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Welcome  
to Florida Weekly's  
Best special section

These have not been the best of times for so many people. But in our pandemic-plagued paradise, there still are many superlatives. And in our Best special section, we highlight those — the wackiest and the most wondrous, the sublime and the ridiculous — the things that add up to make South Florida among the most interesting of places to survive and thrive.

Many “best of” publications are filled solely with content that’s bought and paid for. That isn’t our style at Florida Weekly. Yes, our advertisers — the folks who make possible this bit of printed pulp — receive shout-outs on these pages. That’s only fair. Not to worry — most of the material in our Best section has nothing to do with advertising invoices. Rather, we focus on what fascinates us and on what makes us laugh and cry in this paradise we call home.

Best contributing writers: **Vicky Bowles, Stephanie Davis, Robin DeMattia, Karen Feldman, Heather Graulich, Ron Hayes, Sue Huff, TR Kerth, Michael Korb, Trista Meister, Glenn Miller, Jan Norris, Krys Parker, Laura Tichy, Evan Williams, Christina Wood, Amy Woods and Sheldon Zoldan.**

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COVER ARTIST

“The things that drive the human experience are based on instinct and emotion. Since the beginning of mankind the ways in which we relate to one another, connect, and evolve have consistently been revolving around those basic drives. And these instincts lurk still, within the depths of the human subconscious. “It is this that prompts the inspiration for D. Branchaud’s work. Combined with a survey of personal experience, her paintings have created a window through the eyes of the subconscious, into a place that illustrates those basest of instincts and emotions. The goal of her series work is to illustrate the universality of emotion. It not only serves as a reflection of the artist’s own experience, but also provides a mirror for the audience to see within themselves.” Branchaud was born in Canada in 1985, and has been painting with acrylics since 2003. She resides in Southwest Florida, and is continuing her series work as well as various commissions and projects.



– Danielle Branchaud [www.dbranchaudart.wordpress.com](http://www.dbranchaudart.wordpress.com) @dbranchaudart



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