



Miami's Newest

by Morgan Miller

Just a few miles north of Miami's famed Design District is the Antiques & Design Plaza, an impressive agglomeration of antiques, art and design showrooms that have been slowly expanding since 2009. Starting with just seven stores, the plaza now has 26 unique storefronts occupied by a diverse group of French, Italian, American and South American natives with styles varying from vintage to art deco to colorful nuvo-modern and ethnic glam.

It all started when Danny Reyes, president of the Antiques & Design Plaza, introduced seven antiques and collectibles stores in a convenient and cozy plaza. Later, he added 12 more stores, this time inducting art dealers, designers and furniture showrooms. Six additional stores attracted the attention

of dealers from across the continents who were eager to be involved in Reyes' vision. The final addition of a 9,500-square-foot building will make it the biggest concentration of antiques dealers in South Florida, and one of the best places to find Mid-Century Modern furnishings from the '40s, '50s and '60s plus other coveted antiques for a good deal—some of the same items that are found in exclusive boutique shops in Los Angeles, New York and London.

One of the plaza's star occupants is the young entrepreneur and curator Kristelle Gauchet. Hailing from France, she studied the economics of the art market. Gauchet Fine Art is a host to one of the most remarkable and diverse collections in South Florida. Visitors to her gallery are greeted with an impressive display of sculptures, photographs and paintings. Gauchet



Design Destination

Fine Art exclusively represents Patrice Breteau in the United States. Since 1986, Breteau has been designated the "Official Painter" of NASA where a number of his pieces appear; his pieces are also in the collections of the Pentagon. Other artists include E. Ballestra who, having traveled a lot in Central America, South America and in various tropical islands, brought back strong and colorful paintings fed by the tropical light, reflecting the specificity of Latin America

The plaza is also home to accomplished designer Anil Kakar who has expanded his full-service design company, B11 Design, to include Kakar House of Design, a store comprised of everything from antiques to restored vintage furniture to eclectic textiles procured from exotic locales. The boutique showroom has been popular among the who's who of well-known

designers and celebrities who are on the hunt for unique and one-of-a-kind items.

"I wanted to bring a fresh new perspective to the design world in Miami by doing something very eclectic," explains Kakar. Inspired by his world travels and experiences as a child growing up in India, the new Kakar House of Design serves as a platform for Anil to display the vibrant and distinct perspective he has been sharing with B11's clients since 2010.

To see more of what the Antiques & Design Plaza has to offer, visit the numerous showrooms at 8650 Biscayne Boulevard in Miami. Call 305.458.7134 or email dancenryeyes@aol.com for more information.