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The Gallery Space is set to open new exhibit featuring four artists

By Annika Nord

The recession is unexpectedly giving a boost to Homestead artists.

The art scene in Homestead is going through a metamorphosis as artist and curator Steve Beck continues his successful journey with The Gallery Space in Downtown Homestead.

The gallery's second exhibition "Four In Contrast" opens on Saturday September 26th featuring paintings and sculptures by Steve Beck, Sandra Garcia Pardo, Joe Parker and Connie Hillyer.

The metamorphosis began this summer when Beck suddenly had a vision and turned the empty business space at the Antique Mall at 115 North Krome Avenue

into a beautiful gallery.

In Beck's latest exhibit, the players are as follows:

The Abstract Man

Abstract painter and sculptor Steve Beck has a studio in the Antique Mall, Downtown Homestead. It was here he was one day struck by genius and turned the empty business space into The Gallery Space. He was the curator for the successful premiere exhibition and he relentlessly continues to bring in art of all shapes, forms and traditions to Downtown.

Some of Steve's paintings are soft, subtle in dreamy hues that draw you within. "I want to step into the painting and continue behind and beyond of what I'm seeing," as

one viewer put it. Other paintings are darker, edgy and explosive like glass splattered above Manhattan. Steve's sculptures are witty and funny reflections on our time. His art has found homes in Sweden, New York, Connecticut and Florida.

The autodidact Steve, in his early fifties, moves slowly and purposefully like a big bear, thinks fast and has a laidback, easy-going persona although nothing seems to escape his piercing, blue eyes. There is naturalness to his work that emanates from his childhood in Connecticut. As a boy he spent days alone camping in the woods, even during wintertime. Driven by a need for solitude, he paused one day by a pattern of brownish-green grasses con-

trasting against the stark white of the snow. Steve was struck by an irresistible urge to make an image and ever since he has been painting. He is inspired by everything: "Mostly from our connections, or lack thereof, between man, nature and their sense of place."

The Woman of Fire and Steel

Art has been part of Sandra Garcia Pardo's life since her early years in Colombia. This petite, wiry, green eyed woman of forty some years who looks ten years younger, has the ability to turn masses of steel into delicate sculptures of grace and wit. Sandra has maintained a studio at ArtSouth since 2004. She is working part time teaching at Arts for

Learning in Miami.

Thanks to a governmental scholarship Sandra moved from Colombia to Argentina to finally materialize her dream, getting a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at the most prestigious art school in Buenos Aires, Prilidiano Pueyrredon. "There I discovered the marvelous world of talking with art." Her art is now in private collections in the United States, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Argentina.

Sandra loves working with bronze and welding, but she also paints and draws. She is expressing her thoughts and ideas of human relationships and political ideas.

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