

# MIAMI NewTimes Blogs



NEWS » CALENDAR » MUSIC » RESTAURANTS » ARTS » FILM » BEST OF » PROMOTIONS » CLASSIFIEDS »

Search



Get Text Alerts

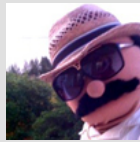


Music. Food. Movies. More.

SIGN UP



TOP  
blog  
STORIES



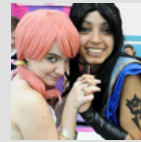
**Pepe Billete**  
Why Miami Sports Fans Don't Suck

By Cultist



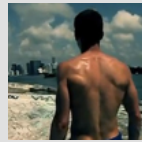
**Weekend Guide**  
Best Things to Do in Miami This Weekend

By Alex Rodriguez



**Lists**  
Reasons Supercon is Better Than Any SoBe Club

By Cultist



**Viral V**  
Park Flip to Miami Stadium

By Ciara LaVelle

100 Creatives

## 90. Kyle Trowbridge

By Sebastian Del Marmol Tue., Oct. 26 2010 at 9:30 AM

Categories: 100 Creatives

Comments (1)

Like

42

Send

Tweet

6

StumbleUpon

Pin it

+1

0

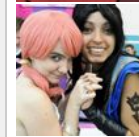
In honor of our People Issue, which will hit newsstands and computer screens November 25, Cultist proudly presents "100 Creatives," where we feature Miami's cultural superheroes in random order. Have suggestions for future profiles? Email [cultist@miaminewtimes.com](mailto:cultist@miaminewtimes.com) with the whos and whys.



## Now Trending



Skrawberry Says: Enough V Injections Already



Five Reasons Florida Super Any South Beach Club



Pepe Billete's Open Letter

## TODAY'S DEAL IN



## 90. Kyle Trowbridge

For artist **Kyle Trowbridge** there is no topic -- including sex, violence, pornography, the internet, religion or politics -- that he can't deconstruct, tear apart, and otherwise expose as hypocrisy. Amidst the glossy veneer of superficiality that cloaks much of Miami, Trowbridge is an artist who forces Miami and the world at large to look at its decrepit underbelly.



The University of Miami professor focuses much of his work -- exhibited in Toronto, Santo Domingo, New York, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, and Vienna -- on the pitfalls of modern existence. Not that such hostility is immediately apparent upon viewing his work. "It's easy to render something extreme or shocking, but the truly scary stuff occurs when I just set a suggestive stage obscured in humor and allow the viewers to fill in the blanks with their quelled baggage. They always laugh at first and then their expressions slowly change from one of amusement to concern. I love (exploring) those moments," Trowbridge says.

But his work (sculpture, mixed media installations, video, and more) is more than a condemnation of society's afflictions, it's an exploration of why humans behave as they do. "I'm a social critic. I've never offered solutions.

I'm just hoping to provoke thought." His latest work, a video titled *The Divine Comedy*, enlightens the nuances of human behavior in a ballet of underwater theater. You might have caught it flashing across the American Airlines Arena's mega screen recently as part of a curated project for the **Miami Art Museum**.

Just as surprising as the discomfort that seeps into your being after seeing a Trowbridge sculpture, installation, or video, which he hopes hits observers like a "delayed sucker punch to the back of the head," is that the man behind the art is actually quite jovial. He's a good-natured soul who married his high school sweetheart and is a doting father to a five-year-old daughter. So what gives? How does Trowbridge balance the beautiful and the ugly? "Art is an outlet for me. It allows me to experience and explore those weird backroom, dark things that life is full of. But at the end of the day I find solace in my students and family."

Lucky for him. And lucky for us.



**Cultist** on Facebook  
 ✓ Like You like this.  
 2,056 people like **Cultist**.  
 Chase Vivian Monica Yara  
 Facebook social plugin

### Slideshows

TattooLaPaloc Hyatt Regency

Miami's Vice C Dub City Derb Suniland Hock

Best of Miami Party at Wood

**Casino**  
**Miami**  
**Jai-Alai**  
 CORNER-NORTHWEST 36 S  
 www.CasinoMiamiJaiAlai

### Services

**Health & Beauty**  
 Asian Heaven Massa  
 View Ad | View Site

PRE-OPENING 10% OFF ASIAN HEAVEN MASSAGE  
 305-207-8448

Courtesy of Kyle Trowbridge.

