

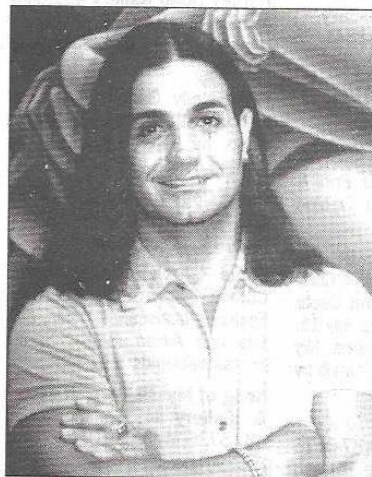
# Portrait of an Artist

by Roger Chauvette

## NOEL

### A Gifted Hunter of Cubist Realism

Noel Suarez Rodriguez grew up in Havana in the early Sixties in an era of turmoil where artistry itself was a challenge. Mother was a professional dancer and Dad was an artist and a photographer. He came out to himself and his family as a teenager. "Being gay was never an issue for my family," he says, "Right from the beginning they always encouraged me to be myself." And he has done so beautifully.



Ballet was Noel's first love and from this skill he learned discipline and persistence. At 28 years of age, a knee injury cut his career short and forced him to take a closer look at the human body and at the way people move. Those observations continue to serve him well today.

He painted, but never felt quite ready or good enough. In 1986 friends convinced him to mount a show of his work. "I had this idea of how tough it is for artists. I always heard about how few of them find success. And I was especially discouraged because I was so used to making a living off of my craft as a dancer, and I didn't want to struggle."

Despite all the richness of his artistic background, none was more surprised than Noel himself when people began to buy his paintings. That first show of 13 paintings sold out completely and Noel has not had to struggle since then. His style recalls the art deco murals of the fifties cinemas and public buildings. He calls it a cross between Cubism and

Realism, but the vision is pure Noel.

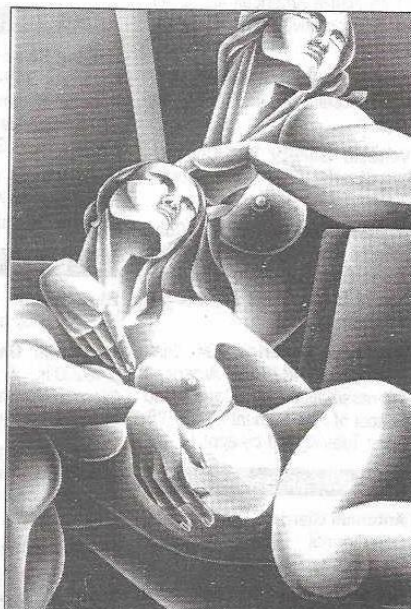
The grandeur of his style lends itself well to large depictions and Noel recently sold one which measured 60 x 52 inches. He has also accepted and fulfilled a number of commissioned paintings for private and corporate clients. Last year he sold more than 20 of his paintings in prices ranging from \$750 to \$10,000. "My subjects have always been androgynous," he states. "One of the reasons people love my females is that they're solid and muscular. I have also tried to portray a softness in my male subjects." Just last week, he closed a show in South Beach, Florida which marked his first exhibit of strictly male images.

He still has many years ahead of him and no doubt we will soon see some of his works transformed into mosaics in the marble halls of major museums, theaters and government memorials. Meanwhile, he continues to appreciate the flexibility and power of the human form at its best.

The paintings on exhibit at Passions Gallery here in Provincetown will be a combination of male and female images

and the show will be dedicated to the late Franco Colombo whom Noel befriended a few years ago while living in Provincetown. At the time, Franco exhibited some of his early works in his restaurant—Franco's By The Sea.

An opening reception will take place at **Passions Gallery**, 336 Commercial St., Unit 2 July 24th between 6-10 pm. Call Esther for further details at 487-5740. Gallery hours Daily 11 am to 11 pm.





# Strength & Passion

Feature Artist for Miami's  
1998 "WHITE PARTY"



Find out more about NOEL in  
this weeks "Portrait of an Artist"

## Noel

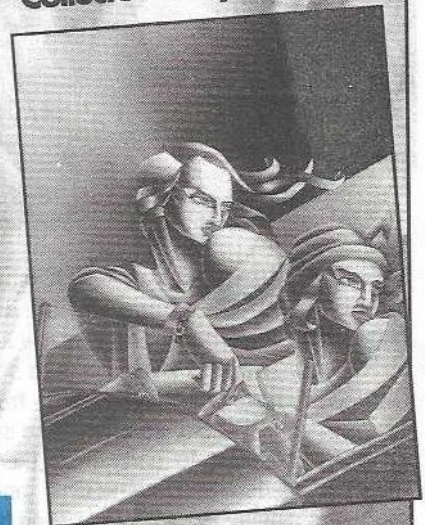
"Women of Strength"  
New Works on Canvas,  
dedicated to the memory  
of Franco Palumbo



Champagne  
Reception

**Friday,  
July 24th**

**6:30PM**  
Collectors only 5PM



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