

# Miami International Art Cocktail Party

By Ula Furman and Beata Paszyc

The American Institute of Polish Culture and the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland are part of the *Miami International Cultural Alliance* (MICA), based in Miami-Dade County. This informal, yet active group has been in existence for over 9 years representing 20 countries all over the world and is oriented toward the promotion of diverse cultures.

As an international forum, MICA had decided to organize the first collaborative exhibition called *Miami International Art Cocktail Party* (MIAC). Guests included consuls from ten countries, 20 artists and 40 art pieces. It was held at Alliance Francaise on October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The countries represented were Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Haiti, Israel, Italy, Poland and Spain. Each consul introduced two local artists and each of them exhibited two art pieces. Poland was represented by Natalia Chibowska and Ewa Perz. Beata Paszyc, the Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland, introduced the Polish artists with the following remarks:

*"Natalia Chibowska, the youngest of all featured today, is only 11 years old. She has a great talent and her whole life full of choices ahead of her. A lot of artists may recognize their own beginnings in this girl, who is studying drawing and painting and mastering the new techniques. She is fortunate to be encouraged by her parents, yet the most important thing is that she really enjoys the process of making art.*

*Our second artist is Ewa Perz. As a little girl she wanted to paint too, but growing up in communist Poland, it was more practical to pursue a career in the sciences. She became a successful biologist, but later changed her career path and returned to the arts. She exchanged the microscope for the strokes of a brush on canvas. Today her paintings are exhibited in the United States and in Europe."*



Ewa Perz, Natalia Chibowska, Beata Paszyc

The *Miami International Art Cocktail Party* was a great opportunity to showcase international artwork. The art show attracted over 800 people who came to this unique exhibit curated by Sophie Videment Dupouy and hosted by the director of Alliance Francaise, Philippe Timon and The Miami International Cultural Alliance.



Ariel Roman (Consulate of Israel), Beata Paszyc (Honorary Vice Consul of the Republic of Poland), Philippe Timon (Director of Alliance Francaise), Max (Honorary Consulate of Argentina), George Volsky, Maren Wichehaus (Consulate of Germany), Maria de Valle (Director of the Spanish Cultural Center), Claudio Pastor (Director of Dante Alighieri).