

# MIAMI IS NICE

A GROUP ART EXHIBITION AND QUEER PERFORMANCE SERIES

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Opening Reception of *Miami is Nice* A *Golden Girls* Inspired Art Exhibition in Baltimore October 7, 2017 | 7-10pm



(Baltimore, MD) *Miami is Nice* is a group art exhibition, queer performance series, and gay wedding celebration, inspired by the hit television show *The Golden Girls*. This month long event features a moderated discussion with *Golden Girls* screenwriter Stan Zimmerman, queer performance evenings, and artwork by local and national artists. ***Miami is Nice* runs from October 7 – October 28, 2017 at SpaceCamp**, an artist-run art gallery in the Station North Arts & Entertainment District, located at 16 West North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201.

*Miami is Nice* takes guests to an idealized version of South Florida in the 1980s, a decade primarily known within the queer community for the devastating consequences of the AIDS crisis, and the triumphant acts of perseverance which mobilized a generation to fight for recognition. Utilizing *The Golden Girls* as a symbol of profound acceptance, *Miami is Nice* continues that fight by offering a joyful and nostalgic escape from the struggles of daily life to an actualized paradise: a world in which love wins.

### ***Miami is Nice* will feature the following artists:**

Akea Brown, Alex Ebstein, Alex Schechter, Alice Gadzinski, Alissa Eberle (PA), Amy Boone McCreesh, Andrew Indelicato (VA), Anne Stringer, Anya Mizani, April Pink (MD), Brice Peterson (NJ), Chinen Aimi Bouillon, Colby Katz (NC), Colin Klockner (VA), Danya Smith (VA), Dave Eassa, Diza Hope, LaboMamo by Danilo de la Torre and David Rohn (FL), Devin Morris, Esther Ruiz (NY), Felice Cleveland (TX), Gary Godbey, Hannah Hiaasen (NY),

Jackie Cassidy (NJ), Jill Fannon, Warm Brothers by Jordan Parvex (CA), Katie Duffy (IL), Leah Guadagnoli (NY), Leanne Maxey (NY), Magali Hebert-Hout, Michael Farley, Nick Simko (NM), Nick Horan, Polly Mizani, Rachel Debuque, Richard Munaba (NY), Porn Nail\$ by Rosemarie Romero (FL), Ryan Lauderdale (NY), Samuel Draxler (NY), Sidney Pink (MD), Spencer Meyers (FL), Hysteria by Tanya Garcia & Valeria Molinari, Tiffany Smith (NY), Tiffany Threadgould (PA) & Kat Tingum (NY), Zachary Z. Handler

“I am thrilled to bring this timely exhibition to Baltimore right now in light of the recent attacks on the LGBTQIA+ community,” said Curator Zachary Z. Handler. “Our goal is to spark conversations around what it means to create freely and live openly with art and performances that celebrate joy and resilience and continue fighting for LGBTQIA+ equality in the age of Trump. I’m particularly excited to have audiences meet one of the original creators of *The Golden Girls* and hear him speak about his experience writing for the show in the 1980’s and the many ways he fought to make *The Golden Girls* the subversive pop culture phenomenon it is today.”

In addition to the various programmatic elements, *Miami is Nice* will host a gay wedding celebration of Baltimore artists and performers, Zachary Z. Handler and Nick Horan as part of the exhibition. Decorative remnants from the reception will remain in the gallery for the duration of the show as an art installation: a reminder of the ever-present fragility of the queer experience in America today.

“Miami is Nice is more than just a wedding in an art show,” said Michelle Ivette Gomez, Founder, Creative Unions Event Design. “It is a safe space for the LGBTQIA+ community and artists that are being acknowledged, while also having such a personal impact on Zachary and Nick’s special day. The fact that we have 45 artists represented in the show feels like a beautiful and poignant coincidence in light of our 45<sup>th</sup> president.”

**A portion of all artwork sales will go to the non-profit groups *SAGE Advocacy and Services for LGBT Elders* and *Trans Women of Color Collective*.**

The exhibition is curated by a team of Baltimore-based artists, Zachary Z. Handler, Nick Horan, Michelle Ivette Gomez of Creative Unions Event Design, and Carlyn Thomas of Terrault Gallery.

***Miami is Nice* exhibition and all associated programming are FREE.**

**Gallery hours:** Thursdays and Fridays from 6-10pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 12-4pm (except Saturday, October 14th)

**Location:** SpaceCamp, 16 West North Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201.

For additional information visit [www.miamiisnice.com](http://www.miamiisnice.com). To schedule an appointment beyond gallery hours, please contact [miamiisnicenice@gmail.com](mailto:miamiisnicenice@gmail.com).

*Miami is Nice* is generously sponsored by The Awesome Foundation and Free Fall Baltimore.

(Featured images (left to right): *B.E.D. in Red*, Spencer Meyers; *None of Your Bismol*, Leah Guadagnoli; *Sweet Dreams*, Rosemarie Romero)

## **Additional Miami Is Nice Programming**

### **Cheesecake Conversations: an evening with Stan Zimmerman and H. Alan Scott**

October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

FREE

It's been 25 years since the last episode of our favorite Florida friend group, and its time to have a reunion! Join the host of "Out on The Lanai: A *Golden Girls* Podcast" H. Alan Scott and *Golden Girls* writer Stan Zimmerman for a live broadcast conversation that celebrates the past present and future of this iconic series and the love it inspires. This Q&A is the perfect celebration of all things *Golden Girls!*

### **Free Fall Baltimore Closing Reception and Queer Performance Evening**

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

FREE

This Free Fall Baltimore sponsored event brings together Baltimore based queer performing artists for an evening of drag, poetry, music, dance, and community within the gallery exhibition which takes guests to an idealized version of South Florida in the 1980s and offers a joyful and nostalgic escape from the struggles of daily life to an actualized paradise: a world in which love wins.

### **About the Team:**

Zachary Z. Handler is a multi-disciplinary visual artist and photographer. Zachary also works in the healthcare field with the Deaf community. Over the past twenty years he has streamlined both careers by designing and teaching arts education programs, across the country and overseas to Deaf community members of all ages. [www.zzhandler.com](http://www.zzhandler.com)

**Nick Horan** is an actor, director and playwright currently living in Baltimore, MD. He is a founding member of Izumi Ashizawa Performance Company, and has worked closely with Synetic Theatre Company, Studio Theatre, and Playwrights Festival developing his Queer solo work which he tours to festivals around the nation.

**Michelle Ivette Gomez** is a curator and arts entrepreneur from Miami, FL who founded Creative Unions Event Design, the first event planning company dedicated to integrating contemporary art into life's celebrations. [www.creativeunionsllc.com](http://www.creativeunionsllc.com)

**Carlyn Thomas** is a curator, producer, arts administrator, and promoter. She serves the Baltimore community as the Director of Terrault Gallery, an artist-run gallery in the Maryland Art Place building in the Bromo Arts District. [www.terraultcontemporary.com](http://www.terraultcontemporary.com)

### **About SpaceCamp**

Spacecamp is an open source, curated community space for artistic projects in Baltimore with a goal of creating temporary autonomous zones for the habitation of social and cultural activations.