

the story

Serendipity! I always wanted to start a paragraph using that word. It's the right word to describe my first meeting with **Mitchell Kaplan**. I moved to Florida almost 6 years ago, a number of seemingly unrelated people told me that I should meet *Mitch* and discuss our common interests. Nothing out of the ordinary about this meeting except the artwork on my walls and he said *I really like them* and he asked what gallery I got it from, and who the artist was.

Me — I did them.

Some two months later I got a call from **Yuni Villalonga**, asking if she could come and visit me. She said that Mitch Kaplan told her she might be interested to see my paintings. Now Yuni (as you already know) is the Chief Curator of this wonderful museum in Coral Gables and she liked the paintings enough to share them with **John R. Allen**, the Museum's Executive Director, and with **Jose Valdes-Fauli**, the Vice-Chairman of the Exhibition Committee. She told them that it was necessary for them to visit me, too, and to see my work.

Well, I passed my auditions.

But there is a second part to this story, which is COVID-19. The pandemic made it so that I couldn't go out to get more frames for paintings but I could get deliveries of plasticine.

I had never created any sculpture until that point in time, and I rather liked it. I had studied *cire perdue*, the lost wax process and was fascinated by this mysterious and complex process. Casting was at R.U.N. Art Foundry studios in Miami.

So I stopped painting and began my landscape sculptures about a year and a half ago.

The catalog is the work of one of my most talented former employees, **Jenn Shore**, who moved down here from Newport with me for a few years to help complete my *Understanding Understanding* book, then moved back north and opened an extraordinary and successful and creative graphic design office and worked with **Nigel Holmes** and myself to produce my *Mortality* book.

Gloria Nagy, my glorious wife has been the positive essential critic in chief for years and especially during this last year and a half. I've taken yet another room to mess up with paints, clay and various plant material that are collected by the amazing artist **Liliana Perez Cajiao** that were swallowed up and happily lost in the bronzes.

Richard Saul Wurman

Golden Beach, July 2021