



### **Miguel Paredes Basic Sample Interview**

Can you tell us a little about your personal background?

- Born in New York City in 1966
- Latin-American decent
- Attended Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music and Art - immortalized in the musical and movie *Fame*
- Personal mentor is Ronnie Cutrone, Andy Warhol's immediate assistant at the Factory
- Moved to Miami Beach, FL in the mid 1980s
- Apprenticed for Paul Kus, a former FBI art forgery expert in the 1990s
- Owner of PK Graphics, a nationwide graphic design and printing company
- Currently resides in Pinecrest, FL with his wife Joyce and children

Did you have any formal art training?

- Fiorello LaGuardia High School of Music and Art
- Apprenticed for Paul Kus, a former FBI art forgery expert in the 1990s
- Personal studio space at the Art Center of South Florida in the 1990s

What inspires you?

- Urban roots and early life in New York
- My children are a big source of inspiration
- Nature
- Japanese animation
- Graffiti
- Pop culture

Favorite art medium?

- All of them. Traditional canvas, metal, wood, cloth, digital and anything else I can paint on

What is your favorite aspect of art?

- Able to express my creativity without any limits
- Everyone has their own perception

Who inspired you to be an artist?

- Always shown great artistic ability
- Pop artists such as Andy Warhol and Keith Haring
- My mentor Ronnie Cutrone

What do you put in your art that represents you?

- The realistic nature of my paintings – utilizing realism with urban themes
- Urban realism represents my childhood and growth as an artist
- My love for Japanese animation

What are your current collections/installations at Miguel Paredes Fine Art Gallery?

- *Brownstone Lounge* – a permanent 3D interior mural installation
- *Elements of an Artist Series*
- *Los Niños Series* and sculptures
- *Pulgha and Birds Series*
- *Boroughs Series*
- *Urban Dreams Series*
- *Culture in a Bag Series*

Where is Miguel Paredes Fine Art Gallery located and when is it open?

- In the heart of the Wynwood Arts District - 173 NW 23<sup>rd</sup> ST. Miami, FL. 33127
- It is open every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays Art Walk from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. and by appointment. To make an appointment for a private viewing please call 866.534.2184 ext 2244

Any community art works?

- Donated a mosaic mural entitled "The New Yorker/Senator" to the Miami Design Preservation League's Art Deco Welcome Center - March 2011 - 1001 Ocean Drive Miami Beach, FL 33139
- Donated a mosaic mural entitled "Pulgha World" to the Wynwood Arts District – June 2010 - 2399 NW 2nd Ave. Miami, FL. 33127

Any awards/honors?

- I recently became the first Miami-Dade resident to ever receive simultaneous proclamations from the City of Miami Beach and Village of Pinecrest honoring my artistic donation to the Miami Design Preservation League, support of historic preservation, devotion to the city and positive impact on the community. March 2011

Past Art Basel Miami Beach participation?

- Miguel Paredes National Gallery - Artist-In-Residence at the iconic National Hotel during Art Basel Miami Beach, 2010