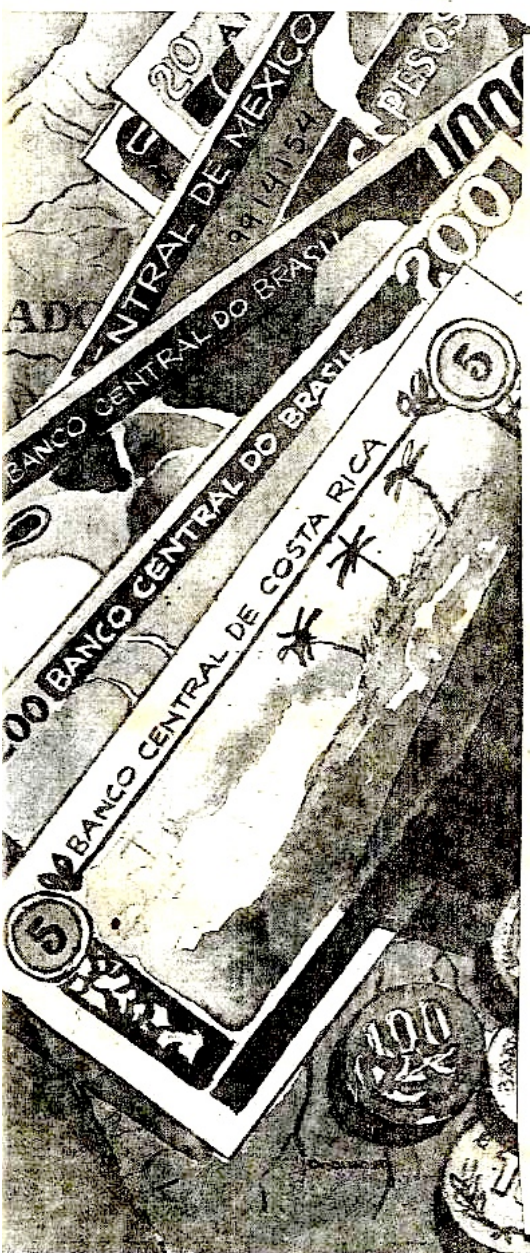




## VISTA SCOPE



### Deco redux

Anyone who thinks art deco is passé has not seen the work of painter Noel Suárez. His images of large, sinuous figures are modern and sophisticated—anything but staid. Suárez did not set



out to be a professional painter. Born in Cuba, he studied ballet at Havana's prestigious National School of Arts and launched his professional career with the Ballet of Cuba. While touring with

the company, Suárez tasted the freedom that residents of other countries enjoyed, and decided to leave his homeland for the United States. Soon after arriving in Miami at 21, he was recruited by the Boston Ballet. Continuing knee problems led him more and more toward his lifelong hobby, painting. "Slowly, I came to realize I could paint for a living," Suárez recalls. In 1987, he decided to forsake his 16-year ballet career and open an art gallery in Boston. "From the moment we opened the doors, the value of my work has gone up," he says. Last year, he decided to move the gallery to Miami Beach, where "there is much more interest in art deco" and where for several years his work had been a hit in that city's Art Deco Festival. The gallery, D'Noel, opens April 12 in the heart of Miami Beach's arts district, and three days before his 33rd birthday. "Art Deco comes naturally to me," explains Suárez. "Whatever I design comes out art deco—it's in the movement, the flow—it comes from within."