905. Evelyn Rumsey Cary, artist. Buffalo, New York. Oil on canvas. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection, 87.1649.5.1.

p. 16: Mural study (detail), *Us Fellas Gotta Stick Together or The Last Defenses of Capitalism*, 1932. Hugo Gellert, artist. Chalk on celotex, plaster. The Wolfsonian–FIU, The Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Collection, 87.1462.5.2.2.

p. 18: Micky Wolfson chatting with guest at the *Founder's Choice* book talk. Photo by Celia D. Luna.

p. 20: Magazine, *Social*, September 1931. Conrado W. Massaguer, cover illustrator. Havana. The Wolfsonian–FIU, Promised Gift of Vicki Gold Levi, TL2019.5.66.

p. 21: Coffee service, 1929. Jaume Mercadé, designer. Sterling silver, oak. The Wolfsonian–FIU, Gift of The Seligman Family Foundation, 2019.21.1.1–4.

p. 22 top: Vase, *Dragon King. Temple on a Rock* (Z4968), shape 2046, c. 1920. Daisy Makeig Jones (British, 1881–1945), designer. Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent, England, manufacturer. Glazed bone china with luster and gilt. The Wolfsonian–FIU, Gift of Paulette and Arthur Wiener, 2019.16.1a,b; bottom: Radio, *RCA Victor Model 96X*, circa 1939. John Vassos, designer. Radio Corporation of America (RCA), New York City, manufacturer. Bakelite, metal. The Wolfsonian–FIU, Gift of Harvey Mattel, 2019.18.1;

p. 23: Chair, 1934. From the Grand Salon of the SS *Normandie*. Jean-Maurice Rothschild, designer. Baptistin Spade, Paris, maker. Émile Gaudissard, upholstery designer. Fabric, wood, gold leaf, brass. The Wolfsonian–FIU, Gift of Henry S. Hacker and Family, 2019.20.1.

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