

SunSentinel

THE WEEKENDER



Laura Russell's "Sentinels of the Desert" (2020). TROPIC BOUND ARTISTS BOOK FAIR PHOTOS

Pushing boundaries

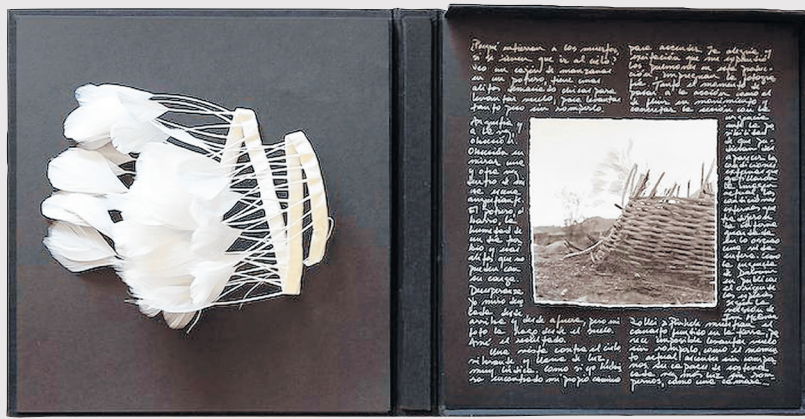
It's not a book fair or an art fair; this weekend's new event is an *artists' book fair*. What's the distinction?

By Douglas Markowitz
Artburstmiami.com

There are art books. You may have some lining your shelves right now, from museum show catalogs, unplanned purchases from a bookstore sale cart, or random used collectors' items.

Then there are *artists' books*. It's an important distinction. Rather than documenting the work of a certain artist, the *artists' book* is a work of art all on its own.

"It's intended as an art object, not necessarily a book that is explaining art," says Ingrid Schindall of IS Projects, a printmaking studio that last year moved from Fort Lauderdale to Miami's Little River neighbor-



From Ojos Negros Impress, Santiago, Chile.

hood. "Sometimes the books will have words in them, sometimes they won't, sometimes they'll take a traditional book form that you would expect a book to take, and sometimes they'll be totally strangely shaped, or open in a weird way, or maybe they won't even open at all."

From canonical modern artists like Paul Matisse to midcentury pranksters like Guy Debord and Asger Jorn, plenty of artists have turned to the book as a means of expression. Now, South Florida is about to get a page or two full of book art with Tropic Bound, an art fair dedicated to artists' books.

The fair kicks off on Thursday, Feb. 16, with a "Welcome Day," featuring symposiums, shuttle tours and a welcome party, and then the fair begins in earnest on Friday, Feb. 17, and runs through Sunday, Feb. 19. The multiday event, at Paradise Plaza in the Miami Design District, is free and open to the public, but a ticket is required for entrance.

Tropic Bound is the brainchild of three women involved in South Florida's arts scene:

- Schindall of IS Projects, a public-access, fully staffed printmaking and

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Actor goes from Oakland Park to Broadway

Thompson playing dream role in national tour of 'Wicked'

By Michelle F. Solomon
Miamiartztine.com

Oakland Park-born and -bred Christian Thompson has the role of his life: He's playing the dashing prince, Fiyero, in the national tour of the Broadway musical "Wicked."

When Thompson steps on stage in Miami's Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, where the show is running through March 5, it will mark only his ninth performance in the role.

"I premiered in the tour in Orlando on Feb. 7, just in time to do the shows in Miami," says Thompson, who is one of five actors that became new cast members mid-tour, all beginning the run with the show in Orlando. The other new cast members are Tara Kostmayer as Nessarose; Kyle McArthur as Boq; Boise Holmes as Doctor Dillamond; and Timothy Shew as The Wizard.

Inspired by the Gregory Maguire novel, "Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West," the Broadway musical by Stephen Schwartz and Winnie Holzman looks at what happened in the Land of Oz long before the events of L. Frank Baum's 1900 classic "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" begin. It focuses on the friendship between high school students Elphaba and Galinda, who eventually become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda, Good Witch of the North. (In Baum's book, she's Glinda; in Maguire's, she changes her name from Galinda.)

