

MIAMI BEACH

MEMORABLE IMAGES

AFTER BEATING OUT THOUSANDS OF OTHER ENTRIES, THE TOP PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING THE ANNUAL SOUTH BEACH PHOTOMARATHON ARE NOW ON DISPLAY

BY CHERIE RODRIGUEZ
 crodriquez@miamiherald.com

The judges of the fifth annual South Beach Photomathon had to pore through nearly 5,000 images taken by professionals and novice photographers and narrowing them to three.

The top photo — as well those taken by the runners-up — will be on display through the end of the month at the Tropicolor studios on Miami Beach.

More than 200 photographers participated. They had five hours to draw inspiration from six topics not revealed until the day of the event: Serene, Blue, Cool, Hot, Freedom and All-American.

"It went great. There were a lot of participants," said Chendo Perez, president of Fotomission, the nonprofit that organizes the competi-

If you go

- **What:** The winners of the fifth South Beach Photomathon are on display at Tropicolor studios
- **Where:** 1442 Alton Rd., Miami Beach
- **When:** 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday
- **For information:** 305-672-3720. For a complete list of category winners, including honorable mentions, go to www.fotomission.org

tion. "Every year it gets better."

Contestants began their photo search at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens,

where Fotomission revealed the first two themes. The rest were given out throughout the day.

The top finishers were announced at an award ceremony May 2 at the Tropicolor studios.

• **First place:** Jennifer Barbaro of Indian Rocks, near St. Petersburg, won \$250 for her picture for the Freedom category. It shows an image of The Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach.

• **Second place:** George Martinez of South Beach won \$150 for his picture of a vintage Buick, which he submitted in the All-American category.

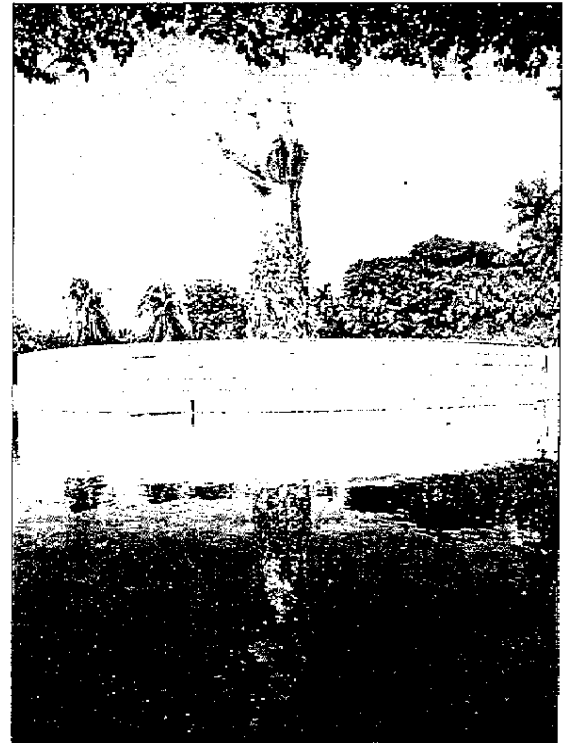
• **Third place:** Rochelle Trafton of South Beach won \$100 for her photograph of someone's feet resting upon a green lawn for the "Serene" category.

"We went through 4,800 photos, and it was hard to pick a winner," Perez said. "We looked for something that portrayed things not in a typical way. We looked for mostly creativity but also photographic skill."

Besides a cash prize, each of the winners received a 24-by-30-inch plexiglass print of their winning photo from Tropicolor Digital Imaging, and a gift bag from Starbucks.

Fotomission, a volunteer-run nonprofit, raised approximately \$4,000 for the Waiting Exhibition. Photographs of foster kids are taken by Fotomission volunteers in hopes of finding them homes.

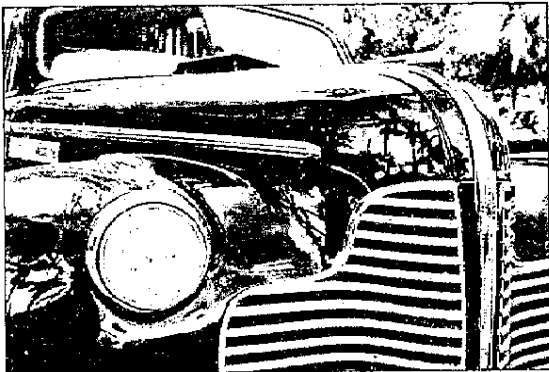
The organization still needs to raise \$22,000 for the exhibition that takes place in November, which is National Adoption Month, at the Miami Children's Museum on Watson Island.



THE WINNER: Jennifer Barbaro's image of The Holocaust Memorial on Miami Beach was submitted to the Freedom category.



THIRD PLACE: Rochelle Trafton's image was submitted to the Serene category.



SECOND PLACE: George Martinez's image of a vintage Buick was entered into the All-American category.