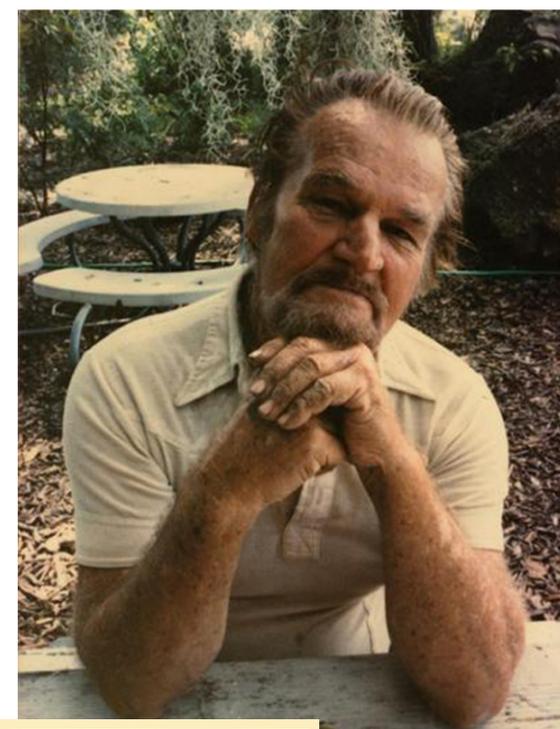


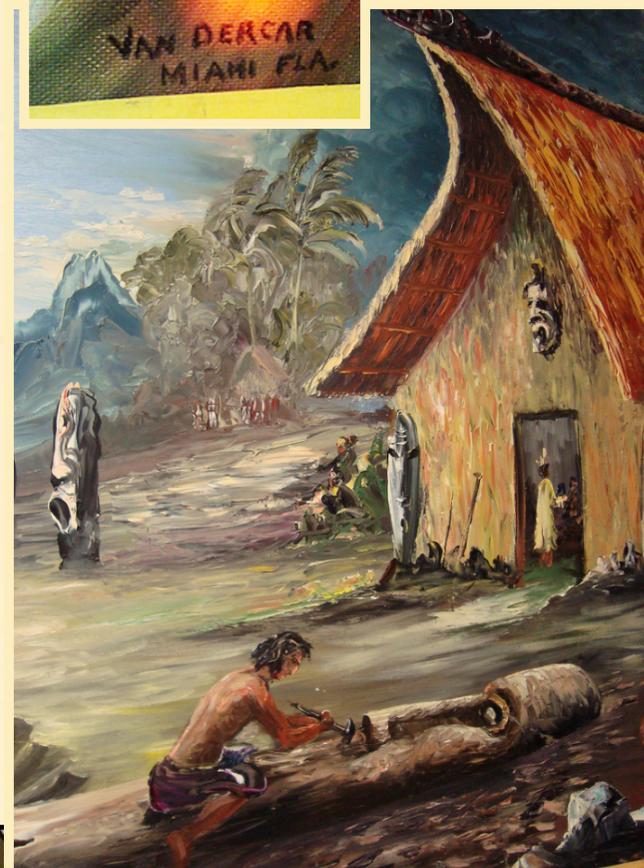
LEWIS VANDERCAR MIAMI'S OWN ANDY WARHOL



**The Sculptor
The Painter
behind the
Treasures
of the
TIKI INN**



Wherever you roam on the grounds of the Tiki Inn, you're surely not far from a treasure. Sure we all recognize the Witco mask on the peak of the Paradise Lounge façade and the Leeteg Velvet painting in the polynesian showroom, but behold the work of Lewis Vandercar! From the majestic concrete Moais and Outrigger Canoe that lure passerby's to visit, to the army of concrete Tikis surrounding the pool, to the bigger than life concrete sentinel in the back parking area, to the whimsical concrete character as though poised to say "I'm stuffed with rum and good food!", to the extraordinary murals adorning the hallways to- and walls of the Polynesian showroom. This is the work of a genius. Some refer to him as Miami's own Andy Warhol, he playfully referred to himself as a warlock, we will remember him as the man who guided the lily that is the Tiki Inn Resort of Lake George. This is where you will find the largest non museum collection of original art by Lewis Vandercar.



Many who grew up in Miami in the 50s, 60s and 70s will remember the city had its share of kookie artists and bohemians. One of the best known was Lewis Vandercar who referred to himself only as Vandercar. He lived in the Morningside area with his wife and two kids- son David and daughter Muggins, where he had his studio and home. His home was run like a salon where anyone could come at anytime and visit. Many of the neighborhood kids loved to come and play in the sculpture garden. As an artist, Vandercar painted and sculpted in cement, his garden filled with his statues and his home with his paintings. Vandercar was a mysterious figure that liked to say he was a warlock and a clairvoyant. He called himself "Magus Supreme, pro tem of the Supreme Order of Magi" and someone with mysterious powers, specifically ESP and the power to levitate. He hinted about incarnations and said an alien entered his body as a young man. However, Vandercar's most interesting quirk was his very funny pranks. He would take out ads in the local newspaper which were very funny. He said he had a pet poltergeist, and then tried to sell it through a classified ad. His classified ads in the Miami Herald were frequent: "Sale: Swamp colored UFO. Must qualify." "Free Cruise to Bahamas, Bring oar." "Electric car. \$25,000. Extension cord extra." He sold "roe eggs" in one ad. He said he rediscovered the ancient secret formula to make and impregnate the eggs of rocs, mythological birds. A woman bought the eggs and had them shipped to her Chicago home. Later, Vandercar admitted the eggs were really made of garbage piling up in back of his home. He didn't want to haul it away, so he covered it in plaster. He didn't tell the lady, but sent her a check to cover the shipping costs. VanDercar later explained: "There is some sense of the ridiculous that can be carried to such an extreme that it becomes beautiful. Take the time I predicted that a great extinct primitive bird was going to appear at midnight in the park. The newspapers exposed it as a hoax. Even so, at midnight, 150 people showed up in the park to see the bird- That was beauty!"

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