

# Art Basel promotes gallery growth in Wynwood district

By APRIL M. HAVENS

Growth of art galleries along the Biscayne Corridor has been substantial, local art professionals say, especially since the arrival of Art Basel Miami Beach six years ago.

Fredric Snitzer, owner of the Fredric Snitzer Gallery, 2247 NW First Place, has been in the business more than 30 years and in the Wynwood area about three years. When he arrived in Wynwood, he said, his was one of the only galleries.



*'Miami has become a very good place for art.'*

**Frederic Letzelter**

"Now there are probably about 50," Mr. Snitzer said. "I believe there will continue to be some growth, hopefully with some better galleries relocating here. It's up from here."

With the area still having plenty of warehouse space vacant, the possibility is great for other collections to come, he said. "We are also hoping for some restaurants to open here too," he said. "I think it's going in the right direction."

One of the area's newest arrivals is Galerie Bertin-Toublanc, which opened its first US gallery this month at 2534 N Miami Ave. The French gallery, which carries mostly figurative art in media such as painting, video, sculpture and photography, chose Miami because it is "younger in art" than New York and works better with the young gallery, which first opened in 2001, said Director Frederic Letzelter.

"To have a gallery in New York you'd be in the middle of everyone else, and we wouldn't have any buzz about our opening," Mr. Letzelter said. "Miami is becoming one of the greatest cities for art since Art Basel is based in Miami now in winter. Miami has become a very good place for art."

Galerie Bertin-Toublanc is a



French Galerie Bertin-Toublanc opened on Dec. 4 in Wynwood and carries mainly figurative works.

17,000-square-foot space with about 350 works of art.

Husband-and-wife team Stephanie Sacco and Neil Schuster opened Sacco Gallery in September at 6444 Biscayne Blvd. with 3,000 square feet of white-on-white museum-quality exhibit space.

"We live in the area, support

local businesses and have watched the Upper East Side develop over the past several years to the point that we felt a gallery would thrive here," Ms. Sacco said in a publicity release.

With the influx of new galleries and the establishment of Art Basel Miami Beach, Mr. Snitzer of the Fredric Snitzer

Gallery said the atmosphere for artists has changed drastically.

"The best news is that because of the international audience of curators, critics, collectors and other dealers, there is now greater opportunity for young artists here," he said. "They get exposure more quickly than in the past."