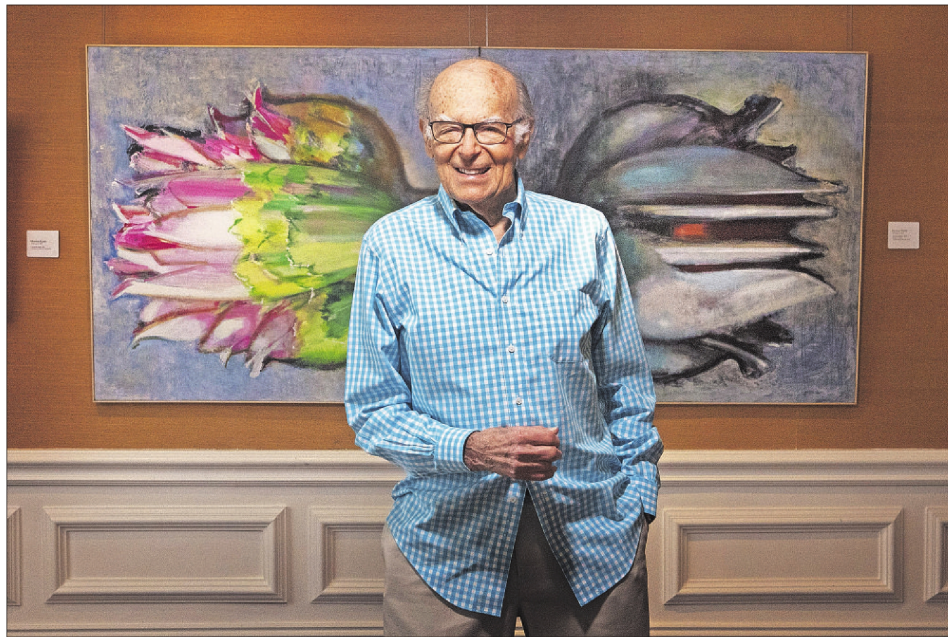


# ACCENT

## A Natural Abstraction



Painter and printmaker Morton Kaish in front of his painting *Delicate Balance* at Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens. (DAMON HIGGINS/PALMBEACHDAILYNEWS.COM)

**Morton Kaish's art mixes nature themes with lessons learned from hanging with Abstract Expressionists.**

By Jan Sjoestrom  
The Palm Beach Post

When artist Morton Kaish returned to New York in 1959 after a long sojourn in Italy, he was in for a rude awakening. "I'd been painting the Italian landscape and street scenes very happily," he recalled.

He and late wife, Luise, moved into a loft in an Italian neighborhood in Greenwich Village. "It seemed like an extension of where we'd been living," he said. "We didn't know until the weekend that it was the epicenter of everything that was happening in the 1960s."

Their loft was above the Cafe Rienz coffeehouse, a popular gathering place for Beat generation intellectuals. The Cedar Tavern, haunt

of Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline, Phillip Guston, Mark Rothko and other avant-garde artists, was a few blocks away. Hans Hofmann's school and Larry Rivers' studio were just around the corner.

Needless to say, Kaish's environs challenged his more traditional sensibilities.

How he resolved that crisis can be seen in the galleries of the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens in West Palm Beach, where *An Eye for Nature: Paintings and Prints by Morton Kaish* is on view.

The show includes straightforward pictures of floral bouquets and single blossoms, fanciful combinations of cosmic symbols and butterflies that recall the psychedelic era, and effusions of flower imagery so dense they're nearly abstract.

The quality of Kaish's art, which resides in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and other

institutions, his life experience and subject matter appealed to the Ann Norton, executive director Cynthia Kanai said. "We're here in a 2-acre garden," she said. "He creates pieces about nature, which really brings the garden inside our gallery."

Kaish is new to the gardens, but not to Palm Beach. He showed his work at the late Irving Luntz's Worth Avenue gallery.

Now 92, and still a New York resident, he's clung to representation, although he pushes its boundaries.

"I felt I belonged to a continuum as old as art of life," he said. "I wasn't going to walk away from that. I loved it."

Kaish's collision with the abstract expressionists released something inside him.

