

FINAL EDITION

# The Miami Herald

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1994

CONTENTS COPYRIGHT © 1994 THE MIAMI HERALD

## MORALITY/MORTALITY



CANDACE BARBOT / Herald Staff

**POWERFUL SCULPTURE:** Nancy Miller, left, and her daughter Jacquelyne peer through the front window at the Charles Hotel in Miami Beach at artist Ed Massey's explicit tableaux of a rape victim and her attackers, which is on display through May 29.

## Rape tableaux generates thought, talk

By JOHN LANTIGUA  
Herald Staff Writer

The four young men visiting from Indiana were walking innocently down Collins Avenue, when all of sudden they saw the scene:

A woman, sprawled on the ground, briefcase, purse and sweater strewn; pantyhose around her ankles, her grieving face in her hands. A scene of violence, violation, rape.

Then they saw her attackers: two men looming above her. Their naked bodies were suspended from nooses tied to their genitals, their faces howling in pain.

"They raped her," said Darren Engelhardt, 22, a mechanic from Linville, Ind. "If they did, they got what they deserved," said his friend Bryan Arnold, 21.

A nightmare? A hallucination? No, a work of art.

The tableaux, created by Los Angeles-based artist Ed Massey, sits in a show window at the Charles Hotel at the corner of

### WHERE TO SEE IT

*Morality/Mortality* will be on display until May 29 at the Charles Hotel, 1475 Collins Ave. It can be viewed from the sidewalk outside the hotel.

15th Street. Four other versions of the life-size works are currently on display in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Entitled *Morality/Mortality*, the work is meant to stimulate thought about sexual assaults of both women and men, according to Massey, 31.

"Most of my work deals with social issues and I know a lot of women with great fear of rape," said Massey. "I want the work out for public discussion as a protest of the criminal justice system. The men hanging is just symbolic. I don't propose hanging men up by their genitals. I think

rape is the most deplorable act of terrorism, worse than murder. The woman dies inside."

To the young men from Indiana the scene had a disturbing personal resonance: A man whom they had grown up with in the small, 600-person town of Linville, Eric Branch, was just this week sentenced to die in the Florida electric chair for the rape and murder of a young woman in Pensacola.

"He was a buddy of ours, and we have respect for his family," said Engelhardt, staring at the plaster figure of the violated woman. "but if he did that, then he has to pay for it."

Eileen Stewart, manager of the hotel and president of the nonprofit organization, Women of Miami Beach (WOMB), which supports women's causes, helped get the work shown here until May 29. After that it goes on tour to other cities.

"Well, one idea was to get people talking

PLEASE SEE TABLEAUX, 2B

## Rape tableau in hotel window generates thought, talk

### TABLEAUX, FROM 1B

about the issue, and it's certainly done that," she said. But Nancy Miller, 35, a Miami Beach astrologer, said what needs discussion is how rapists sometimes go unpunished.

"Too many men don't end up like those guys," she said. "They

still get away with it."

The reactions of other men who stopped before the arresting scene in the midst of South Beach's Art Deco district were similar to that of the Indiana tourists.

Joaquin Salcedo, 39, of Miami Beach, said he had seen the after-

math of rape in his old neighborhood, the Bronx.

"That's how it happens, the shoes on the ground, the bag. It's bad, man. It's like that," he said.

"Look at the face of that girl. You don't see that kind of pain in the courtroom, you don't see what it's really like," said Sean

Shannon, 37, a local electrician.

The security guard for the hotel, T. Storm — a former film double for the actor Mr. T — said more than one man had complained about the scene.

"One guy said it was crime against men," said Storm. "He said he was going to come back and shoot out the windows."