Miami’s MasterMinds: Three Winners of the *Miami New Times* Genius Grants

Last Friday during Artopia, the *Miami New Times* announced the deserving winners of MasterMind 2011. The competition awards $1,500 grants to three individuals who “express a unique vision that helps us view our landscape and soundscape afresh.” The nine finalists included film makers, artists, and DJs, from WVUM’s frequent guest Black Bobby to one of the performers at our own Synthesis festival, Panic Bomber. This year’s prizes went to Matt Priera of Roofless Records, Jorge Rubiera of Animal Tropical/Can’t Stop/Down Home Southernaires/Pygmy/Rottweiler Farm, and Christy Gast of art scene fame.

Matt Priera has hosted his fair share of *Miami Time* episodes and brought in bands like Fun to other WVUM shows. Roofless Records, the label Priera co-heads, specializes in vinyl and cassette releases. Bands on the label include Flux Forces, Curious Hair, Skeleton Warrior, and The President. You also can often catch him working at Sweat Records. Check out the label’s tumblr here: http://rooflessrex.tumblr.com/

Jorge Rubiera, along with the members of his projects Can’t Stop, Animal Tropical, Down Home Southernaires, and Pygmy, has graced the WVUM studio on more than one occasion. He is a household—well, venue-hold—name in the local scene, and his artistic endeavors aren’t limited to music alone. He also shoots the videos for Swamp Valve and Vintage Mavens as well as a feature-length film entitled *Meniscus*, which is still in the making. He can be found here: http://jorgerubiera.com/

Christy Gast has exhibited her landscapes and other works at the Museum of Contemporary Art in North Miami as well as the De La Cruz Contemporary Art Space. Her art, some of which features locations like Lake Okeechobee, offers new interpretations on the history of Miami. But she’s not limited to the local scene, as she’s shown her work in Zurich and Chile as well. Her site can be found here: <http://www.christygast.com/>

Congratulations to this year’s winners!