



We introduce you, the bon vivant, the eccentric genius behind the **TED** Conference. A newfound watercolor painter and bronze sculptor, he has an exhibit that will open on August 6 with a generous contribution by Nora Fehlbaum, President of Vitra featuring their historically famous Panton Chairs at the Coral Gables Museum.

A few minutes from Cocoplum, in the heart of Coral Gables lies a historical property that was completed in 1939 as a Works Progress Administration project. Conceptualized by Phineas Paist, in 2003 there were steps taken to preserve the building and its legacy. And in 2011, it was reopened to the public as the Coral Gables Museum. This former police and fire station, which is situated next to the best book shop in town, Books & Books, looks forward to welcoming you to experience a series of very powerful, meaningful yet peaceful works by a rather incredible, humble, and private gentleman who currently lives in Golden Beach, FL, another community in which we serve with monthly social publications.

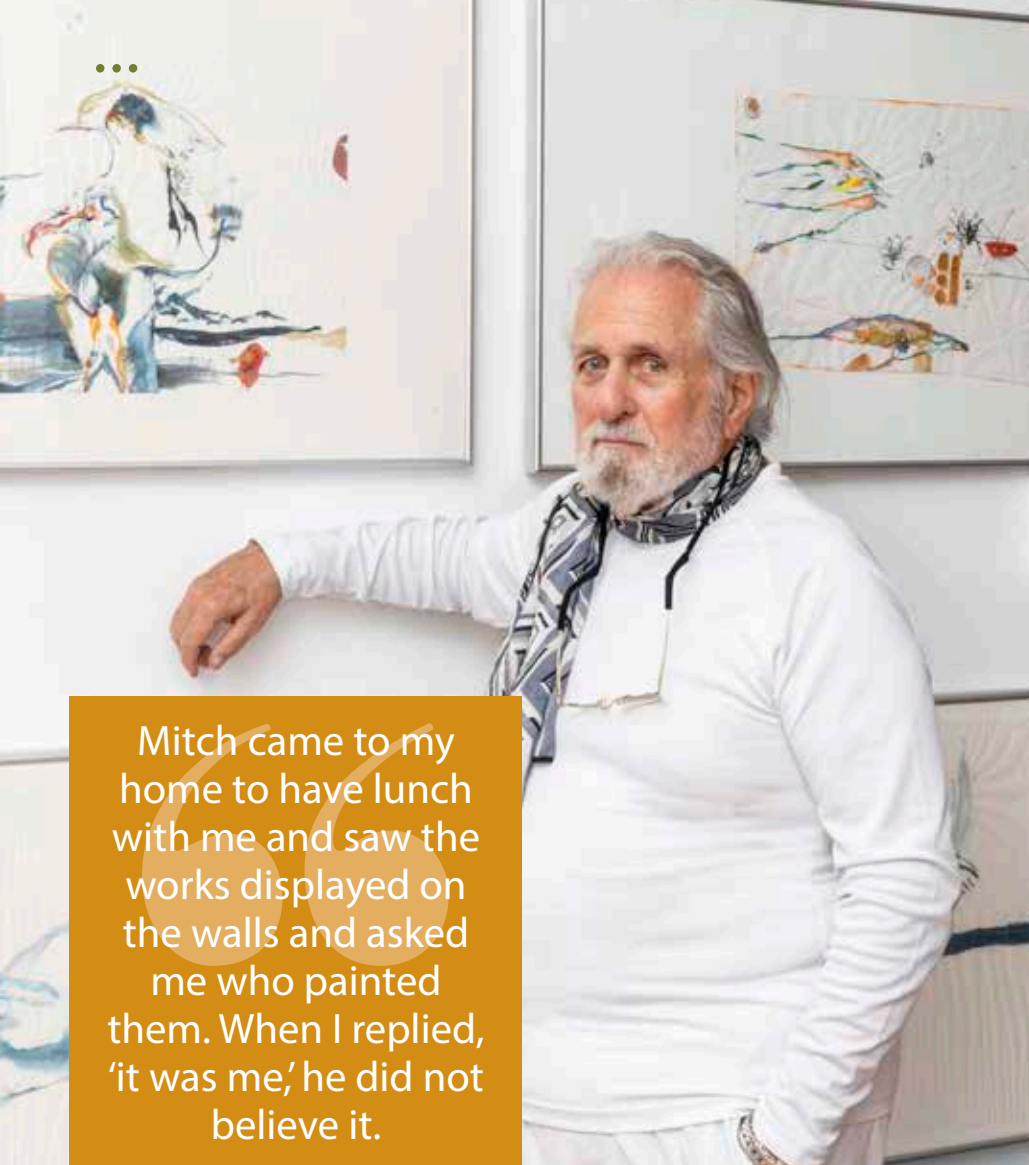
Truth be told, Richard Saul Wurman may just be one of the most talented, fascinating yet unique individuals in the world. A celebrity without all the fame, Yo-Yo Ma calls him to sing happy birthday and play the violin every year and blue-chip artists have painted works for him, like Jim Dine, which are hung on the walls throughout his home. A real-life creative genius who is also a renowned architect, he has worked with and alongside some of the most important masters in his trade, like Eames and Louis I. Kahn. So, it should come as no surprise that for this specific exhibit at the Coral Gables Museum, Richard Saul Wurman collaborated with Vitra who generously donated thirty of their classic Panton chairs in the latest color, Bordeaux, to the museum just for the fete. And, yes, the museum will get to enjoy the chairs as they will be part of the permanent collection, too.

meet

Written by Erin Michelle Newberg

RICHARD SAUL WURMAN

THE MAN. THE MYTH. THE LEGEND.



