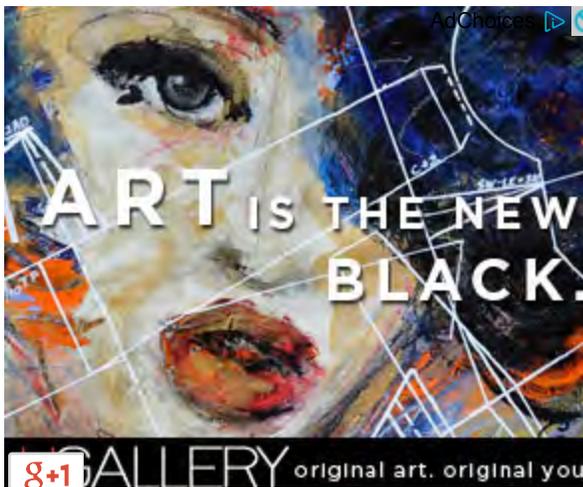


Home → Collections



## Art collector Mera Rubell tours Baltimore art studios in 36 hou

She selects 19 local artists to participate in prestigious shows in Manhattan and Washington

January 06, 2014 | By Mary Carole McCauley, The Baltimore Sun

Mera Rubell — a 70-year-old formerly penniless Jewish Russian refu turned art collector extraordinaire — is the kind of person who just nat

For example, a recent tour of Baltimore's art scene began quietly at 8 occupants. Eight hours later, the caravan that pulled up outside the Cl grown to three vehicles containing at least 14 people, including four re



Garcinia Cambogia Warning

[consumersguides.com](http://consumersguides.com)

Shocking! Here's What Happened When We Tested The Top Garcinia Cambogia

Create Your Own Website

[hibu.com](http://hibu.com)

An Easy Way to Build a We Start Your Free 30 Day Tri

### Related Links

Choosing art for annual auction exhibition [Pictures]

Tim Smith's picks for standouts in Baltimore theater, classical music 2013 [Pictures]

The throng kept growing because Mera, who will permit herself to be off-the-wall adventures that also are lots of fun [↗](#). On a late October v artists who were chosen by lottery from a pool of about 150. The whirl inspired by a similar marathon she conducted of Washington studios i

During her Baltimore visit, Mera was quietly evaluating the artists for i prestigious Manhattan gallery — though the painters and sculptors dic considered for "Select 2014," an exhibit sponsored by the Washington which Mera is one of eight guest curators.

They were indeed being evaluated for the Northern Virginia show. But

2013 arts highlight reel

Contemporary Museum resurfaces with new name, revived mission

Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance to give \$120,000 in artist project grants

## Related Articles

Making A Go Of A New Gallery

*May 17, 2009*

Galleries offer a variety of art

*May 16, 2004*

Three if by Sea Miami Beach

*May 4, 1997*

Back Story: Lord Baltimore Hotel undergoing face-lift

*November 7, 2013*

Menorah collections bring light to homes

*November 28, 2012*

"Shhhh," Mera says. "Don't tell them. It's supposed to be a surprise."

(Later, photographer Alessandra Torres would write in an email that up was among the 19 artists selected for both shows, first she screamed experience is like an art fairy tale," Torres wrote, "just like the movie v

Not that the artists needed an incentive. They would gladly open their husband, Don, and their two grown children have put together what th holdings of contemporary art in the world.

The couple began purchasing art in the mid-1960s when Mera was a school. They allocated 25 percent of Mera's then-weekly salary of \$10 same proportion of their income on contemporary paintings and sculp such future superstars as Jeff Koons, Cindy Sherman and Richard Pr a 45,000-square-foot museum in Miami, and the couple divide their tir

Mera's energy is irresistible. Arms akimbo, she enthuses past all obst for each 20-minute studio visit are abundant and homemade. They sa had — just like the art hanging on the studio walls.

Who wouldn't want to tag along?

Jane Deering, the owner of a California gallery bearing her name, is a magical," she tells Mera. "You know how to put these artists right at e:

## "7 Mistakes Artists Make"

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

Free 9 page Handout: 7 great tips Handout to cure

"Oh, stop it," Mera replies.

Deering may be on to something. There's definitely a whiff of a moder godmother [sports](#)  a black Panama hat and pink-rimmed shades. SI pleasure when in their company.

"Wow!" she says after visiting Rachel Rotenberg's Northwest Baltimor sculptures. "Oh, my God! That was some visit. People have no idea w

An hour later, she's in Gary Kachadourian's studio across town, admir drawings of humble objects. Kachadourian's posters, which begin at \$ sidewalk, bear out one of Mera's favorite sayings: "Everyone can affo

Impulsively, she breaks her own rule.

"This trip isn't supposed to be about buying," she says. "But I can't res

Mera opens up her wallet — and everyone else in the group scramble

But no one who has acquired the Rubells' reputation for discernment the situation warrants tough love, she dispenses it.

For instance, she advises one artist to focus more on refining her visio become a great artist is long," Mera says, "and it's still ahead of you."