"I saw a freedom and a willingness to risk that I had not been aware of before," he said. "I saw all these people were working at the edge every

See MORTON, E2



*Arrival I* is one of the works in Morton Kaish's butterfly series. (COURTESY OF THE ARTIST)

### If You Go

**What:** *An Eye for Nature: Paintings and Prints by Morton Kaish*  
**When:** Through May 5

**Where:** Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, 253 Barcelona Road, West Palm Beach  
**For information:** Call 832-5328 or visit [ansg.org](http://ansg.org).

## An animated art heist movie?

By Michael Phillips  
Chicago Tribune

Here's a unique and uniquely exasperating addition to the heist genre.

"Ruben Brandt, Collector" national art museum to international art museum, scattering insanely high-speed chases throughout a busy mystery involving a shadowy art therapist, haunted by childhood memories and terrible dreams in which he's attacked by figures from famous works of art.

Every few seconds, and sometimes every second, a new visual name-drop hits the screen. Here, a rip-off of Munch's "The Scream"; there, Warhol's dueling Elvisses; here, there and everywhere, characters sport noses and ears, in varying numbers, akin to those found in Picasso.

The Budapest-based filmmaker Milorad Krstic makes his animated feature debut. In many ways,



A scene from "Ruben Brandt, Collector." (SONY PICTURES CLASSICS)

"Ruben Brandt, Collector" (collector refers to "thief") impresses with its sheer density of referencing and detail. The visual landscape combines digital animation with two-dimensional, old-school lines. The story and the milieu, with its dizzying death-defiance and leggy cat burglars, recall heist and spy movies of the 1960s and '70s. It sounds fun. For a while it's clever. And then it becomes a joyless, protracted exercise.

A lot of what's wrong with

"Ruben Brandt, Collector" relates to what I don't love about a lot of contemporary live-action movies: a numbing relentlessness and a casual brutality. Krstic opens with a bang: after a cliffhanging nightmare, Ruben awakens from his first bad dream, on a speeding train, and the movie soon segues into a car chase through the streets of Paris, with everything a little rougher, a little wilder, than

See MOVIE, E2

## '70s book is sweet, rocking flashback

By Alicia Rancilio  
The Associated Press

**"Daisy Jones & The Six" (Ballantine Books), by Taylor Jenkins Reid**

Like a poignant song with lyrics that speak to your soul, "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid will transport you to another place and time.

Set in the drugs and rock 'n' roll culture of 1970s, the story begins with an LA "it girl" named Daisy Jones whose big blue eyes and copper hair get her into all the hot spots. She falls into music but with a gritty voice like Janis Joplin and a gift for songwriting, she actually belongs there.

Then there's a band called The Six whose lead singer Billy Dunne is the definition of a rock star: he's moody, arrogant and handsome.

Through a series of



**"Daisy Jones & The Six: A Novel," by Taylor Jenkins Reid.** (BALLANTINE VIA AP)

events, the two acts come together and form Daisy Jones & The Six. The group skyrocketed with critical and popular acclaim, hit songs and a sold-out tour, until they suddenly, inexplicably break up.

See BOOK, E2



## HELOISE

## Complaining constantly drives people away



Heloise

**Dear Readers:** Today's SOUND OFF is about hypochondria. — Heloise

**Dear Heloise:** Why is it some people love to talk about their aches and pains nonstop? Two of my friends seem to do nothing but complain about every little ache and pain. They weren't this way years ago, but as they've aged, it's the main source of conversation with them. I've tried changing the subject, but they go right back to complaining about their health. After whining about minor aches, they complain that their kids never visit them. They drive people away with their complaints. There's an old saying, 'No one wants to hear about your health unless it's good.' Even then, keep it to a minimum and don't exaggerate.

"Instead of looking for the negative side of life, look for the positive, because it's all around you. No one has a perfect life, and no matter how much you have, there will always be problems of one kind or another. How you handle those problems will determine how happy you are. Complaining about them continuously will leave you lonely and isolated." — Margie in Houston

**Dear Readers:** Here are some additional uses for baking soda:

- Sprinkle on carpets to deodorize before vacuuming.
- Use in place of toothpaste.
- Clean a stainless steel sink.
- Open a box and place in the fridge to deodorize.

