

## Floating Tile Art: "Gator in the Bay"



230-foot alligator, skeletal steel head on a barge, and body made of 102 individual 4-ft by 8-ft tiles creating a photo mosaic that floats

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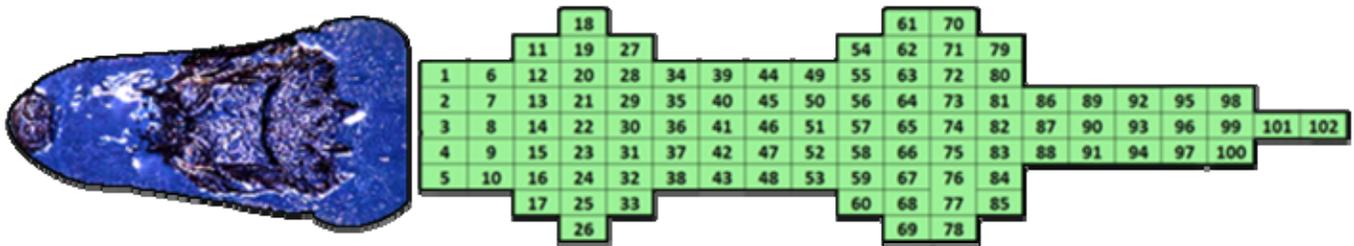
Video of Floating Tile Art: 'Gator in the Bay'  
<http://youtu.be/UO5ECW1j-Ao>

### **Historian Cesar Becerra and Artist Lloyd Goradesky's Floating Tile Art: "Gator in the Bay"**

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Not since artist Christo's pink plastic surrounded islands in Biscayne Bay decades ago has a giant floating art project grabbed the imagination of South Florida like the 230 foot long Gator in the Bay ...

Historian **Cesar A. Becerra** and Artist **Lloyd Goradesky** who has created a new art medium, Floating Tile Art: "Gator in the Bay," a 230- foot alligator that will float in Biscayne Bay creating an amazing sight during the day and illuminated at night. Completely visible for public viewing during the excitement of the Art Basel Extravaganza, the Floating Tile Art will use Miami's Biscayne Bay, as a canvas right in the heart of the art center



The alligator head is built on a self-propelled barge. Each Floating Tile Art (rectangle) is 8 feet by 4 feet. 102 Tiles creating a photo mosaic using 6,528 images that will become a 230 foot Gator.



*"My art promotes Wildlife Awareness and Animal Kindness" ..Lloyd*

Purpose: Applying the "Power of Art," while showing the beauty of nature using one of Florida's iconic symbols – The Florida Alligator – as a beacon of its resurgence. After 35 years on the endangered species list, the alligator is a barometer that we have a long way to go in protecting the water and health of our environment.

The art piece will be unique in its creation. "Naturally, the first thing anyone will notice is the size of the Gator. Depending on the time of day, the viewer will see color and lighting that will provoke the wonderment of nature. The barge is self-propelled and the helm is relatively obscured from view. It will be big beautiful and highly visible for all to share," said Goradesky. The entire photo mosaic will be temporarily assembled during Art Basel. After the art week, the Gator is disassembled and each 4 foot by 8 foot Floating Tile Art will become a colorful collage and collectible art piece.

**The art project 'Gator in the Bay' written up in the Huffington Post:** [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/31/gator-in-the-bay\\_n\\_1724867.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=miami#slide=1306417](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/31/gator-in-the-bay_n_1724867.html?utm_hp_ref=miami#slide=1306417)



The majesty of the Everglades

The Alligator is the ultimate symbol of Florida. As a symbol, the alligator reflects our environment. It reminds us that we have something unique that is being abused and needs to be protected - The Florida Everglades.

**We need the Everglades to survive.** Canals and levees capture and divert its water for human needs, including our drinking water, irrigation, and flood control. Today 50% of south Florida's original wetland areas no longer exist. The numbers of wading birds, such as egrets, herons, and ibises, have been reduced by 90%. Entire populations of animals including the manatee and the Florida panther are at risk of disappearing.

### **3 Reasons for Saving the Florida Everglades**

**A)** In the State of Florida, the entire water flow begins in the northern part of the State. Lake Okeechobee is a central collection point for fresh water. The filtering process begins as the water leaves Lake Okeechobee and journeys southward. This water flow is part of the filtering process of our fresh water before it leaves our mainland and enters into our oceans. The water flow of the everglades filters the water we drink in south Florida and prevents pollutants from further contaminating our waterways.

**B)** The outer edges of our coast are natural fish estuaries that hatch our game fish and put food on our tables. When the shallow shores meet the fresh water it creates the perfect balance allowing safe refuge for fish to breed increasing their chances for survival in the predatory ocean.

**C)** It is home to plants and nature that we are still trying to understand - 99% of all medications begin with the science of plants and nature. The Everglades is home to species of animals and nature that are predominantly found only in Florida's Everglades.

**Help Save the Everglades. We need your help.  
Support 'Gator in the Bay' through Kickstarter  
<http://kck.st/PFQ9e2>**

## Art by Numbers:

- 1) The total dimension of the art piece is **230 feet long and is 60 feet wide**.
- 2) The alligator head measures **70 foot by 30 foot** built upon a self-propelled barge. The head is made mostly from junkyard and recycled steel/metal.
- 3) The alligator body is assembled with **102 Floating Art Tiles**.
- 4) Each Floating Art Tile is **4 feet by 8 feet** and is 2 inches thick.
- 5) There are **64 images on each Floating Art Tile**. (Note: Due to design and layout, there may be up to 64 images on a Floating Art Tile)
- 6) **6,528 images** will be used to create the photo mosaic forming the alligator body.
- 7) From the viewers' perspective creating 1 massive "**Gator in the Bay**"

## Points of Interest

- 1) The head of the alligator will be built with recycled steel creating the frame.
- 2) A crane will be centered on the barge using the boom of the crane to support the upper mouth of the alligator
- 3) The crane will allow the mouth to open and close
- 4) The barge is a specially designed that meets small vessel requirements and is self-propelled. Other barges need tugboats and need to meet large vessel requirements.
- 5) The entire project is environmentally conscious. For example, if needed, the barge can anchor without damaging sea bed floor or sea grass. The barge can adjust for tidal flow & current.
- 6) Although the art is temporarily 'placed', it is temporary so that tiles will not block sunlight and damage sea floor.
- 7) Floating Tiles are printed using [SCALGio printing technique](#) which is eco-friendly. Each Floating Tile Art is a collectible archival museum-quality art piece. They will not deteriorate due to environment and are resistant to sun and saltwater.



A Mother Alligator looking over her nest while protecting her babies.

**Time Lapse Mock Up Actual Size of Floating Tile Art: 'Gator in the Bay'** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4dReWzWx14>



*The mock up of the 'Gator in the Bay' on the FIU Football Field demonstrates the magnitude and size of the art piece. The red cones outline the 70ft by 30ft alligator head.*

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The Everglades is magnificent at any time of the day or night (or year).

**Find out more information at the following websites:**

<http://www.KickStarter.com/>

<http://www.GatorintheBay.blogspot.com>

<http://www.Facebook.com>

<http://www.LloydSite.com>

<http://www.PlanetCesar.com>