For Thompson, 30, stepping into the role of Fiyero isn't only a dream come true — he's been in the audience nine times since he first saw "Wicked" on Broadway at age 10 — there's another special significance, too. The Jamaican-American actor says he is among a small number of Black actors who have portrayed the dashing prince.

"I believe that in the history of 'Wicked' there have been less than 10 [Black actors] that have

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Tennis and tacos in Delray Beach, omakase brunch in Fort Lauderdale



The scene during the 2022 Delray Beach Open. Just look at the size of that tennis court! LYNNE SLADKY/AP



Ben Crandell
Go Guide

If you've been looking to party with a lean, athletic, fashionable crowd (such as yourself), Atlantic Avenue is the place to be during the always buzzy finals weekend at the Delray Beach Open.

New this year is the Tacos, Tequila and Tennis party, which offers top local tacos (vendors include Rocco's Tacos, Las Catrinas and Tacowa) and cock-

tails (by Dano's Tequila) in the hospitality tent steps away from the stadium on Thursday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Your general-admission ticket to Tacos, Tequila and Tennis (\$90+) includes access to Thursday night's matches. VIP tickets are sold out, of course. A portion of the proceeds will support Love Serving Autism.

The Delray Beach Open's signature event (drinking category) is Friday night's annual Game, Set, Pour gathering of local breweries, spirit makers and restaurants, to benefit the education nonprofit KulaCares. Unfortunately (for us, not them),

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Oakland Park's Christian Thompson is playing the dashing prince, Fiyero, in the national tour of the Broadway musical "Wicked." JOAN MARCUS

3rd Annual

DOWNTOWN DELRAY BEACH CRAFT FESTIVAL

February 18-19
Sat./Sun. 10am - 5pm

Outdoors on NE 4th Ave. & E. Atlantic Ave. in Downtown Delray Beach, FL

FREE ADMISSION





A scene from the current company of the national tour of Broadway's "Wicked," playing through March at Miami's Arsht Center for the Performing Arts. **JOAN MARCUS**

Thompson

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been cast in the role in the show's 20-year run, and there have been companies all over the world, so it means a lot to me," says Thompson.

He credits his mother, Sherri Patterson, with taking him to see his first Broadway musical, "Cats," when he was 7 years old at Fort Lauderdale's Broward Center for the Performing Arts. After that, he says he was hooked on musical theater.

He saw "Wicked" on Broadway three years later. "My mother and I were in New York for an event, and it was the day we were supposed to go home, but my mother said, 'Let's try to go see 'Wicked,'" he says.

They put their names in for last-minute tickets, a lottery as it is called, for the matinee, but "we lost," he recalls. "Being the supportive super-woman that she is, my mother wanted to try again for the evening show." They won — and had to change their flight back to Florida — and saw the original Galinda/Glinda, Kristin Chenoweth, at the Gershwin Theatre.

His mother continues to be his biggest fan, he says, driving from South Florida to Orlando to see him make his debut as Fiyero and she plans to be in the audience at the Arsht Center, too.

Thompson decided he

wanted to be an actor when he was in the third grade, and he fondly remembers dancing with a hip-hop troupe from "the time I was 9 until I was 13," his mom driving him to Boca Raton for rehearsals. The family lived across the street from North Andrews Gardens Elementary School of the Arts in Fort Lauderdale, then he went on to Parkway Middle School in Lauderdale. He earned a performing arts scholarship to American Heritage School.

When it was time to apply to colleges, he headed to New York to take part in the National Unified Auditions, where more than two dozen universities and colleges from across the country audition students to join their theater programs. He was offered a scholarship to Penn State University. After multiple roles in regional theater, in 2016 he was cast as Benny in the national touring company of the Broadway musical "Rent," which came to the Broward Center. He remembers the feeling of life coming full circle when he was on stage in the same place where he had sat in the audience as a youngster to see his first Broadway musical.

