



## 'A MOMENT IN TIME'

*Collage exhibition blends history, society with art*



Meghan McCarthy / Daily News

*'I love history  
and I like to tell a story.'*

**JEAN-CHARLES DE RAVENEL**  
Collage artist

Collage artist, history buff and storyteller Jean-Charles de Ravenel will exhibit his collages of Palm Beach scenes through April at Lindroth Design, 312B S. County Road.



Photo by Jean-Charles de Ravenel

Jean-Charles de Ravenel based this collage on Mona Williams, a fashion icon and one of the most beautiful women of her day, and her Palm Beach estate, Blythedunes.

By **JAN SJOSTROM**  
Daily News Arts Editor

Anyone acquainted with the history of Palm Beach society might notice a familiar face in the window of Lindroth Design. A black-and-white photograph of Mona Williams — then wife of utilities magnate Harrison Williams — anchors a collage that revolves around Blythedunes, the couple's Palm Beach home.

She looks chic, as might be expected from someone declared the best-dressed woman in the world by leading designers in 1933. Her photograph tips into a gouache painted by her good friend, Cecil Beaton of Blythedunes' drawing room. Her spectacular jewelry figures in a picture of an emerald snapped from the catalog for an auction held after her death.

The collage is one of 14 created by Jean-Charles de Ravenel from old photographs and documents dating mainly from 1930s Palm Beach displayed in the shop at 312B S. County Road.

A former antique dealer, he took up collage as an outlet for his love of history and

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[www.jcderavenelcollages.com](http://www.jcderavenelcollages.com)



IF YOU GO

**What**  
Palm Beach Revisited — collages by Jean-Charles de Ravenel

**Where**  
Lindroth Design, 312B S. County Road

**When**  
Through April

**For more information**  
Call 249-1205



This collage features the historical architects of Palm Beach. It's titled "Architects, Maurice Fatio, Addison Mizner and John L. Volk." Meghan McCarthy / Daily News

## COLLAGES

*Palm Beach series based on 1930s jet-setters, golf, polo, historical buildings*

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acquisitive instincts after moving to Lyford Cay in The Bahamas several years ago.

"Jean-Charles does something no one else that I know of does in the art world," said his friend and neighbor Amanda Lindroth, who opened the Palm Beach branch of her business in March. "He uses museum-quality rare documents to make these historical pieces of artwork that capture a moment in time."

He chooses his materials for their period relevance and aesthetic value. The background for Mona Williams' Blythedunes collage is a photograph of the ocean seen from his home in The Bahamas.

"I wanted a green to go with her emeralds and her eyes, which I'm told were this extraordinary color," he said. Blythedunes was demolished in 1985.

De Ravenel's fascination with Palm Beach dates from the hours he



Jean-Charles de Ravenel used photos from his grandparents' albums in collages such as this one, based on a trip they took on Mona and Harrison Williams' yacht, Warrior.

spent as a child paging through the photo albums of his grandparents, Prince Jean-Louis de Faucigny-Lucinge — known as Johnnie de Lucinge — and his wife, Baba.

"I was always fascinated with the pages of the people who would stay in St. Moritz in January and pass on to Palm Beach in February," he said. "They were so glamorous."

His grandparents stayed at Blythedunes and cruised on the Williamses' yacht, Warrior, the subject of another collage. You can see a photograph of them and the Williamses on the beach in the Warrior collage.

When Lindroth suggested de Ravenel create a series based on Palm Beach, he chose settings typical of the lives of

1930s jet-setters, such as Worth Avenue, night life, golf, polo and buildings designed by society architects Maurice Fatio, Addison Mizner and John Volk.

Mona Williams isn't the only memorable Palm Beacher depicted. You can find Eva Stotesbury and Marjorie Merriweather Post (then Marjorie Davies) in the Worth Avenue collage, C.Z. Guest at a match in the polo collage, and Lucille Parsons Balcom in the golf collage.

The collages aren't meant to be strictly factual. "I love history and I like to tell a story," the artist said. "It's a work of the imagination."

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