

genre

genre man

by Sharon Kersten

Photo by Tom Franks

who is Noel?

Cuban-born artist Noel may try to keep a low profile at home on South Beach, but his presence always seems to attract a crowd. Aside from the obvious allure of his physical presence, Noel is well-known for the striking images he creates on canvas.

He began his career in the arts as a ballet dancer in Havana, touring throughout Europe and Canada. Immigrating to the U.S. in 1981, he continued his career in dance with Ballet Concerto, Dance Miami, Boston Ballet and New England Dinosaur Dance Company. While affiliated with these companies, he seized the opportunity to cultivate his passion for art by designing sets and costumes for the productions.

In 1986, Noel retired from dancing and concentrated on his lifelong love — painting. In a continuing effort to combat AIDS through his work, he has created images filled with vibrant colors, expressing hope and celebrating life. In 1998, he was selected by Absolut to paint one of the umbrellas for DIFFA's *Pink Umbrellas Project*, as well as to design a jacket for the *DIFFA Dallas Collection*. He also was selected to create the image for New York's *Beauty & Beyond '98* to benefit *Beauty Cares for the AIDS Relief Fund* and Miami's *AIDS Walk 2000* and *White Party Week*.

Noel also creates commissioned works for both private and corporate collections. To learn more about the artist and his work,

