

This page has been optimized for print.



Media Contacts:

Rita Cooper
Warner Bros. Consumer Products
818.954.3821

rita.cooper@warnerbros.com

Lauren E. Miller
BrandingIron Worldwide
646.454.0372

lauren@brandingironworldwide.com

THE WIZARD OF OZ DESCENDS ON MIAMI BEACH IN CELEBRATION OF THE ICONIC FILM'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

WARNER BROS. CONSUMER PRODUCTS LAUNCHES *THE INSPIRATIONS OF OZ FINE ART COLLECTION* DURING ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

One-of-a-Kind Artwork Unveiled at Ocean Drive Magazine's Annual Paint the Town Green Event

Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection to be Exhibited at the Miami Children's Museum

BURBANK, Calif., (December 08, 2008) /PRNewswire/ — On the heels of unveiling *The Wizard of Oz Ruby Slipper Collection* at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York City, Warner Bros. Consumer Products continued its 70th anniversary celebration of the classic film with *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection*. An acclaimed array of artists was among the chosen few selected to re-interpret *The Wizard of Oz* through their own unique visions and artistic mediums. Their creative works premiered during the highly anticipated and revered Art Basel Miami Beach art fair at *Ocean Drive Magazine's Paint the Town Green Presents: "The Emerald City"* event on December 5, 2008.

The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection features one-of-a-kind interpretive works of art, including painting, drawing and sculpture from esteemed artisans **Angelo Aversa, Romero Britto, Gentle Giant, Phillip Graffham, Gris Grimly, Marcus Antonius Jansen, Johnny Johns, William Joyce, Joel Nakamura, Nelson De La Nuez, Glen Orbik, Ragnar, Alex Ross, Todd White** and **Yakovetic**.

"*The Wizard of Oz* and its timeless themes and characters have endured for decades," said Karen McTier, Executive Vice President of Domestic Licensing and Worldwide Marketing, Warner Bros. Consumer Products. "We are proud to partner with such creative minds to bring to life their unique interpretations of the world of Oz. We hope fans of all ages, across the globe, are as delighted as we are with this impressive art collection."

As the presenting sponsor for *Ocean Drive Magazine's* innovative affair *Paint the Town Green*, Warner Bros. Consumer Products brought the glorious experience of Oz to art collectors, designers, celebrities and international luminaries. The event was themed "The Emerald City" in honor of the upcoming 70th Anniversary of *The Wizard of Oz* in 2009.

The highlight of the evening was the dazzling display of *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection* and *The Ruby*

Slipper Collection exhibited throughout Ocean Drive Magazine's Photo Studio in Midtown Miami, paying homage to the weeklong celebration of global artistic influence accredited to Art Basel Miami Beach. *The Wizard of Oz* exhibition was held at a creatively designed suite within "The Emerald City" Photo Studio. Sparkling, custom-designed Ruby Slippers were suspended mid-air in clear orbs, adding to the magic and wonder of *The Wizard of Oz* themed atmosphere. The unique fine art creations were featured on a soaring gallery wall, which captured the imagination of those in attendance. Experienced throughout the Studio was the ambiance of Oz, as Dorothy look-a-likes strolled among small fields of poppies and greeted guests.

Among the attendees at the festive affair included notable artists Marcus Antonius Jansen, Todd White and Joe Yakovetic, whose works were all featured in *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection*. Also walking the "Yellow Brick Road" were Pamela Barnes (CEO of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation), Jason Binn (President of Niche Media), Jenny Oz LeRoy (Owner of The Tavern on the Green in NYC and granddaughter of Mervyn LeRoy, producer of *The Wizard of Oz*), Lisa Pliner (Contributor for the *Ruby Slipper Collection*) and Ivana Trump.

The celebration continued with an exclusive reception held on Saturday, December 6 at SET, Miami's popular nightclub. The soiree was hosted by Jennifer Oz LeRoy and artist Todd White, whose piece *Bar Tales* is featured in the *Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection*. Capping the night was a special drawing for a trip for two to Hollywood and VIP tour of Warner Bros. Studios, which was held to benefit philanthropic partner, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection and the *Ruby Slipper Collection* will be on display to the public at the Miami Children's Museum from December 9-23, 2008. A private reception for the Children's Museum exhibition will be hosted by Romero Britto, (contributor for *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection* and world-renowned, Brazilian-born pop artist based in Miami), along with local notables Jeff and Yolanda Berkowitz.

"We are thrilled to bring *The Wizard of Oz* to the children and families of Miami through the *Inspirations of Oz Fine Art* and *Ruby Slipper Collection*," said Deborah Spiegelman, CEO and Executive Director, Miami Children's Museum. "This is a special opportunity for the Miami Children's Museum to extend the essence of Art Basel Miami Beach to our guests in such an endearing and authentic way. We are certain that these classic collections will enrich the lives of so many families through the ageless themes of the story of *The Wizard of Oz*."

Following a year of special events spanning the globe, the complete and original *The Wizard of Oz Ruby Slipper Collection* and select original pieces from *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection*, including those by the philanthropists Romero Britto and Angelo Aversa, will be auctioned at a gala event in October 2009 with the proceeds benefitting Pediatric AIDS. Several of the artists participating in *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection* will also have the opportunity to sell limited edition *The Wizard of Oz* interpretive works through the gallery channel beginning in fall 2009.

