

Have a One-Night Stand With Art

Mixed media is a tricky venture — does this seashell and shoelace collage really reflect my longing for inner purity or just



my last vacation to Sanibel? But well-executed, mixed-media artwork can be one handy tool: It fuses nontraditional objects cohesively, giving the artist the freedom to reach her thesis without leaning on traditional acrylics and watercolors. You can take a tour of the ingredient-rich stuff in ArtServe's (1350 E. Sunrise Blvd., Fort Lauderdale) newest exhibit, "**Mix It Up.**" While there, make sure to take a long look at **Virginia Erdie's** contributions; they're full of interesting imagery and surprise media. One of her pieces, *Erotic Minds*, is embellished with accents that look oddly familiar — little rubber tubes sewn onto the canvas that peek out from under drips of paint. "Well, I got them at a gay bar," says Erdie, explaining how the mixed-media muse unexpectedly struck her. "They were just all of these bright colors: red, blue, and yellow. I thought, 'I'll put them in a painting!'" So when Erdie dreamed up an image about the erotic nether regions of the mind, those little prophylactics came in handy. "The piece isn't about sex," Erdie explains. "It's just about the thoughts we all have while also dealing with issues of protection." Who knows? Maybe after you visit "Mix It Up," you'll go home and dig through that bedside drawer. The next Monet could come from your underutilized nightstand. Call 954-462-9191.

— JAMIE LAUGHLIN