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We joined Mr. Wurman at his home where he paints and sculpts and received a private preview of works, which will be on display at the exhibit. Expect watercolors that evoke a sense of freedom and happiness. Images of many gorgeous native birds that he painted on Crane Paper which was gifted to him by Douglas Crane of Crane Paper himself. Four of his watercolor pieces will feature the handmade paper gifted by Crane and other works on rice paper, which he bought when he was traveling in Xi'an in Asia – well, they will be displayed alongside his multi-faceted, purposeful sculptures in bronze and in color, and they are currently scattered through his estate.

On August 6, there will be approximately 20 bronze sculptures and 35 watercolor and mixed-media objects on display. But it is not only his works that you will be able to see. In the company of the recognized artist Michelle Oka Doner and Ken Carbone, both of who he conders to be brilliant, you should prepare yourselves for a well-rounded experience, and he looks forward to having you stop by to enjoy the magic.

The show will be on display through November 8.

How The Show Happened

Dear friends with Mitch Kaplan, the man behind Books & Books,

"Mitch came to my home in Golden Beach to have lunch with me and saw the works displayed on the walls and asked me who painted them. When I replied, 'it was me,' he did not believe it." Two months passed, and Kaplan reached out again, "insisting that he come back, but this time he would come with Yuneikys Villalonga, the Chief Curator of the Coral Gables Museum to my home, and I was perplexed, asking myself why anyone would want to work on a show with me, a man who has never shown his work before." Because Villalonga loved and appreciated the assortment and his book on *Mortality*, too, "we decided to move forward."

About Richard Saul Wurman

Richard Saul Wurman has written, designed, and published 90 books on wildly divergent topics. Two of these are the notebooks and drawings of architect Louis I. Kahn (1963) and *What Will Be Has Always Been* (1986), a seminal collection of Kahn's words. Wurman chaired the IDCA Conference in 1972, the First Federal Design assembly in 1973, and the annual AIA Conference in 1976.

Wurman received both his M. Arch. & B. Arch. degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, from where he graduated in 1959 with the highest honors and where he also received Penn Alumni's 2014 Spirit Award and was awarded the Arthur Spayed Brooks Gold Medal. He has been awarded several honorary doctorates,

Graham Fellowships, a Guggenheim, and numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as being the Distinguished Professor of the Practice at Northeastern University. He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Smithsonian, Cooper-Hewitt Museum. Wurman has also been awarded the Annual Gold Medal in Discourse from Trinity College, Dublin, the James Joyce Award Literary and Historical Society at the University College Dublin, a Gold Medal from AIGA, and Boston Science Museum's 50th Annual Bradford Washburn Award. He received the Winner of the Best Guide Book Award from the London Tourist Board and Convention Bureau in 1987. He is also a Fellow of the AIA and in the Art Director's Club Hall of Fame. Wurman also received the Ladislav Sutnar Prize for his outstanding performance in the field of fine arts, as well as accepting an invitation to contribute to *Genius: 100 Visions of the Future*, a project sponsored by the Einstein Legacy Project, which features essays submitted by the 100 greatest innovators, artists, scientists, and visionaries of our time. Most recently he was awarded the 2019 Star Award from the IIDA (The Commercial Interior Design Association) in recognition and in celebration of his impact on the field of Interior Design.

Richard Saul Wurman created and chaired the **TED** conference from 1984 thru 2002, the **TEDMED** conference from 1995 to 2010, as well as the e.g. and WWW conference. His current projects include *Urban Observatory*, *Understanding Understanding* – a journey through the myriad ways that he and his many muses have created their own idiosyncratic manners of understanding, and his latest book entitled *Mortality*. For more information on *Understanding Understanding*, please go to www.uursw.com

Wurman lives in Golden Beach, FL, with his wife, novelist Gloria Nagy.

About Vitra

Creating innovative products and concepts with great designers is Vitra's essence. They are developed in Switzerland and installed worldwide by architects, companies, and private users to build inspirational spaces for living, working as well as public areas.

For more information about Richard Saul Wurman, please visit wurman.com or email rsw@wurman.com.

For more information about the Coral Gables Museum, please visit coralgablesmuseum.org

For more information about Vitra, please visit vitra.com

For more information on Books & Books, please visit booksandbooks.com.