Beginning in January 2009, select images from *The Inspirations of Oz Fine Art Collection* will be featured as limited-edition US postage stamps as part of an ongoing partnership with PhotoStamps.com. The custom-designed stamps will be available for purchase, along with *The Ruby Slipper Collection* stamps, throughout 2009 the total net proceeds benefitting the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

In September 2008, *The Wizard of Oz Ruby Slipper Collection* was unveiled at a red carpet, in-store gala event at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City, which served as the official kick-off for Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week. The stunning shoe collection adorned with CRYSTALLIZED™—Swarovski Elements features re-interpretations of Dorothy's iconic *Ruby Slippers* for modern times. Composing *The Ruby Slipper Collection* are contemporary works of art from the likes of fashion masterminds A. Testoni, Abaete, Alberta Ferretti, Betsey Johnson, Botkier, Christian Louboutin, Diane von Furstenberg, Giuseppe Zanotti, Jimmy Choo, L.A.M.B. by Gwen Stefani, Lisa Pliner, Manolo Blahnik, Moschino, Oscar de la Renta, Roger Vivier, Sergio Rossi, Stuart Weitzman, Tibi and Tuleh.

The Wizard of Oz 70th Anniversary merchandise and collectibles, including dolls, games, apparel, accessories, novelties and more will be available at specialty retailers. Select product information can be found at www.wizardofozshop.com.

About The Wizard of Oz

The Wizard of Oz is one of the most beloved and iconic motion pictures of all time filled with timeless sentiments and values cherished by multiple generations. Originally released in 1939, more than one billion consumers have experienced the classic story of Dorothy and friends in the Land of Oz.

About Warner Bros. Consumer Products

Warner Bros. Consumer Products, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company, is one of the leading licensing and retail

merchandising organizations in the world.

About Art Basel Miami Beach

Art Basel Miami Beach is the most important art show in the United States, a cultural and social highlight for the Americas. As the sister event of Switzerland's Art Basel, the most prestigious art show worldwide for the past 39 years, Art Basel Miami Beach combines an international selection of top galleries with an exciting program of special exhibitions, parties and crossover events featuring music, film, architecture and design. For more information, please visit www.artbaselmiamibeach.com.

About Ocean Drive & "Paint the Town Green"

Ocean Drive magazine introduced the eco-friendly PAINT THE TOWN GREEN event in 2007, attended by 500 elite art collectors, CEOs of national corporations, local, national and international VIPs, celebrities and premiere media, to benefit the Environmental Media Association (EMA). This year's event will be an elite celebration in the magazine's newly launched Photo Studio in midtown Miami. Participating partners include: Abrosi Abrianna, Red, The Steakhouse, Stiletto Vodka, Amstel Light, Tasmanian Rain, Explorer's Bounty, Clima and Gandia Blasco.

Ocean Drive Magazine is published by Niche Media, a subsidiary of the Greenspun Media Group, the country's preeminent regional magazine group with the largest network on city-specific luxury publications in the country. Founded in 1992, its 16 distinct publications maintain a readership that is second to none. Additionally, the company brings its publications' content to life with more than 500 dynamic A-list events across the country each year.

About Miami Children's Museum

Founded in 1983, the Miami Children's Museum is dedicated to enriching the lives of all children by fostering a love of learning and enabling children to realize their highest potential. Visitors of all ages are encouraged to play together, learn, imagine and create. The 56,500-square-foot facility includes 14 galleries, classrooms, parent/teacher resource center and 200-seat auditorium. The museum offers hundreds of bilingual, interactive exhibits; programs and classes, including special needs classes; Subway restaurant; Kid Smart educational gift shop and learning materials related to arts, culture, community and communication. To learn more about the museum, please visit www.miamichildrensmuseum.org.

About Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a worldwide leader in the fight against pediatric AIDS. Its innovative research programs, collaborative training initiatives, advocacy efforts, and rapidly expanding international prevention and treatment programs are bringing dramatic changes to the lives of children worldwide. To learn more about the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and its programs, visit www.pedaids.org.

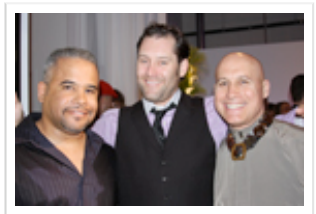
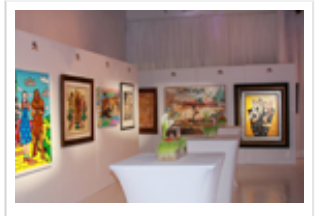
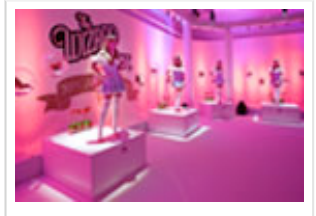
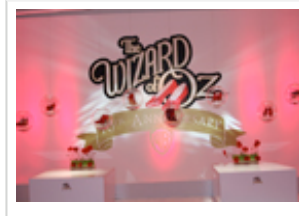
THE WIZARD OF OZ and all related characters and elements are trademarks of and © Turner Entertainment Co. (s08)

Video

Embed this Video

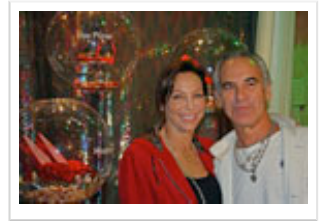
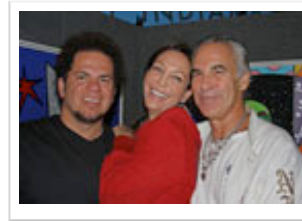
Downloadable Photos

Click thumbnail to enlarge Photo
Right-click the enlarged Photo for 'SAVE' options



Miami Children's Museum Exhibition

Click thumbnail to enlarge Photo
Right-click the enlarged Photo for 'SAVE' options



Related Links

www.wizardofozshop.com

www.oceandrive.com

www.miamichildrensmuseum.org

www.photostamps.com

www.pedaids.org

Related Document

[Instiprations of Oz – Artist Fact Sheet](#)

Social Media



Link to this MNR

<http://www.prnewswire.com/mnr/woz/36095>