



InterFlightStudio

Voilà! The vanguard of aviation art's future.

There's an old adage about purchasing art: "Never buy a piece of art work unless you can't live without it." This is true, even when it comes to aviation art.

The spirit and dream of taking flight has inspired scores of artists for centuries. From Leonardo da Vinci to Pablo Picasso, artists have been fascinated with it. Today, however, the avant-garde and precocious approach to aviation artistry has taken a backseat to a more realistic and classical portrayal. Some patrons find themselves sifting through the aforementioned style for something that's truly exhilarating and new but come up empty. Luckily, contemporary aviation art has finally found its place: slap dab in hot and spicy South Florida.

Out of a passion for everything aviation, the husband-and-wife team of Yvette and Oscar Garcia started the Miami, Florida-based InterFlight Studio in 2003. Oscar, who used to fly for a commercial airline, and Yvette, who has five solo hours in a Cessna 152, continually promote the modern, contemporary and post-modern aviation-inspired art so cherished.

Although appreciative of drawings and paintings depicting lifelike representations of old warbirds, and modern and vintage aircraft, the Garcia's thought it was time to promote a different perspective.

"We're trying to bring back more of the positive aspects of flight," says Yvette, "that dream state and feeling that inspires, not depicts. Today, if you go to the airport,



it's the same as hopping in a car or bus. People don't realize just how special flying is, some of the glamour has been lost, although the amazement is still there inside all of us."

Located in the flourishing Wynwood Arts District, the gallery is open by appointment and on the second Saturday of every month, coinciding with the Wynwood Art Walk—a promenade through Miami's bohemian-art epicenter of established and up-and-coming galleries.

Flight Studio represents a small niche within the art world—the only gallery worldwide specializing in contemporary art inspired by aviation, space or flight. Nonetheless, within this realm, it showcases various artists who epitomize comprehensive aspects of the art community.

"People of all ages and demographics come through our gallery," Yvette explains, "and there's something here for everyone—everything from painting and sculptures to photographs and word art. You can look at these pieces and admire something you recognize, see the colors and spirit the artist is trying to convey, and relate to the emotional aspects and experience emanating from the work."

Flight Studio's artist pool has grown over the past several years to include some of the art community's truly elite. While some focus



exclusively on aviation, like Erik Lindbergh (grandson of famed aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh) who creates wood and bronze sculptures, others venture even further outside the box.

For instance, painter and sculptor Jo-Anne Lizio's first work for Flight Studio featured aircraft parts painted

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and arranged onto aircraft fabrics. She's even recently produced a series on butterflies in flight.

“Most people who are passionate about aviation come through our gallery and are like kids in a candy store,” Yvette adds. “Our clients aren't just people who love aviation; though, sure that's an easy target, but many of them appreciate art for what it is.”

Recent editions to the Flight Studio family include Fernando Sucre and Mike Tesch. Sucre's work features colorful and comical renditions of aircraft in a neo-pop art style dubbed “Pop Air.” Tesch's word art paintings place hysterical phrases written in pen on acrylic-painted skies. His work takes after his own slogan of never taking art too seriously.

“As a painter I've often been accused of flying by the seat of my pants,” says artist Mike Tesch, “but

InterFlight saved me from searching for subject matter. It allowed me to focus and simply paint something that relates to aviation. I love it; I want more of it.”

Other notable artists include Hervé Alexandre, Désirée Bordes, Marilyn Szabo, Bernardo Medina-Colón, Pilot-O and the late Carlos Hoyos.

What further distinguishes Flight Studio are its designers who have created functional pieces out of authentic aircraft parts. Facundo Poj, Yoshi Yasuda and Giancarlo de Astis are the masterminds behind executive desks, tables, chairs, conference tables, shelves and lamps, straddling the line between art and design, yet combining fine art with functionality.

“Clients and collectors are responding very well to all the work,” says Yvette. “We're looking forward to seeing new art forms, new trends and more mixed media pieces from all our artists; we're always trying to renew ourselves with fresh material.”

Artists are relentlessly contacting Flight Studio for opportunities to display their pieces or for representation, and the gallery is on constant lookout for new art, perspectives, artists and work that quenches the “can't live without it” thirst its patrons yearn for.

“With art, you either love it or you don't,” Yvette concludes, “But the people who love aviation are really passionate about it. I still find it really exciting to see people's eyes light up and for them to start telling you personal aviation stories. So operating such a gallery is a perfect fit.”

For more information, visit www.interflightstudio.com.