

**Must See**



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# The Arts Paper

www.palmbeachartspaper.com

**Art**

## Japanese-American experience on display at Morikami

**By Gretel Sarmiento**  
ArtsPaper Art Writer

We are often moved by art, but what is art moved by? Tragedy. Joy. Death. Life.

Two dramatic exhibitions now on view at the Morikami Museum feature artworks born out of ashes and out of the necessity to cope with loss.

Running through Jan. 31, *Wendy Maruyama: Executive Order 9066* revives a particularly sad time to mark the 70th anniversary of the closing of the last Japanese internment camp. *Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani* is meant as an exploration of an artist's life through his work because it deserves to be known. Both are armed with truth and heart.

The 1942 campaign that dragged thousands of people of Japanese ancestry — even American citizens — out of their homes into internment camps is the core of *Executive Order 9066*. Maruyama doesn't just touch upon this chapter; she drags it from the pages of the history books and plants it right in front of us in the form of name tags and suitcases used during the move.

Included in this exhibit are wall-mounted cabinets and objects made and owned by the internees. One example is the bird pins said to have been gifted to internee Yone Yoshioka from a fellow internee at Poston, Ariz. Each pin is attached to a twig using metal



*The Tag Project*, an installation by Wendy Maruyama, contains 10 hanging lanterns made of name tags representing the 10 camps where Japanese citizens were forcibly moved following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. **Photo provided**

wire. An odd display consisting of a large black square features an opening from which a short Popeye film can be watched. The film is titled *You Are a Sap, Mr. Jap*.

But the most commanding section is the 10 gigantic paper lamps suspended from the ceiling representing the 10 internment camps in the United States. Each consists of identification tags — sporting names and numbers, 120,000 all told — that were recreated by this third-generation

Japanese-American artist. The names of all 10 camps are reflected on the floor, below each lamp. Maruyama called this *The Tag Project*. Its massive volume makes the event an undeniable fact and seems to restate it: Yes, this happened.

Among these camps, one based in California — Tule Lake — was home to the Japanese-American artist being explored in the second exhibit. Named after its protagonist, *Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani* features less

somber adaptations of equally traumatic experiences.

Colorful child-like drawings take on big serious subjects such as the atomic bomb and the Sept. 11 attacks. The compositions are similar, with the vivid colors making up for the simplicity in execution. Oversize structures appear overwhelmed by bright orange flames and black smoke clouds. Ant-size figures are shown trapped at the bottom

See **MORIKAMI** on page AT10

**Film**

## New 'Star Wars' chapter is set to conquer the world



A scene from *The Force Awakens*. **Photo provided**

**Palm Beach ArtsPaper Staff**

A mass-market cultural phenomenon is set to take place Dec. 18, with the release of the highly anticipated new *Star Wars* film *The Force Awakens*, the first in a new trilogy of the durable space operas, now directed by J.J. Abrams.

While newcomers such as John Boyega and Daisy Ridley are onboard, many of the original characters and actors are reprising their roles, including Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker, Carrie Fisher as Princess Leia and Harrison Ford as Han Solo.

"The *Star Wars* films defined childhood for a generation of adults and has an ongoing appeal to upcoming generations," says Gerald Sim, associate

See **STAR WARS** on page AT11

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Arts

# Organizers promising best-yet roster for 10th annual Festival of Arts Boca

By Steven J. Smith  
ArtsPaper Art Writer

The 2016 Festival of the Arts Boca promises a compelling line-up of international superstars, thinkers, authors and performers, according to festival chairman and co-executive producer Charlie Siemon, who unveiled the season Friday at the Mizner Park Cultural Arts Center.

“The 10th Annual Festival of the Arts Boca will be our most celebrated and memorable yet,” Siemon told a gathering of several hundred supporters at the kickoff event. “We have much to be proud of throughout our decade of bringing the best and brightest in dance, classical music, performing arts and literature to Boca Raton.”

Violin superstar and conductor Joshua Bell will headline the festival, which runs March 4-16, splitting time between the Mizner Park Amphitheater at 590 Plaza Real and the Cultural Arts Center at 201 Plaza Real.

Bell will serve as both soloist and conductor in a performance of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* with the Lynn Philharmonia on March 16.

