



The Betsy Hotel Presents Miami Artists Ray Elman & Robert Zuckerman in Portraits of Poets
O, Miami Works by Gesi Schilling, Steve 'ESPO' Powers, & poetry catalogue round out the show for National Poetry Month

The Betsy – South Beach announces the opening of Portraits of Poets, an exhibition of photographs by award-winning artists Raymond Elman, Robert Zuckerman, Gesi Schilling, and Stephen 'ESPO' Powers for National Poetry Month 2016. A full month of poetry programming will accompany the show including an Exhibition Opening, with artists present, on April 12 from 6:30 to 9 PM. National Poetry Month programs are underwritten by The Betsy's Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education (PACE) initiatives that have garnered international acclaim.

Raymond Elman (b. 1945) arrived in Provincetown in 1970. He made abstract art until 1989, when he invented a technique for making large-scale portraits to document his wife Lee's pregnancy and the birth of their son, Evan. Elman then shifted focus to documenting his life in the art community, by making portraits of the many talented artists and writers he knew who embrace the Outer Cape. Since 1989, Elman has made more than 220 portraits, four of which are in the collection of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. Works in Betsy's Portraits of Poets show by Ray Elman include: Richard Blanco, Stanley Kunitz, Robert Pinsky, Alan Dugan, Mark Strand, Elize Asher, Gail Mazer, Becky Okrent and Hyam Plutzik, father of Betsy owner Jonathan Plutzik.

Robert Zuckerman (b. 1955) has been a fixture in Hollywood for the last thirty years, taking images for such films as "The Crow," "I Know What You Did Last Summer," "Any Given Sunday," "Training Day," "Terminator 3," "Bad Boys 2", "National Treasure," "Transformers," "Pursuit of Happyness" and "The Great Debaters," among others. Whether on or off the set, his connection is to emotional content, to the feeling present in the subject and in the moment. Zuckerman has photographed countless weddings, family portraits, and pregnancy pictures – anything where there is spirit and love in the room, from the inner city to the mansions of Malibu. Works in Betsy's Portrait of Poets show by Robert Zuckerman include Maya Angelou, Leonard Cohen, Alan Ginsburg, Julie Marie Wade, Stacie Waite, Victor Rodriguez Nunez, Campbell McGrath, DeLana Dameron. Many of his images were taken at The Betsy Hotel.

Gesi Schilling is a photographer based in Miami. She began her practice in photojournalism at The Miami Herald. The spectrum of her work includes portrait, reportage, architecture, food, and wedding photography. Works in Betsy's Portraits of Poets show by Gesi Schilling include Scott Cunningham, Steve Powers, and Reginald Dwayne Betts, photographed at The Betsy-South Beach. Her images of "Love Letter To Miami", a mural created by Stephen Powers are also exhibited.

Stephen J. Powers (b. 1968) wrote graffiti in Philadelphia and New York under the name ESPO ("Exterior Surface Painting Outreach"). In 2000 Powers become a full-time studio artist. His work has been shown at the prestigious Venice and Liverpool Biennials, as well as numerous shows at New York City's Deitch Gallery. In 2015, Steve was commissioned to create a temporary mural on the external alleyway wall of The Betsy-South Beach. ESPO's 'Love Letter to Miami' was photographed by Gesi Schilling (and recently featured in the Academy of American Poet's Blog). Panels of the mural/installation are presented as part of this show, alongside a video created by O, Miami founder, Scott Cunningham that describes the project.

Portraits of Poets Opening with Artists present – April 12, 2016 at 6:30 PM – Interviews and imagery available.

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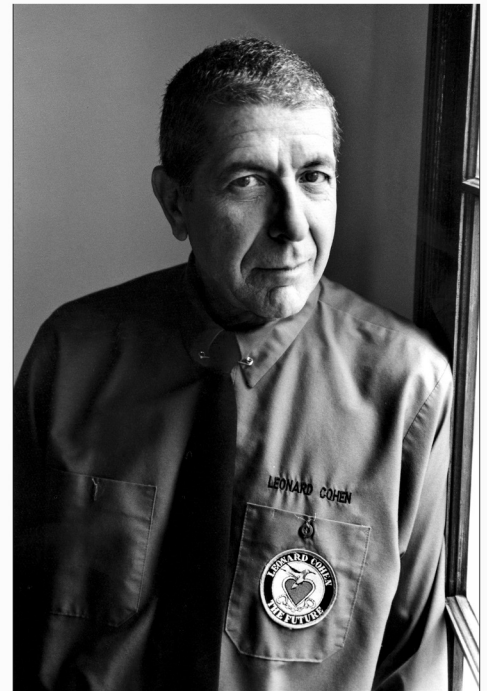
“La Carreta”
Richard Blanco, by Ray Elman



Love Letter to Miami
by Steve Powers



Reginald Dwayne Betts
by Gesi Schilling



Leonard Cohen
by Robert Zuckerman

The Betsy - South Beach (thebetsyhotel.com) is a boutique hotel that embraces the power of community through wide-ranging programs in Philanthropy, Arts, Culture, and Education. Each room at the hotel has a library of poetry and other books and a poetry bookmark is placed on guest pillows every night. Since reopening in 2009, the hotel has become a catalyst for energized discourse, innovative thinking, and expansive charitable programming. The Betsy's Writers Room (thebetsywritersroom.com) welcomes year-round artists, numbering more than 300 since 2012. The Betsy is located at 1440 Ocean Drive, Miami Beach. Telephone: 305-760-6902.

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