



# *Every minute something wonderful happens*

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## AS SEEN IN BLACK TIE INTERNATIONAL

Photo: Michael Abrams Kravitz

*I plant what I paint, I paint what I plant. I am an integral part of the entire process of creation. When I kneel to the ground and, with the ridge of my hand incise patterns into the soil, the work begins. It is always a celebration of something... the tall trees... a huge, wonderful stone.. or the lilies, my movie stars. Before I paint, I photograph If the garden is well designed, no matter which piece of it the camera catches as I search for a magical image, it will provide a setting that is as important and orderly as a piece of the universe.*

*It is exactly like painting. I draw, rip out , replace, sensualize, force it until a motif emerges. And then I play Goddess. I place plants where they could not possibly survive and then see that they do. I mix sand into the soil of the moisture -shy begonias, and peat moss for the unquenchable Gerber Daisies. I place small umbrellas over shade - loving impatiens to shield them from the noon sun. If need be I pray!*

*At some point the garden gets giddy and starts behaving like a jungle. With my left hand carefully positioned between the plants, in a one armed push- up posture, I reach over and out with my right and pinch and coax the flowers back within their boundaries. And then suddenly... It's perfect...lush, linear, rampant, painterly. It has achieved a unique and recognizable design that has made it an "art Job". I then say "Smile for Mama" and start Shooting.*

*Once I start I can't stop. Every minute something wonderful happens... the wind blows... a stalk pops up or bends gracefully... the sun flickers and spills patches of neon onto the flowers. I stalk the garden like paparazzi afraid to miss anything.*

*I feel very powerful in the garden. I have controlled my art from it's inception. I have joined and enjoined the devae, spirits of the plants. I have competed with, challenged, and ultimately embraced nature. I have built my own small paradise and perpetuated it with camera and canvas. This is as close as I can get to total creation, a work that is every part mine.*

Brenda Kravitz

*Kravitz's paintings and photography can be viewed at ART+ Gallery, Coral Gables , Miami.Thru June 30 and Hampton Road Gallery, Southampton*