— Heloise

**Dear Heloise:** In the Daily American newspaper in Pennsylvania, I read about a person who always got stuck hosting the big family gatherings. Years ago, I had that problem, so after a Thanksgiving dinner with everyone present, I announced that from now on, we would be taking turns hosting the holiday dinners. I now host only once every five years. For those who say they don't have the room, I suggest they host at their church hall or community building. That means no more excuses! — Mary in Stoystown, Pa.

Mary, holidays are a lot of work, and everyone should pitch in and share the work or take turns hosting the events. This is especially true with large families. — Heloise

**Dear Heloise:** The mop head finally rusted through and fell off, but the handle is still useful. I threaded a folded napkin in the top and now use it to clean the dust bunnies out from under the refrigerator. — Norma C., Waterloo, N.Y.

**Dear Heloise:** My wife died a few years back, and I now cook for myself. I have a question about potatoes: The eyes and black spots — are they bad for you? And how should I store the potatoes? — Robert C., Summerfield

Robert, first, potatoes should not be stored in a refrigerator. Ideally, they need a cool, dry place, out of direct sunlight. As for the eyes and black spots, cut out the black spots. The eyes won't hurt you. The black spots could be a bruised spot or a fungus, so cutting it out is a safety measure. — Heloise

Write to Heloise in care of The Palm Beach Post, 2751 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach, FL 33405-1233 or email [Heloise@Heloise.com](mailto:Heloise@Heloise.com)

## MOVIE

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live-action movies: a numbing relentlessness and a casual brutality. Krstic opens with a bang: after a cliffhanging nightmare, Ruben awakens from his first bad dream, on a speeding train, and the movie soon segues into a car chase through the streets of Paris, with everything a little rougher, a little wilder, than the average "Mission: Impossible" sequel. Then, suddenly, the pursuer (an American private detective) and the pursued (the purring, unstoppable cat burglar in high heels) find themselves in a nightclub. Dance break! Then it's back to the pursuit.

Ruben's neuroses lead back to some familial secrets, buried too long. The sheer geography and velocity of the capers offer plenty of diversion. The hit-and-run jokes, or name-drops, keep coming: When private eye Mike Kowalski's knife collection is shown, briefly, to include a knife from Polanski's "Knife in the Water" next to Rambo's weapon from "First Blood," you might say to yourself: "That's funny." That's not the same thing as actually laughing, but it's something.

"Art is the key to the troubles in the mind," Ruben tells his patients. A satisfying heist movie, animated or live-action, requires more selectivity and less clutter than this one. The movie dashes by door after door, but it lacks the key.

## BOOK

From Page E1

Now, all those involved, from the band members to their friends and loved ones, look back and share their version of events in the first-person. It reads like you're watching a documentary where no one holds back.

Each character is compelling but Daisy Jones is the star. She's a blazing talent who is unapologetic in her sexuality and lives life on her own terms (which is fitting in this #MeToo era.)

In this era with so much content and stimuli, where

we're on the internet while watching TV, what's great about this book is it draws you in, drowns out the noise and you're just focusing on Daisy, Billy and their story.

If you haven't read Taylor Jenkins Reid's other novel, even if one is completely unique, but her recent works "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" and now "Daisy Jones & The Six" really cement her status as an author with a gift for storytelling who is worth following.

Actress Reese Witherspoon must agree. She has secured the rights to "Daisy Jones" and will develop the story into a limited series for Amazon Prime.

## DR. ROACH

## Lift device another option for enlarged prostate treatment



Dr. Keith Roach

**Dear Dr. Roach:** I am a 66-year-old male, who is healthy with a very active life, both physical and sexual. Like many men my age, I have an enlarged prostate that my doctor monitors during annual visits. It doesn't impair my life, with the small exception of being annoying (waking up nightly to a weak or slow urinating stream), and it doesn't bother me too much during the day, except once in a while when I have to urinate a little more than usual. Every now and then I'll try an over-the-counter prostate supplement, but they never work. I will NOT go for a surgery because it's not really necessary.

