

Eighty-five degrees in November sure doesn't feel like fall, but the new art season is here with a breath of fresh, unusual and thought-provoking art, much of it blowing down from the north.

For sheer zaniness, you just can't beat The World of Kenny Scharf, now reverberating off the walls at the Hokin Gallery in Bay Harbor. Scharf recently moved to Miami, after spending the last few years dividing his time between New York and Brazil.

His new show still exhibits many of his trademark images of loopy, grinning space creatures, twisting, candy-color jungle vines and painted objects in bright toxic colors. The pieces range from new, large multi-paneled paintings to some of his earlier painted objects. From vacuum cleaners to boom boxes (the source of music for opening night) to doors and cameras, nothing is safe from Scharf's wacky whimsy.

The best part of the show, aside from the overlapping of '50s advertising images, colored spheres and silly critters, are the frames. Astro-turf, tinfoil, aluminum, padded diner vinyl in bright red and "plastic refuse" hold the explosions of color and images in.

Scharf has had a pretty good run in the art world, coming out of the New York East Village art/club scene in the early '80s. His uninhibited shows of The Jetsons inspired art and maniacally fun presentations at nightclubs like the Palladium paved the way for serious art-world attention. Since then shows in London, Tokyo, Zurich and Amsterdam have followed.

While his images (and prices) are outta sight, Scharf, the droll-faced ringmaster, always throws, and loves, a good party.

The World of Kenny Scharf continues through Nov. 28 at the Hokin Gallery, 1086 Kane Concourse, Bay Harbor Islands. Call 861-5700.

Dark images, dark humor

Nighttime is the right time to visit the new exhibit *Nightshades* at the World Gallery. This two-artist show is best seen in the dark because it features naturally lighted photographs of glowing, nighttime architecture and back-lit photos full of lighthearted social commentary.

In her series of photos entitled "Sunset After Dark," Chicago native Patty Carroll documents the tawdry and tacky relics of American retro resort living in cities like Miami and Las Vegas.

To capture these surreal after-dark portraits, Carroll mounted her camera on a tripod and relied only on available lighting. Many of the images of motels, kitschy wall paintings and roadside attractions should be familiar to South Floridians. It's an unreal world devoid of people, inhabited only by the fluo-

rescent glow of peeling paint, reflecting pools and buildings that have seen better days.

"For me, these lights are an emotional seduction. I use color for evocation rather than pure description. The heavier and more saturated the color, the more hedonistic and primal the feeling," says Carroll.

Frank Palaia has turned battered suitcases, shopping bags, newspaper front pages and toys into witty political commentary by inserting back-lit photos into them.

A toy police truck has photos of the Rodney King beating on its roof. Suitcases carry photos of exotic lands with glowing sunsets and speeding trains zooming down the tracks. A can of Radiant brand olive oil has an insert of a nuclear power plant.

Exhibited together, the items make up a golden room where all is food for thought, and ordinary objects begin to speak a different language.

Palaia is from New Jersey, where he has shown in numerous exhibits.

Nightshades continues through Jan. 4 at the World Gallery, 945 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach. Call 531-3050.

\$8,000 raised for hurricane relief

✓ An art auction to benefit Hurricane Andrew victims raised more than \$8,000, according to auction organizer Roly Chang. He says the art, exhibited last week at Miami-Dade Community College's Centre Gallery, was of a high quality. His only complaint was that both the recipient, the American Red Cross, and some of the bidders could have been a little more gracious. The idea, he says, was to raise money, not to get art work cheap.

✓ Jason Rubell opened a second gallery at 700 Lincoln Road with an unsettling show of cartoon and Klu Klux Klan images. Attending the opening were members of New York's Whitney Museum elite. The space itself is stunning, and it's wonderful to see some serious money and art work hitting South Florida.

