

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

A ZOOM PRESENTATION

Thursday, January 21, 2021 | 1:00 pm

Celebrating Creativity: From Broadway to Manasota Key

Presented by Andy Sandberg



Andy Sandberg

We are delighted to welcome Tony Award winner and Hermitage Artistic Director and CEO, Andy Sandberg, as our January guest speaker. Many of you remember Andy for moderating our “Speaking of the Arts...” event with Hermitage Fellow Allison Loggins-Hull in September.

An accomplished director, writer and Tony Award-winning producer whose career has been committed to new work and artist development, Sandberg was selected to lead the Hermitage Artist Retreat last year following an extensive national search. On January 21, 2021, Sandberg will speak with Arts Advocates about his experience in the world of theater and entertainment, and how his career as a “multi-hyphenate” has informed his approach to his leadership role at the Hermitage. He will also address how the Hermitage is finding creative ways to forge ahead with live outdoor programming, artist residencies, virtual events, and new collaborations while maintaining safety as a top priority.

At the age of 25, Andy became one of the youngest producers in history to win a Tony Award. The 2009 hit revival of “Hair” also won the Drama Desk, Drama League, and Outer Critics Circle Awards. He has won or been nominated for numerous Broadway, Off-Broadway and West End awards as a producer, director and writer, and has worked with such luminaries as James Earl Jones, Angela Lansbury, John Larroquette, Candice Bergen, Eric McCormack, Toni Collette and Marisa Tomei.

Born and raised in New York, Sandberg is a graduate of Yale University with a B.A. in English and Theater Studies, and has served on the board of the Yale Dramatic Association.

Whether you are familiar with the Hermitage or learning about the organization for the first time, this promises to be an exciting and candid conversation with one of Sarasota’s newest and youngest arts leaders.

As an Arts advocates member, you will receive a Zoom link to this presentation.



*The Hermitage Artist Retreat
Sandberg Tony Award*



FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

I wish all Arts Advocates a very happy and healthy 2021! We all hope “it (the pandemic) won't be as long as it has been” and we are looking forward to gathering at Bird Key on or before October, 2021.

The Board and I want to express our deepest appreciation to every one of you who made our POWER YOUR PASSION campaign such a success. We particularly want to thank those members who increased their 2019 donations. In spite of the pandemic, we've raised \$60,000 which means we can continue offering inspiring programs, awarding scholarships and supporting our Collection.

BOARD APPROVAL

At their December meeting, the Board of Directors approved the following:

- Our Curator, Mark Ormond, would primarily focus on acquiring works by Colony Artists,” those associated with Syd Solomon/The Sarasota School of Art.
- Three Colony artists, not currently represented in our collection, are under consideration for acquisition: John Chamberlain, Jimmy Ernst and David Budd.
- To fund acquisitions, approximately 4% of the Arts Advocates bequest may be withdrawn during a given fiscal year. This guideline was recommended by our Investment Task Force and our broker at Cumberland Advisors.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP

The Arts Advocates Board of Directors is legally accountable to you, our members, and the community for prudent management of the organization's finances. This includes thoughtfully managing our ongoing operations as well as being responsible stewards of the Hintzpeter bequest.

BEQUEST HISTORY

In the fall of 2018, The Fine Arts Society received a generous bequest from former member, Barbara Hintzpeter. This bequest stipulates that \$1,100,000 should be used exclusively for the purchase of art. “Art” was limited to paintings and sculpture.

An Investment Task Force was organized with Frank Martucci, a highly respected, retired Wall Street investment banker, as chair. This Task Force evaluated three investment opportunities: The Sarasota Community Foundation, Northern Trust and Cumberland Advisors. Subsequently, Cumberland Advisors was awarded board approval to manage the bequest. The money was transferred to US Bank where our funds

are held with Sarasota-based Cumberland Advisors managing the investments. The Board and Finance Team members hold quarterly reviews with our investment advisors.

ACQUIRING ART

In late December of 2019, Arts Advocates purchased two watercolors by contemporary Florida artist, Dean Mitchell, for a total of \$25,000. This acquisition was the first purchase funded by the bequest. During this fiscal year (2020-2021), the Board approved withdrawing up to \$40,000 to make another purchase. As stated in our bylaws, any acquisition of art must be approved by both the Arts Advocates Board of Directors and our members.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COLLECTION

Arts Advocates Standing Rules (SR:2 A.) state that the Coordinator for the Collection “*shall develop a long-range plan for the Collection.*”

Last December, Linda Bruemmer established a Planning Team to take the lead in developing this plan. Focus groups were organized and there was general agreement that the first order of business was to find new exhibit space. We want to thank Linda for developing this excellent document that provides a road map to follow in the coming years.

GENERAL MEETING AND SPEAKING OF THE ARTS... PROGRAMS

To clarify, there are 6 regularly scheduled General Meeting programs that are included in your annual membership fee of \$55. Speakers are selected from among leading members of our community. These informative programs, business meetings, and coffee-hours are provided for our members at an average of \$8.00 per session. A real bargain by any measure!

