

# MIAMI BEACH CENTENNIAL

*A Commemorative Collage by*

ERIKA KING

*To Celebrate the Centennial of Miami Beach 1915 - 2015*

*Miami Beach Centennial, a collage of the flamboyant history of Miami Beach, is dedicated to the individuals, landmarks, events and organizations that have shaped "the Beach." What once was a mangrove swamp, then a coconut farm, has become one of the world's most famous destinations for living or vacationing in paradise. The vibrancy of the neon lights that grace the colorful Art Deco hotels along Ocean Drive provide the picture perfect scenic view of palm lined Lummus Park and the golden sands leading to the brilliantly blue Atlantic Ocean.*

*City founder Carl Fisher, "Mr. Miami Beach," loaned John Collins the money to open the first bridge to bring autos from the mainland to Miami Beach. One of the highlights was the publicity of having "Rosie the Elephant" helping clear out a swampy area to create Lincoln Road; she later entertained to the delight of the many tourists. The oceanfront property of John N. Lummus, the city's first mayor, became Lummus Park in 1915, and now Centennial mayor, Philip Levine and city manager Jimmy Morales are carrying the torch for future generations to enjoy Miami Beach. Joe's Stone Crab, famous for its Florida stone crabs, was opened in 1913 and is now joined by many international establishments that offer memorable dining experiences.*

*Architect Morris Lapidus designed numerous iconic hotels including the Fontainebleau where Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and many other stars flocked to "the Beach" to play. The Beatles performed at the Deauville on the Ed Sullivan Show and then splashed in the ocean on Miami Beach. A young boxer named Cassius Clay trained at the 5th Street Gym and became World Champion as Muhammad Ali. Entertainment has always played a major role in showcasing fabulous Miami Beach with 50's and 60's TV shows by Jackie Gleason and Arthur Godfrey, then Mike Douglas who staged at the North Beach Band Shell in the 70's, and then Miami Vice's hip music and sexy image in the 80's which all made Miami Beach a very cool place.*

*The Art Deco hotels and buildings built in the 1930s, are a significant part of the architectural history, which were later saved by Barbara Capitman and her Miami Design Preservation League. Visionary Tony Goldman and others embraced the magical beauty of the Art Deco buildings that brought top modeling agencies and film crews from around the world and enticed fashion icon Versace and other celebrities to once again put a shine of glitz and glamour on glorious South Beach.*

*The cultural foundations of the Bass, Wolfsonian and Jewish Museums, as well as the New World Symphony and South Florida Art Center all led the way for the hosting of the world's most important art fair ART BASEL... I Love Miami Beach!*

*Artist Erika King, known for her commemorative, celebrity and corporate collages, was born in Philadelphia and educated in Germany, Switzerland, France and Spain. Her work has been exhibited throughout Europe, and in New York, San Francisco, Miami, Caracas and Beijing. She lives and works out of her studio in Coconut Grove, Florida.*

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