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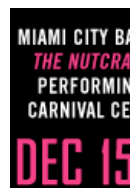
**Dinner Pl
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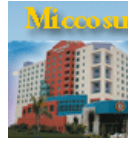
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LegalArt Miami ? Native Seeds

Marguerite Gil

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A super ARTS hero (or in this case, two heroines) emerge in our community. LegalArt presents its first annual exhibition honoring the top ten finalists from the 2005 Emerging Artist Grant program. The show entitled Native Seeds honors the finalists from the Emerging Artist Grant program and will be on view at the ArtCenter/South Florida through July 23, 2006. The initial jury was comprised of Sofia Bullrich (ArtNexus Magazine, Annhy Shim (The Related Group) and Clair Breukel (ArtCenter/South Florida) who selected the top 10 finalists including: Bhakti Baxter, COOPER, Jacin Giordano, Jiae Hwang, Pepe Mar, Emily Martinez, Brandon Opalka, Norberto Rodriguez, Frances Trombly and Wendy Wischer. The second jury, comprised of Karen Rifas (artist, Richard Shack (Chair Emeritus, ArtCenter/South Florida) and Alfredo Triff (art and culture critic) selected the second place winners (a tie between COOPER and Jiae Hwang) and Jacin Giordano as the first runner-up along with the winner, Mr. Rodriguez.

"We conceived Native Seeds as an exhibition that would grow annually to highlight the ripening talent from our community," states Executive Director/Founder of LegalArt Carolina O. Garcia. "By presenting the grant prize of \$3,000 (the second largest in South Florida) simultaneously with the exhibition, publication of the corresponding catalogue, ArtChat and other fund raising events, LegalArt continues its contribution to the on-going exposure and development of some of South Florida's most intriguing and cutting-edge artists," concludes Garcia.

The exhibition and surrounding events are made possible by the following sponsors: the ArtCenter/South Florida; 10 Cane Rum; the Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs; LegalArt's Board of Directors; the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami; Miami

Art Museum; Utrecht Art Supplies; Clarke's Restaurant; the Raleigh Hotel; TAI Entertainment; the Bernice Steinbaum Gallery; the Frederic Snitzer Gallery and DindyCo PR & Marketing.

LegalArt is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing artists with affordable legal services. ArtCenter/South Florida is also a not-for-profit organization that provides subsidized studio and exhibition space as well as teaching opportunities for emerging and career artists in their facilities at 800, 810 and 924 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach.

For further information call 305-674-8278 or visit www.artcentersf.org.

This article was written by M. Gil with the help of Dejha Carrington and Dindy & Co.

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