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Lifestyle

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Executives as Artists

Active Imagination

Miguel Paredes, 44

CEO, PK Graphics
Pinecrest

Art infuses Miguel Paredes' life, from his work as CEO of PK Graphics, a graphic design and printing company, to his eponymous Paredes Fine Art Gallery, where he displays the graffiti-inspired art that he has been making since growing up in New York City. Shortly after arriving in Miami at 20, Paredes took a studio at the Art Center of South Florida. At his first local showing, he sold every piece. While painting is arguably his primary means of expression, Paredes dabbles in other media: He just produced a limited-edition set of cast fiberglass sculptures as well as a line of collectible toys, featuring the anime flea Pulgha and birds Yoli and Kosue, characters that he created himself.

Watershed moment: "In the sixth grade, I painted a samurai on a 24x36 board for an art school competition, and I won. It involved all grades in junior high, and it was a big deal for a sixth-grader to beat some of the artists in the eighth grade."

Figures of his imagination: "Pulgha is definitely one of my greatest creations. I always wanted a character that I could call my own and that has the potential to deliver a positive message and at the same time is extremely marketable and mainstream."



Pulgha



Connections

Martine Zinn

Corporate relations executive, Craig Zinn
Automotive Group
Hillsboro Beach

When Martine Zinn is not at her day job promoting the family's extensive automotive businesses — nine dealerships in south Florida — she's perfecting her passion: Life drawing in charcoal.

"Working on my art puts me in a very Zen place, particularly practicing the art of seeing," says Zinn, who is taking classes at the Boca Museum of Art School. "Drawing enables me to see things very differently. Your hand and the tool you are holding — charcoal, pencil, brush, whatever — touches the paper or canvas, yet at the same time it is touching and connecting with what you are drawing. What inspires me is making that connection."

All about the kids: After studying art in college, Zinn took a job as a teacher. "Children need to be exposed to art in our schools so the right hemisphere of their brains is developed. Our world is incredibly left-brain oriented, with technology, computers, etc. Kids that develop their right brains are better at pretty much everything."

Do not disturb: "My dream scenario is being able to work right out of my home with no distractions. It sounds simple, but it's not. I am sure this is why many of my artistic friends have off-site studios."