"Communion Raw Split."

### 1. List five things that inspire you.

- Music
- Hypocrisy
- The less fortunate
- Mexican beer
- And, of course, my wife and daughter

### 2. What was your last big project?

I just finished editing a video piece entitled *The Divine Comedy* for the Miami Art Museum's current exhibition New Work Miami 2010. It was a play off of Dante's epic poem by the same name. It essentially consists of swimmers I filmed from the underwater observation windows of an olympic size swimming pool. In the editing process, I've flipped the footage so it broadcasts upside down. By doing so I've been able to have the bottom of the pool read as a ceiling line. This playful change boxes these swimmers in as they appear to struggle in a beautifully awkward manner, back and forth, towards the pool's boundaries in a seemingly endless and futile effort.



Courtesy of Kyle Trowbridge

"The Divine Comedy" at American Airlines Arena.

I've always been interested in dualities (the in and out, top and bottom) and how our perception can be changed by a slight skewing of our relative perspective. Repetition is also something that seems to run throughout almost every video piece I've ever made. I don't know what it is, but like my swimmers in the *The Divine Comedy*, I can't seem to escape it. Maybe it's the heavy influence music has on me. I guess my video is like a good punk rock song, all you need is the repetition of those three chords buzzing and you've got someone's head bobbing.



RPM Cycle & Fitness  
[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)

### Employment



AMPM Research Clin  
[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)

### General



Blue Moon Outdoor  
[View Ad](#) | [View Site](#)



CHAPMAN  
partnership  
Engineering the Impossible  
COM  
PART  
FOR

### Twitter Feed



**Follow cultistmiami on Tw**

CultistMiami Sorry, Tiny Tim. We're 169 yea  
[fb.me/2lDKjmPRh](https://fb.me/2lDKjmPRh)  
yesterday · reply · retweet · favorite

CultistMiami @PepeBillete, still fighting the  
Miami haters. [fb.me/1o7p6FYWY](https://fb.me/1o7p6FYWY)  
yesterday · reply · retweet · favorite

CultistMiami This weekend: Be about it. [fb.n](https://fb.n)  
yesterday · reply · retweet · favorite

CultistMiami Supercon > South Beach. [fb.m](https://fb.m)  
2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

CultistMiami Parkour with a side of philanthr  
2 days ago · reply · retweet · favorite

### 3. What's your next big project?

Besides continuing to produce work for future shows, which at this stage seems to be mostly sculptural, I am currently in the throws of trying to start another band with fellow local artists on the scene. I haven't written or played music since I lived in San Diego years ago and am looking forward to seeing what we can come up with. All I can say is if it's anything close to what I'm envisioning ... Miami beware!

### 4. Why do you do what you do?

Well they say those that can't do, teach! And since I'm a professor at the University of Miami that may just preclude the question. Seriously though, I don't know if I can answer that. I am a creative type and gain pleasure through creating. I really don't think it's any more complicated than that. Ultimately the production of art makes me happy and I generally try to do things that achieve this.

### 5. What's something you want Miami to know about you?

Oh, so you're looking for some dirt? Okay, story time. Well, before cable television, when skylines were scattered with odd metal constructions commonly referred to as antennas, picture reception was very poor. Particularly bad in the Trowbridge household due to a woodpecker that insisted on pecking away at our antenna during prime time viewing hours. At age ten, I decided to fix this problem forever. With the aid of a black olive tree near the south side of the house's roof line, speaker wire, garden hose and six lantern batteries, I was able to access the roof and electrify the antenna. Needless to say *The Fall Guy* was never interrupted again. I think it was then I knew I was either going to be a soldier of fortune or an artist.

### What's something you don't want Miami to know about you?

In public I've been mistaken for River Phoenix and Ryan Seacrest but never Ricky Shroder of *Silver Spoons* fame. What gives? I think I'd secretly like that. Concerning, what I affectionately refer to as the "Phoenix Incident," on a flight to California, three individuals kept buying me beers. It wasn't till the seventh beer that they finally asked "what's it like acting in movies"? And with my puzzled response of "what movies?" Happy hour ceased. The "Seacrest Episode" involved a wedding and some drunken bridesmaids. Seacrest out!