When he talks about "Wicked," his genuine love for the show comes through. "It's one of the best-written musicals of all time. It has the perfect mixture of originality, a lot

of spectacle, plus a lot of heart and intellect," he says. "There's something really wonderful about my role."

He finds an even deeper depth in the bond that develops between Elphaba and Fiyero: "She is looked at as different because she is born with green skin ... Elphaba is a 'person of color' in a way. So, when you have these two outsiders connecting, that's a slightly different story that has an impact in a different way ... and I'm looking forward to exploring just what that means."

The actor says he hopes he can make an impact on the "little me" that may be sitting in the audience, a kid like the wide-eyed, 10-year-old Thompson who first saw "Wicked" on Broadway.

"I want to be an inspiration. I think that I've been given a huge opportunity," he says.

What: Broadway in Miami presents "Wicked"
When: Through Sunday, March 5
Where: Ziff Ballet Opera House at Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, 1300 Biscayne Blvd., Miami
Cost: \$33-\$193
Information: 305-949-6722; arshcenter.org

Miamiartzine.com is part of the Miami Beach Arts Trust and has a mission to serve and inform South Florida's arts community.

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9851 S. Military Trail, Boynton Beach

captainscatchseafoodrestaurant.com

FOR SOME, FEELING LEFT OUT LASTS MORE THAN A MOMENT. WE CAN CHANGE THAT.

We've all had moments where we've felt we didn't belong. But for people who moved to this country, that feeling lasts more than a moment. Together, we can build a better community. Learn how at BelongingBeginsWithUs.org

ad COUNCIL

OPENING WEEKEND IS JUST DAYS AWAY!



Festival of the ARTS BOCA

March 3-12
festivalboca.com



SCAN FOR TICKETS

2023 FULL SCHEDULE

FRI MAR 3 7:30 PM	Fantasia Live with Orchestra One of the greatest films of all time as it was meant to be — with live orchestra!
SAT MAR 4 7:30 PM	Voices Rise – Young People's Chorus of NYC The acclaimed youth chorus in a joint performance with the Young Singers of the Palm Beaches and Broadway star Christina Maxwell.
SUN MAR 5 7:00 PM	A Night at the Ballet: From Tchaikovsky to the Rolling Stones An exhilarating production featuring an all-star cast in the most loved classical ballets and new choreography set to popular music.
MON MAR 6 7:00 PM	Lynne Olson – Women in the Resistance in WWII On the daring young women who led France's spy network against Hitler.
TUE MAR 7 7:00 PM	Future Stars Competition Presented with the Rotary Club of Boca Raton, this live competition will celebrate some of South Florida's top young dancers and singers.
WED MAR 8 7:00 PM	Fran Lebowitz Would Like a Word The inimitable social commentator commands the stage for a night of insightful social commentary.
THU MAR 9 7:00 PM	Charles Fishman on The Future of Water The respected journalist discusses the global challenges around water, exploring some solutions.
FRI MAR 10 7:30 PM	Nicole Henry – Time to Love Again One of our most acclaimed jazz singers, in a new concert featuring her just-released CD, accompanied by a seven-piece band.
SAT MAR 11 7:30 PM	Scheherazade and Solos An enchanting evening centered around two inspiring young soloists, with Festival Orchestra Boca conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos.
SUN MAR 12 7:00 PM	Sergio Mendes The legendary three-time Grammy award-winning musician closes Festival Boca in an exclusive South Florida performance.

Mizner Park Amphitheater
590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton FL

festivalboca.org
561-757-4762

MARCH 3
Fantasia Live with Orchestra and special pre-concert family activities

MARCH 4
Voices Rise – Young People's Chorus of New York City

AUTHORS & IDEAS SERIES

MARCH 8
Fran Lebowitz

MARCH 6
Lynne Olson

MARCH 9
Charles Fishman

MARCH 5
A Night at the Ballet: From Tchaikovsky to the Rolling Stones



Presented by The Schmidt Family Centre for the Arts outdoors in Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton – Constantine Kitsopoulos, Music Director. Sponsored in part by the Tourist Development Council, and the Cultural Council for Palm Beach County.