**PINPOINT pH Monitor**  
\$99.99

[Shop](#)



# THE SUN

- HOME
- NEWS
- LOCAL
- SPORTS
- RAVENS
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- LIFE
- HEALTH
- OP

Home → Collections



INDUSTRIAL MODERN DECOR

Up to **50% Off** Unique Styles




[SHOP NOW](#)

 [What the World's Been Making for You](#)

AdChoices 

(Page 2 of 2)

## Art collector Mera Rubell tours Baltimore art studios in 36 hours

**She selects 19 local artists to participate in prestigious shows in Manhattan and Washington**

January 06, 2014 | By Mary Carole McCauley, The Baltimore Sun

But overall, Mera thinks Baltimore's art scene is an undiscovered treasure. When Mera gets a strong feeling that something should be done — she acts. It takes her less than 72 hours after the tour ends to set up the shows, which has a reputation for spotting up-and-coming artists on the verge of fame.

Mera knows people who know people. Her conversation includes anecdotes about a maternity ward as she was delivering her son), the filmmaker John Woo, Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei. Pop icon Andy Warhol was a close friend.

### Learn Acting for Film in South Beach



[get more info](#)

**NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY**

MarineDepot.com

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

#1 source for aquarium supplies  
hundreds of aquarium products

Engineers Club  
Baltimore

[www.esb.org](http://www.esb.org)

Glorious interiors, rave reviews  
Make your special day memorable here

### Related Links

[Choosing art for annual auction exhibition \[Pictures\]](#)

[Tim Smith's picks for standouts in Baltimore theater, classical music 2013 \[Pictures\]](#)

But her greatest affinity isn't with the rich and famous; it's with struggling artists. As she tells Rotenberg:

"I grew up in a family where you put your belongings in a bundle on a cart and you go."

Mera's family fled their native Poland in 1939 after her father came home with the Polish army. Because he was blond and blue-eyed, Mera says she was convinced his wife and nine brothers and sisters that they had to leave.

2013 arts highlight reel

Contemporary Museum resurfaces with new name, revived mission

Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance to give \$120,000 in artist project grants

## Related Articles

Making A Go Of A New Gallery

*May 17, 2009*

Galleries offer a variety of art

*May 16, 2004*

Three if by Sea Miami Beach

*May 4, 1997*

Back Story: Lord Baltimore Hotel undergoing face-lift

*November 7, 2013*

Menorah collections bring light to homes

*November 28, 2012*

crossed the Polish border.

He tried to persuade Mera's mother's family to come along. They dem mothers with young children.

"Two of them survived Auschwitz," Mera says. "Three did not."

Mera was born in 1943 in Tashkent, the capital city of what is now Uzi camps in Russia and Germany. When she arrived in New York at age

Of necessity, she began spending a lot of time in the library and prove in English but an authentic New York accent to go with it. After enrollir says, she began sitting at the same library table as an attractive medi

"For three months, this gorgeous guy sat across from me every day, a he asked me if I wanted to take a walk. I did, and the first words out o

Eventually, she did.

The couple collected art steadily while Don became a gynecologist ar raised two children: Jason, who works in the family business, and Jen child was sketched by Warhol. Another close — and famous — family was best known for co-founding the discotheque Studio 54. Steve left of complications from AIDS.

In 1993, the couple transformed a former federal Drug Enforcement A museum, and a few years later bought their first hotel. A pattern soon a new city while investigating a building purchase and begin champioi Miami, it worked the other way around.

In Washington, for instance, the couple bought a former Best Westerr Capital Skyline Hotel. For the past several years, they've been renovz Columbia's southwest side into what will become a satellite museum f

## Tj Maxx Online

[tjmaxxonline.shopathome.com](http://tjmaxxonline.shopathome.com)

Online Shopping Has Arrived. Yay: Now Find TJ Max

In Baltimore, the Rubells are in the midst of renovating the 85-year-ol the hotel and local art community, and she unveils one of them during Charles Village studio.

Instead of a standard hotel gift shop, the Lord Baltimore may house a ceramists, sculptors. It will be called "The Anyone Can Afford to Own

But why stop there?

Someone suggests that the small refrigerators in each of the hotel's 4 drinks.

Everyone laughs, and Mera runs with the idea:

"We could put a piece of art inside," she says — and it seems she's o disappears from the room after you check out, it goes on your bill."

[mary.mccauley@baltsun.com](mailto:mary.mccauley@baltsun.com)

**If you go**

"Baltimore Artists + WPA + Mera Rubell = LOVE" runs from Saturday 64th St., New York. [marianneboeskygallery.com](http://marianneboeskygallery.com) or 212- 680-9889.

The Washington Project for the Arts' exhibit, "Select 2014," will be on Blvd., Arlington, Va. [wpadc.org](http://wpadc.org) or 202-234-7103.

# Man Cheats Credit Score

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

1 simple trick & my credit score jumped 217 pts. B:

Prev | 1 | 2

## Featured Articles



Ravens tackle Michael Oher takes big brother job seriously



Unconditional kindness or bridge to Ravens games



Is the Orioles' window of opportunity closing as the calendar turns to 2014?

**MORE:**

50 best restaurants in Baltimore counties

After 20 years, anchorman Kai Jackson leaving WJZ

Teen accused of beating a cheerleader to death Victim had refused a date, friends say

Rawlir  
Baltim

U.S. z  
cancel

For To