



CHANGING THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT.

by Margery Gordon

IRREVERSIBLE  
An International Art Project

**Doug McCraw** is the Founder and visionarie behind FAT Village (Flagler Arts and Technology) a local businessman, and native of Alabama, in partnership with **Lutz Hofbauer**, have carefully paired creative sectors with complementary sensibilities and track records of revitalizing neighborhoods aesthetically and economically. Back in 2000 McCraw had purchased a number of warehouses on NW First Avenue between Fifth and Sixth streets in Ft. Lauderdale; and with the support of **Margi Nothard** of Glavovic Studio (Margi Glavovic Nothard is an artist and the design principal of Glavovic Studio Inc. Among her Representative Architectural projects are Young Circle ArtsPark in Hollywood, Florida, the renowned Bridge-Stair Sculpture at the NSU Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale followed by the art commission Threshold, a site specific artwork, the 'Girls' Club, for which Glavovic Nothard invented the representative image and spatial construct, and the Young At Art Museum and Broward County Library's LEED gold project with AECOM) whom drew up some master plans, along with architect **Tony Abbate**, all together lead to The Flagler Arts and Technology Village and the Fat Village Art Walk. In few words "FAT Village is a synthesis of talent and collaboration; a real community." Much credit includes the extremely creative minds of FAT Village curators Peter Symons and Leah Brown.

In February of 2003 the gallery walks started but it wasn't until Spring of 2008 that the FAT Village ArtWalk really took off. McCraw reckoned that the edgy vibe of this urban grid would appeal to working artists and youthful proprietors of tech start-ups. While they were calibrating these cells into a vibrant network, other clusters of artists and institutions were growing organically, artist's studios, tech start ups, galleries, live theater, some of Broward's top filmmakers, photographers, artists, designers, urban planners and web developers. were weaving connective tissue across Fort Lauderdale's downtown. "The art community here is unstoppable," McCraw observes. "You can feel it; there's an excitement that's palpable." But the ultimate affirmation, roundly cited as evidence of a creative breakthrough, was Bonnie Clearwater's recent arrival as director of the Nova Southeastern University Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale after transforming the Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami into an internationally renowned trendsetter. Clearwater's move is already a "seminal" boost for Fort Lauderdale's art scene, says McCraw.

**Every last Saturday of the month from 7 to 11 pm**, the Fat Village Art Walk takes place bringing the artists community, music concerts, street artists market, and food trucks all together. Upon donation they serve wine, beer and cocktails all night.



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1. **New Faces of Hollywood.** Leah Brown, Christian Feneck, Jamey Grimes, Jim Hammond, Chris Kuonen, and Peter Symons.
2. **The Unmade Room** Exhibition curated by Christian Feneck
3. **Catalyst** Exhibition Curated by Leah Brown and Peter Symons
4. **Self Lit** Exhibition Curated by Leah Brown and Peter Symons  
Detail Sculpture: When Does a Mirror Become a Lantern?



# The Girls' Club Collection

Francie Bishop Good + David Horvitz



**Lisa Sanditz**, If you didn't know it's the Swiss Alps, you might believe you're there, 2003. Mixed media on canvas, 72 x 68"



**Chantal Joffe** | Kristen | 2008, Oil on board, 96 x 72 in.



**Vera Iliatova** | Practice | 2011 | Oil on canvas, 42 x 36 in.



## Works from The Collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz

Founded in 2006 by Fort Lauderdale couple **Francie Bishop Good + David Horvitz**, Girls' Club is a 501(c)3 foundation and alternative space with the unique designation as the world's only private collection of contemporary art by women open to the public. Started informally, the collection now encompasses cutting edge works in painting, drawing, photography, installation, sculpture and video from the 1960s to the present. Year-long curated, thematic exhibitions are installed each autumn, and are augmented by a year-round program of events to which the public is invited. Artist talks and demonstrations, film screenings, collaborative/multi-disciplinary projects in dance and theater, and professional and educational opportunities for artists by artists all serve to connect audiences to the collection and to new developments in contemporary art in engaging and innovative ways.

Girls' Club has always run along "artist-centric" lines, which is not surprising, as Founder and President **Francie Bishop Good** is an artist, as is Gallery Director **Sarah Michelle Rupert** and Creative Director **Michelle Weinberg**. Bishop Good believes "I think you bring a special understanding to contemporary art when you're involved as a maker of art first." Her artist-centric ethos has informed all that Girls' Club does, at every level. From creating opportunities to advance careers for local artists to providing rare on-the-job training for budding art administrators in Girls' Club's internship and fellowship programs, to incorporating the program ideas of an annual writer-in-residence from Broward County, to collaborating with local curators, Girls' Club is truly a hub of female contemporary art activity.

It's no coincidence that the Girls' Club office space resembles a hive. The exhibition facility is a dynamic, multi-functional building created by AIA award-winning designer **Margi Nothard** of Glavovic Studio in Fort Lauderdale. After meeting with Bishop Good, Nothard took away key elements from the artist's work - transparency and light - and translated them into a container for viewing art. The facade, when lit at night, resembles a glowing forest of slender tree trunks, and also evokes the local marine industry, re-purposing materials originally intended for use in yachts. These seemingly disparate visual ideas coalesce seamlessly, creating an impressive stage for Girls' Club and the adjacent artist studio belonging to Francie Bishop Good. It's quite possible that this convergence of art, artists and architecture could only occur here, in Fort Lauderdale.

## The Moment. The Backdrop. The Persona.

Curated by Michelle Weinberg, Sarah Michelle Rupert

The Moment, The Backdrop, The Persona, is an examination of the uses of narrative in contemporary art. The exhibition of works in drawing, painting, video, photography and new media reveals the continued power of storytelling in art today, and the myriad forms it takes. The desire on the part of the artist to tell a story, and on the part of the viewer to glean one - in painting, photography, video, performance and more - is irresistible to the human spirit. To recognize the prevalence of narrative in art of the moment, the exhibition of works by more than thirty artists from the collection of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz invite the viewer to experience a singular isolated moment, an evocative backdrop or a deeply imagined character, sometimes a combination of two or more. Mostly the work of female contemporary artists, many of the stories channel archetypal narratives from mythology and fairy tales. Others examine contemporary relationships across a vast range, from sober examinations of self and environment to high melodramas with a cast of larger-than-life characters.

Art works by Nina Chanel Abney, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Kate Gilmore, Chantal Joffe, Rosemary Laing, Natalya Laskis, Lori Nix, Lisa Sanditz, Dasha Shishkin, Su-en Wong and others are included. Public programming throughout the year includes artists talks, workshops, experimental theatre, readings and other events involving the public in the dynamic occupation of storytelling. A catalog will document the exhibition with an introduction by the curators Michelle Weinberg and Sarah Michelle Rupert, essays by prominent national and local writers and a chapbook of poetry inspired by the exhibit by Laura McDermott, Girls' Club's current writer in residence.

Exhibition Dates November 7, 2014 - September 26, 2015  
girlsclubcollection.org