The festival will open with a showing of the 1981 film *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on March 4, presented with a live orchestra. The film, which introduced the character of Indiana Jones (portrayed by Harrison Ford), features a stirring score by Academy Award-winning composer John Williams and will be performed live to picture by the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra, which is based at the University of Miami.

Other musical highlights will include jazz trumpet legend Herb Alpert and his wife, Grammy Award-winning singer Lani Hall (March 6); Cirque de la Symphonie (March



Violinist/conductor Joshua Bell is the headliner. Photo provided

12); a night of symphonic jazz with the Joey Alexander Trio, the Symphonia and conductor Constantine Kitsopoulos (March 11); and a new family-friendly production in English of Mozart’s opera *The Magic Flute* (March 5).

Siemon attributed the festival’s decade of success primarily to the hard work put in to organize and present it to enthusiastic audiences.

“Also, we really have emphasized bringing in great artists,” he said. “We’ve had the best of the best, and that’s what brings people in — supporters, sponsors and attendees.”

In addition, the Festival of the Arts Boca will continue its “Authors and Ideas” program, featuring CNN host Fareed Zakaria, who will discuss “Global Hot Spots and Trends: The Next Security Crisis” (March 7).

Also contributing to the program will be author and professor Dr. Robert Sapolsky, who will present “The Biology of Good and Evil” (March 8).

Rounding out the program, author and Pulitzer Prize finalist Laila Lalami will discuss

her novel *The Moor’s Account* (March 9) and Dr. Jay Winter, former history professor at Yale University, will explore World War I and its impact on the 21st century.

New this season is a free, official Festival of the Arts Boca app — a digital pocket guide featuring GPS directions, schedule of events, ticket purchasing, contests, links to social media channels, videos, sneak previews of upcoming performances and more. Users will be able to access up-to-the-minute schedule changes, emergency information and traffic updates. To download, visit the app store on your mobile device and search for Festival of the Arts Boca.

When asked what will make the festival’s upcoming season unique, Siemon just smiled.

“I think every one we’ve done has been unique,” he said. “Our speaking program is wonderful, our artists are fantastic and we’re really happy and excited about the movie, which has been digitally remastered. And the score from John Williams is just spectacular. We hope everyone will come on out. It’s going to be a great festival.”

Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$225. For more information, go to [www.festivalboca.com](http://www.festivalboca.com) or call 866-571-2787.



Zakaria

## ArtsPaper News

### Opera company seeks funds for new drama

A new musical drama titled *Not In My Town*, written for the stage by Michael W. Ross and based on the events surrounding the death of Matthew Shepard, who was brutally murdered for his sexual orientation, is set to have



Shepard

its debut in March by South Florida start-up Opera Fusion. Shepard, a 21-year-old gay Wyoming college student, was beaten and tortured by two men and then tied to a fence near Laramie in October 1998.

Discovered after 18 hours, he died six days later in a Colorado

hospital.

On Oct. 28, Opera Fusion kicked off a crowdfunding campaign on Indiegogo.com in the hopes of raising \$150,000 to fund the production.

The show, which requires seven singing parts, two mute parts, a double chorus and a nine-piece orchestra, will be directed by Dean Peterson, artistic director of Opera Fusion.

In keeping with its mission, Opera Fusion plans to cast local singers in performances scheduled for Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Miami.

The musical drama addresses bullying, “a subject that’s in the news every day,” said Opera Fusion President Xavier Garcia.

“Our kids are bullied constantly and they are either killed, or they commit suicide or they are scarred for life,” says Garcia. “Matthew was

killed because he was gay, but Matthew is anyone who has been affected by a hate crime.”

Composer and librettist Ross, who moved to Florida from New York in 2004, writes music reflecting social justice issues.

His other recent works include *The Line that Divides*, based on the anti-slavery movement and women’s suffrage activist Harriet Tubman, and *Yours Truly, Anne*, an opera about the life of Anne Frank.

“I wrote *Not In My Town* because I don’t think people know what happened after Matthew Shepard died,” Ross said.

“I want the audience to see that good can come from such a terrible tragedy,” he said.

The fundraising page can be found at [igg.me/at/NotInMyTown/x/12537295](http://igg.me/at/NotInMyTown/x/12537295).

STAGE LEFT THEATRE at Playhouse

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