

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

## The Frank Opens Inaugural Exhibit - “What’s Wonderful”

BY DEBBY TEICH

The Frank is a two-story art gallery named after Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank C. Ortiz for his decades-long commitment to the cultural arts. Its mission is to foster connection and promote curiosity through innovative programming, and to offer the community a way to see art as part of daily life. On April 27, from 6pm to 9pm, the public is invited to a reception to celebrate the Frank’s grand opening and inaugural exhibition, “What’s Wonderful,” curated by The Frank’s Chief Curator Jill Slaughter. The public can tour The Frank; view the exhibit; see interactive art on the plaza; and enjoy live entertainment, hors d’oeuvres and beverages.

The exhibit, which runs through May, looks at the broad interpretation of wonder by 15 artists - each with a singular version of “What’s Wonderful.” Throughout three different exhibition spaces, paintings, sculptures, site-specific installations and pop art prompt visitors to determine if “what’s wonderful” is a question or a statement. It provides opportunities for people to not only see art, but to interact with each other and self-reflect.

“We are showcasing works from artists of multiple disciplines at The Frank,” said Slaughter. “Art has to be more than an aesthetic. It has to represent something visceral, something that will cause you to put down your electronics to come out and see it.”

Contemporary American painter Marcus Jansen will have his urban landscapes featured alongside



Painter Carrie Smith will present “People of Pines.”

Ruben Ubierna’s “urban pop,” a careful blend of graffiti art and surrealism. Other artists featured in the exhibition include Virginia Filfield, Flore, TD Gillispie, Henning Haupt, Frank Hyder, Marcus Kenney, Monique Lazard, Kerry Phillips, Lori Practico, Peter Symons, Valeria Yamamoto and Robert Zuckerman.

In the first Frank site-specific installation, “People of Pines,” painter Carrie Smith will unveil 16 portraits

of randomly selected Pembroke Pines residents, each unmasked by her decisive exploration of the subject’s identity and state of mind. A continuous soundscape of Pembroke Pines residents will play, whispering answers to life questions that were made available to the project participants, such as “What qualities made you marry your spouse?” and “How did you decide what to do with your life?” Smith worked on the series for more than a year.

In the third space gallery wall, located on the second floor, a variety of original work by Friends & Stars, Inc. will be on display. Friends & Stars, Inc. is an arts program expressly designed for an all-inclusive special needs population. It is open to the public.

On the City Center plaza, guests can play on a custom ping pong table, created by The Urban Conga, a Tampa-based design firm focused on creating community activity and social interaction through play. They can also view the new Gateway Sculpture, designed by Brooks + Scarpa Architects. The sculpture and landscape elements frame the pedestrian gateway into the new public plaza.

**City Center is located at 601 City Center Way. For information about The Frank, call 954-392-2129 or email [thefrank@ppines.com](mailto:thefrank@ppines.com).**