

# wire



## NEWMOVES

NOEL GETS INTO A  
NEW GROOVE  
WITH HIS LATEST  
WORKS OF ART


PICTURED ABOVE: NO STRINGS ATTACHED

THE LONGEST RUNNING WEEKLY ON SOUTH BEACH

#39

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COVER STORY

# DANCING **AGAIN!**

NOEL SHOWCASES NEW STYLE IN HIGHLY  
COVETED ART SERIES

BY CARL ZABLOTNY

PICTURED: "FORWARD"



South Beach's famed artist Noel has had a dilemma the past few summers. His paintings are always in high demand for collectors everywhere. Yet, Noel really loves to see his creations on the local scene and he likes them exhibited for everyone to enjoy. In recent years he's had a show in Provincetown where the babies he creates are adopted without the local community ever seeing those wonderful pieces.

WIRE decided to dedicate some space to Noel and his recent exhibit at Passions Gallery in Provincetown so that his fan club might see some of those pieces in print. At least there can be a sense of what was created by our beloved Noel other than having to travel to Provincetown for the show!

And the show was a huge success as always. Just about every painting has been accounted for as the exhibit is about to close and that makes the gallery and Noel very happy. He also exhibited a number of more affordable limited edition giclees on canvas as well as his original works during the exhibit that opened in late July.

What's interesting about Noel's new work is that he has moved into a new dimension, painting mostly male nudes. There's a new, creative energy in Noel's recent works that he titled "Dancing Again!" The works appear to combine memories and energy of his early dancing career with his more than 15 years as a professional artist. These paintings seem to have a motion all to themselves. These creations are different, too, in their texture and images which appear a bit more rough than the refined female images of his past. So it seems as though Noel is going through another evolution these days that just keeps his works incredibly fresh and exciting as always.

Noel is always happy to speak to WIRE about his work and how much he appreciates South Beach, especially after his travels up north. So here's the latest scoop on one of South Beach's best loved members of the arts community.

#### WHAT WAS THE THEME FOR THIS SUMMER'S EXHIBIT AT PASSIONS GALLERY?

The inspiration was something that I always wanted to do. I wanted to go back to my roots of dancing. My

work changes every so often. As I evolve, so does my work. So for some reason, since there has always been movement in my work, I wanted to move more and I wanted to concentrate on doing more dancers, which does go back to my ballet roots, and I've expressed that true movement through these new paintings. And I did this with mostly male dancers. Only two paintings are female. That's the basic new direction I'm going. There still will be female paintings, but for some reason I'm very much more in touch with the men's thing.

#### HOW MANY PIECES DID YOU CREATE FOR THIS EXHIBIT?

Eight originals and seven new limited editions. The opening on July 27 was great and very well received. They are almost all sold already and they will be on display through early October. Usually everything sells out. I might get one or two pieces back and I'm always happy to have them back.

#### IS THAT DIFFICULT FOR YOU, THAT YOU CREATE THESE PIECES AND NOBODY ON SOUTH BEACH GETS TO SEE THEM?

It's always so much rushing around getting ready for this show, that there's no time to display them here. I always think that I'm going to have more time, but I don't. This time I was using new techniques that required more time to do the works, too. I'm getting a lot more loose in my movement, in my strokes, so I'm facing new technical challenges and I think it's going to take me a certain amount of time to complete, but it just takes a lot longer. That's a part of the whole process, but Miami never gets to see them unfortunately.

#### ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO DO A SHOW HERE?

At the beginning of the year I will be doing a one-man show. The date's not set just yet. But it will be sometime in February or early March. It will be at Bal Harbour Gallery where I just signed on. I was going to

do my one-man show like I do every year or year and a half, but things changed this year. The last show was November, 1999 at Starfish with Debbie. I've always found a way to do a show. I've been here on the Beach for 14 years now and I've been on my own since the beginning. I've been so lucky to have had such a great following, such great sponsors, and such great supporters. And since I always have my own space, I've never needed representation on the Beach. But I'm growing and I have representation in other cities. There's a lot happening. My growth is forcing me to rely on other people to take care of the other part of the business and actually to help me grow more. It brings me more business. So I want WIRE to be the first to know that I've signed on with Bal Harbour Gallery.

#### LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT A LITTLE MORE IN DETAIL.

Actually, I was having a conversation with my dear friend Charlie Cinnamon. We talked about who I might want to be with on a local level. That was my next step in my business plan. He suggested Bal Harbour Gallery. I was thinking of them because they actually sold a couple of my pieces. For one reason or another people brought a couple of my pieces there to resell them. One of them was the mural that I did at Folia Restaurant. So when they closed, my mural wound up there and it was sold. They liked my work and wanted to work with me, but I really didn't know that. Somehow we never connected. I thought of other places, but I didn't feel as strong or as good about the people I would be working with and giving my work to. That's important for me. So the suggestion coming from Charlie Cinnamon made the most sense. He knew the director and did work for them. That was a major relief for me. I knew of their great reputation, but Charlie made it very clear for me. We met and that was it! We agreed on everything and the plans are fantastic. We even have plans to do some national shows since they do shows in other galleries across the country. And they'll also represent me on the publishing side of things — of my limited editions. These people are very real people and so easy to deal with. There just was a great energy and good feeling. So I'm very excited and very happy! So that's where I will be doing my one-man show.

#### WHO ELSE DO THEY REPRESENT?

A company of great artists like Alexander Nikita, the one who they call the little Picasso. They pretty much brought her to the attention of all of South Florida. They exclusively represent Peter Max. In addition they have Picasso, Botero, Chagall. From a lot of masters to contemporary art, which I like. A lot of galleries just represent masters and they don't have room for contemporary artists. So it's a nice selection of artists. It's



EL SECRETO



nice to know that I'm in good company. It was nice to see my work right next to Botero! I gave them two limited editions already and they were sold in the month I was gone to the show in Provincetown.

This all reminds me of my dancing career. There were so many people I admired in dancing, that you could only dream of dancing with. Then the next thing you know, I was dancing with them! You grow by the company you are with. That's when it hits you. So it's very exciting. And that's the exclusive news for WIRE!

#### LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR ONE-MAN SHOW. WHAT'S GOING TO BE IN IT?

This year it's going to be in the direction of dancing I started with my show at Passions Gallery. It will be more movement and dancing working from sketches I already have started. It's also this very androgynous feeling I have with a lot of movement. It's probably going to be a series of big panels of very masculine, intense men — strong from the inside. It will be like going from one extreme of the very feminine to the very masculine. I will build this individual who can somehow carry both dimensions extremely well while at the same time being very beautiful, like a couture advertisement. I'm also getting into deeper feelings of humanity altogether. Not dressing up the images too much with fabrics. It's exploring as much as I can.

#### TALK ABOUT THE NEW TECHNIQUES YOU ARE DEVELOPING.

After you work and work and work, your top priority as a true artist is to satisfy yourself while you're doing your work. I was almost getting stuck — not feeling stuck — but I felt if I kept going in the same direction as I was, I would get stuck a few months down the road. I can never get stuck. It can never happen to me because if I feel it, then that's when I move in a different direction, into some new things. It makes me question myself about

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doing different things. So I wanted to even get loose with my brush strokes. Instead of having that perfect, smooth finish in my paintings, I loosened it. Movement allows me to leave things a bit looser, to leave the stroke there where it ends without a compulsiveness to smooth it out, to make it perfect. I want to keep the perfectness

of the work there in its foundation, in the perfection of the image. But I want to loosen the image with movement. You can see the image that is clearly there, but somehow, in addition there are all those other things that add to it. I guess I'm trying to introduce abstraction to my figurative art. I'm experimenting and having fun! I have to have fun when I work!

#### SO YOU'VE HAD A GREAT SUMMER, EVERYTHING IS LOOKING GREAT, YOU'VE SIGNED UP WITH A FABULOUS GALLERY IN BAL HARBOUR AND YOUR REPUTATION AND PRICES ARE GOING UP!

No! No! My prices are always going to be reasonable. I'm always going to be accessible to everybody. Whoever can't afford an original, that's why the limited editions are there. The quality is excellent and I put in as much time with them as I do with my originals. There's an amazing market for them too. And they sell for anywhere between \$750 to \$1,300. They are a lot more accessible and they are still very limited editions — the biggest edition is 125 and the smallest 15. It's very selective and fine art approved! So people don't have to worry about that.

#### AND HOW ARE PEOPLE ABLE TO SEE YOUR WORKS?

They can go to my website [www.studioel.com](http://www.studioel.com) or they can come to my studio and see some of my works in progress, before I varnish them. They are originals when they see them. My art will always be accessible. I might have an original that I am selling for \$20,000 but I am also going to have originals that I am selling for \$5,000 or \$6,000. I don't believe in concentrating just in the higher end. People always want to have my work. I don't want to create a situation where people say they love my work, but can't afford it. I don't want to create that image about my work. Rather I want to say, maybe you can't afford that particular painting, but there's always something you can afford.

#### ANYTHING ELSE WIRE READERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW?

I'm single!

