James Borynack is...  

PHOTO: MICHAEL PRICE

Michael: WHERE DID YOU GROW UP AND WHERE DOES YOUR LAST NAME, BORYNACK, COME FROM?
James: I was born and raised with my six siblings in Long Island, New York. Our father’s family was born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, now the Ukraine.

Michael: DID YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN ART OR HAVE AN ARTISTIC TALENT AS A CHILD?
James: Yes, I was always involved with artistic ventures throughout my schooling which led me to Parsons School of Design.

Michael: WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?
James: I guess I was about ten years old – lawn services for neighbors, it grew into snow removal by the time I was eleven.

Michael: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR FIRST MEETING WITH THE LEGEND WALLY FINDLAY?
James: I met Wally Findlay in 1968 in Palm Beach at which time I owned a boutique which sold men’s and ladies European designer clothes. He had come into the shop while the Duke and Duchess of Windsor were shopping and had purchased a tie and handkerchief. The Duke of Windsor commented on the tie, Wally gave it to him – and we laughed many times after.

Michael: YOU ARE AT THE HELM OF A BUSINESS THAT HAS EXISTED FOR OVER 140 YEARS. THAT’S QUITE A LEGACY TO UPHOLD. WHAT ARE THE CURRENT CHALLENGES YOU FACE?
James: Like most other luxury high end businesses we need to rely on the integrity of our art and the quality of the services which we provide. Continuing the legendary standard in which we have performed during our rich history requires us to constantly renew ourselves with new art and artists.

Michael: HOW HAS THE TASTE OF THE PALM BEACH COLLECTORS CHANGED OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS?
James: As art trends change so will peoples’ taste. Contemporary works today are more suitable for many environments. One’s ability to be more eclectic speaks about a body of work that changes with moods.

Michael: WHERE CAN YOU BE FOUND ON YOUR DAY OFF?
James: Sunday - St. Edwards, then usually my partner and I will lunch with friends - and usually a late movie.

Michael: FAVORITE PLACE TO TAKE A CLIENT TO LUNCH?
James: Palm Beach Yacht Club, or around the pool at The Colony Hotel.

Michael: BEST PERK OF HAVING A BUSINESS ON WORTH AVENUE?
James: My apartment with its wrap around terrace above the shop!

Michael: A PAINTING YOU WOULD LOVE TO SEE HANGING IN YOUR LIVING ROOM?
James: A Fauve figurative Van Dongen – BIG!

Michael: SOMETHING YOU DREAM ABOUT?
James: The happiness of my friends and family.

Michael: IS ART IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER?
James: Yes, especially today with all the hype and obstacles about that awful word different. Art moves one in many ways – choose the best.

Michael: YOU’RE OBSESSED WITH?
James: People making an effort to do the right thing or the best they can no matter what the situation may be.

Michael: TELL US ABOUT SOME OF THE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS YOU ARE INVOLVED WITH.
James: As children we were taught to stand for something – get involved and help. I have been involved with children’s care for about 40 years. I am now a Life Member of the board of Children of Bellevue, Hospice came into my life at the end of my mother’s life. The care was extraordinary, I became involved with the National Hospice Foundation and served as Chairman of the Board as well as Chairman of the Board of Governors, I remain a NHF Governor today and have become very involved with the American Pain Foundation and currently spearhead their expansion of Regional Advisory Councils.

James R. Borynack is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Wally Findlay Galleries International, Inc. 165 Worth Avenue, Palm Beach. 561.655.2090.