I just read about a new revolutionary treatment option called a prostatic lift device, which is supposed to "lift and remove the prostate tissue out of the way so it no longer blocks the urethra (the passageway that the urine flows through)." It says, "Tiny implants are placed to hold the tissue in place, like tiebacks on a window curtain, leaving an unobstructed pathway for urine to flow normally again." They go on to say that treatment typically takes under an hour, preserves sexual

function, doesn't require cutting, heating or removal of tissue. Compared with other BPH surgeries, this system is supposed to have a strong safety profile with minimal side effects. I am curious if you've ever heard of this. Do you think it's safe? It sounds great. However, the thought of tiny implants being placed inside of me and staying there scares me. — V.A.

**Answer:** The prostatic urethral lift procedure is yet another option for men with symptoms of an enlarged prostate. The procedure does involve the placement of small implants. The procedure is said to be easy to perform (easy for a urologist, that is), and improves quality of life and measures of urinary flow.

In a study of 206 men, none developed sexual troubles after the procedure. It has significant benefits over traditional surgery: Recovery is faster and has less risk of sexual side effects, but traditional surgery improved urinary flow and complete bladder drainage more than the urethral lift procedure. Also, 14 percent of men who had the lift procedure needed the traditional surgery within five years. The implants seem to be safe and do not affect the ability to do surgery if necessary.

I wouldn't recommend this procedure nor a surgical procedure — or even an alternative procedure like laser, microwave, plasma

vaporization or water vapor ablation — without a trial of prescription medication first. Most men do very well with an alpha blocker like tamsulosin (Flomax), a dihydrotestosterone blocker like dutasteride (Avodart), or a combination of the two. I'm not sure you have tried that.

**Dear Dr. Roach:** Should a person be concerned about serious side effects from long-term use of Claritin-D? My son has been using the medication continuously for about nine years. He has had allergy shots, which were minimally helpful. He cannot use nasal rinses or sprays because they cause nosebleeds. He does have some sleeping problems, but since he's been taking Claritin-D for so long, it's hard to tell if that medication is the cause. — M.S.

**Answer:** Claritin-D is a combination of the antihistamine loratadine and the decongestant pseudoephedrine. Loratadine is considered safe in most people. Pseudoephedrine is safe for younger people, but it can raise blood pressure and pulse, and in older men, can cause urinary symptoms. He might try plain Claritin, which is just the loratadine, and save the Claritin-D for his worst days. Less pseudoephedrine is probably better.

Write to Dr. Keith Roach at King Features, 300 W. 57 Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10019-5238.



Summer Nocturne is a sublimated aluminum print based on a painting Morton Kaish created for his late wife, Luise. (COURTESY OF THE ARTIST)

## MORTON

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moment, where it was possible to lose something and by losing that find something else."

For him that meant unleashing the possibilities of color, while retaining the discipline of drawing and graphic design.

It wasn't the first clash of sensibilities he'd had to integrate into his practice. Midway through earning a fine art degree at Syracuse University, there was a changing of the guard in the faculty. The classical regimen passed down from 19th-century academic painters was swept out, to be replaced by teachers who stressed color, form and concepts.

After he moved to Europe, he soaked up the art of the past as well as the techniques of graphic design, which he swings into as easily as he does painting.

Works in the exhibition range from the 1980s to 2018.

The diptych Delicate Balance is perhaps the most autobiographical of the images. Kaish painted it in 1992 after emerging from what he describes as a period of austerity into "a kind of blooming and flourishing." The two sides of the work are mirror images of a flower, one in shadow, the other in full color.

With monotypes such as Blue Velvet, Kaish said he revels in the freedom the medium gives him to produce oil painting effects quickly and exploit fortuitous surprises.

He embarked on his butterfly series in 2016 during a vacation with his family in Italy. He and his granddaughter were stuck inside during a rainy day when his daughter proposed they paint inside together.

They cast about for a subject to paint, when Kaish suggested they look out the window. There they spotted a butterfly fluttering in the

midst.

He's been painting them ever since.

He likens his process to the themes and variations of the classical chamber music he listens to while he creates. Like the composers, he begins with a motif then develops its elements "to as many variations as that theme might suggest," he said.

Summer Nocturne is the first example of his most recent venture into print-making — sublimated prints on aluminum, a process that uses heat and pressure to fuse an image onto an aluminum surface.

In the image, tall multi-flowered stalks of hollyhocks stand out against a glowing blue background.

Kaish is glad the print retained the aliveness of the painting it's based on. He won't part with the painting because he created it as a gift to his late wife and cherishes it as a reminder of her.

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