Speaking of The Arts... programs have several distinguishing features:

- SPOTA programs are open to the public
- They feature nationally and internationally known artists
- They are planned in collaboration with one or more local arts groups
- There may be a fee to attend. (We've temporarily waived the fee during the pandemic.)



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speaking of the arts...

PRESENTS

“Meet Francisco Serrano”

Artist with England’s Royal Ballet

a Zoom presentation

January 12, 2021 | 1:00 pm

Arts Advocates continues its Speaking of the Arts... series with **Francisco Serrano**, a member of England’s Royal Ballet. Serrano will share his star-studded journey from Sarasota to London via New York and Havana, as well as video clips of him performing and rehearsing.

Arts Advocates is pleased to offer this Speaking of the Arts... program in collaboration with the award-winning Sarasota Cuban Ballet School (SCBS), led by Serrano’s parents, Cuban-born Ariel Serrano, artistic director, and Wilmian Hernandez, managing director.

While still a student at SCBS in Sarasota, Serrano entered the Youth America Grand Prix in 2014. As a top finisher, he was offered a scholarship to train at the Royal Ballet’s Young Dancers program in London. He then trained at the Royal Ballet Upper School before entering the main company as an Artist at the start of the 2017-18 season. His repertory includes roles in *Infra*, *Medusa*, *Flight Pattern*, and many others. He is dancing a featured role in this season’s *Nutcracker*. Among Serrano’s awards are the gold medal in the Pas De Deux in the Youth America Grand Prix, gold medal at the International Student Ballet Competition in Havana, Cuba, and second prize in the Lynn Seymour Award for Expressive Dance, a competition for dancers within the Royal Ballet’s company.

The program will be moderated by Arts Advocates board member and ballet aficionado Jeannette Paladino.



Registration is required

Registration (which is limited) is required; **reserve your spot now** by clicking [here](#). After registering, you will receive a Zoom confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

collection news

“TWO NEW JEWELS IN THE CROWN”

Our thanks to Arts Advocates members who voted almost unanimously to acquire two works by “Colony” Artist, Jimmy Ernst: **Image Scope #21** (1961) and **Sun Chronology** (1958).

Both works were recommended by our curator, Mark Ormond. They meet our criteria for acquisitions since Jimmy maintained a home here on Casey Key, was a contemporary of other well recognized artists such as Syd Solomon, and had not previously been represented in our Collection. Some of our members know Jimmy Ernst's daughter, Amy, who resides in Sarasota and is a well-respected artist with her own international reputation.

The commentary accompanying these paintings mentions that Jimmy Ernst was influenced by Jackson Pollock, and his work is described as being associated with Surrealism and Abstract Expressionism. (His father was Max Ernst, the great Surrealist.) He was part of a New York avant-garde group of young artists who shared a love of jazz.

In his later career, he held teaching positions at Pratt Institute and Brooklyn College, and he was awarded a Carnegie Foundation Grant as well as a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. His works are represented in more than 30 Museums and private collections including The Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art and The Guggenheim Museum.

Several of his books are still available through Amazon: [Jimmy Ernst](#); [Jimmy Ernst: Transcending the Surreal](#); and [A Not So Still Life: A Child of Europe's Pre-World War II Art World and His Remarkable Journey to America](#).

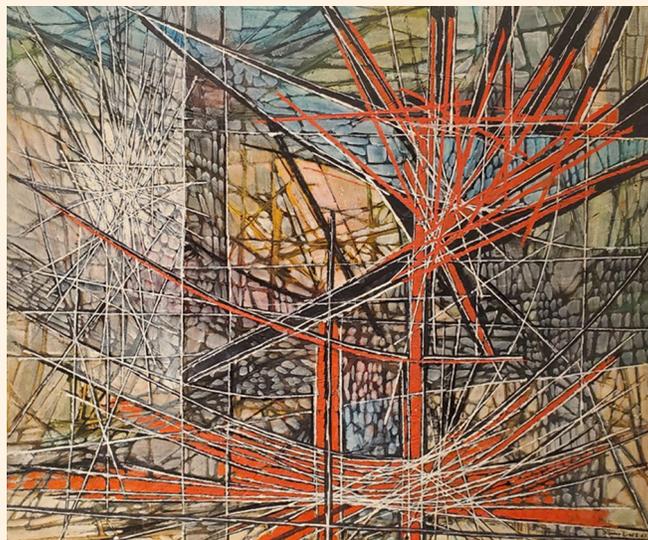


Image Scope #21



Sun Chronology

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT *continued from page 2*

AVAILABLE EXHIBIT/WORKSHOP SPACE

The Board and Collection Team are still searching for an accessible, appropriate and affordable space to exhibit our Collection and to hold workshops. Our organization would really love to have a “home.”

At the Van Wezel, where our 50+ works are currently exhibited, we are running out of wall space. Also, meeting space is not readily available. Recently, Collection Team members have surveyed over 25 possible sites and concluded that, generally speaking, centrally located retail

space is too costly for us to rent. Meanwhile, the Team will continue leading this project.

THE LITMUS TEST

Whenever Arts Advocates is evaluating an event, a project, or activity, the proposal should be tested against our mission: Does it inspire creativity, advance education and connect the community to the arts?

Donna C. Mathison

scholarship committee news

The Scholarship Committee is looking forward to another year of reviewing an array of artistic works produced by inspiring young applicants. Due to concerns presented by the pandemic, we will once again communicate by email, phone and zoom. With the help of knowledgeable support, we are working on making this an online process for ease of information sharing. But we will continue to receive sensitive required information via snail mail.

It has certainly been a learning process! All of us have become more flexible and learned to adapt and comply with new systems. Covid has impacted family economics, and the accompanying statistics have made us aware of the need for more funding to be available than ever before. Your donations for worthy students sustain them financially as well as validating them in these difficult times.

We have reached out to some of our past scholars. Please read about how these changing times have impacted them as they pursue their passions. (See below).

Jackie Salvino, Deb Altshul - Stark
Arts Advocates Scholarship Committee Co-chairs

From Our Scholars



Alexis McKinnon
2020 Scholar - Florida
International University

"Hello! My university is actually planning on having a fair amount of its classes in person, so my next semester will be mostly in-person studio art classes and

maybe one or two remote classes. This past semester was fully remote, so I was completing multiple studio-intended art classes in my apartment. I also do plan on reapplying and am excited to see what comes from this next semester! Please let me know if any additional information from me would be helpful."

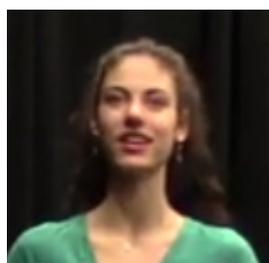


Emma Pritchett
2020 Scholar - University of
South Florida

"Hi, thanks for reaching out! The traditional college experience everyone thrives about has done a complete 360. The typical hands-on experience where students thrive

off the support and ideas from the help of other classmates and teachers is much harder to access. However, there have been some pros to the online formatting of this past semester such as advancing students a step further and sooner into the technological design...developing skills on computer applications that we will use after graduation, earlier on in the program. It has been a push for everyone this semester taking on new techniques and skills in the comfort of our home without the constant supervision of a

teacher along the way. The next semester is looking to be the same format as this semester with a majority of classes online and only a few held in person. It will be nice to have a few social experiences in those classrooms with the classmates I will be graduating with in the next four years. I am looking into re-applying this year for the scholarship. I appreciate all the help you have given! I hope everyone is doing well." Happy Holidays.



Thaleia Dasberg
2020 Scholar - Barnard College

"Good morning! I apologize for the delay in my response—it has been a busy week of finals preparations. I hope you are all well, and had lovely Thanksgivings.

Barnard, unfortunately, made a last minute decision to do a fully remote fall semester. Though this was certainly a disappointment, it was definitely the more cautious choice. They have tried to make this semester as "normal" as possible, and have been extremely supportive, especially of first years. I've still been able to take advantage of ballet, poetry, and acting classes through the virtual medium!

Next semester, we have been told to expect that some spaces (like labs and studios) to open up, and that some classes may be hybrid. I'm looking forward to being on campus!

Also, yes, I was planning to (and am very excited to) reapply for the scholarship. I am so thankful for your support and for the important things you do for the Sarasota community and its students. Thank you so much for reaching out! I hope you have a restful and warm holiday season!"

Sarasota Cuban Ballet School Takes the Stage

by Jeannette Paladino



One of the less well-known treasures of the Sarasota arts community is the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School (SCBS). In under 10 short years, and still operating out of its original studio in a strip mall on Beneva Road, the school has gained an international reputation for training professional dancers who have gone on to careers in major ballet companies. These include the Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet, Dance Theater of Harlem, Boston Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, and San Antonio Ballet.

At the January Speaking of the Arts... event, members will meet Francisco Serrano, son of the founders, who trained at the school and is now an artist with the Royal Ballet.

Cuban-born husband and wife team Ariel Serrano and Wilman Hernandez trained at the elite National Ballet School of Cuba and danced internationally before retiring as principal dancers with the Sarasota Ballet. They founded the school in 2011 with their own children as their first students.

The heart of the school is its Pre-Professional Program, a rigorous training course that prepares talented young dancers for professional careers following the renown Cuban method with its emphasis on balance, turning prowess, flexibility, jump elevation, dynamism, and partnering. However, the school also welcomes amateur students of all ages who simply enjoy dancing as a recreational activity in classes taught by award-winning instructors.

The school grew over time and now attracts students from around the world who have won international competitions while still in training. SCBS dancers have wowed judges and captured Grand Prix, Gold and Silver Medals at the world's largest ballet competition, the Youth America Grand Prix. Many Ballet companies have recruited these young dancers for their companies.

To learn more about the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School, click [here](#).

