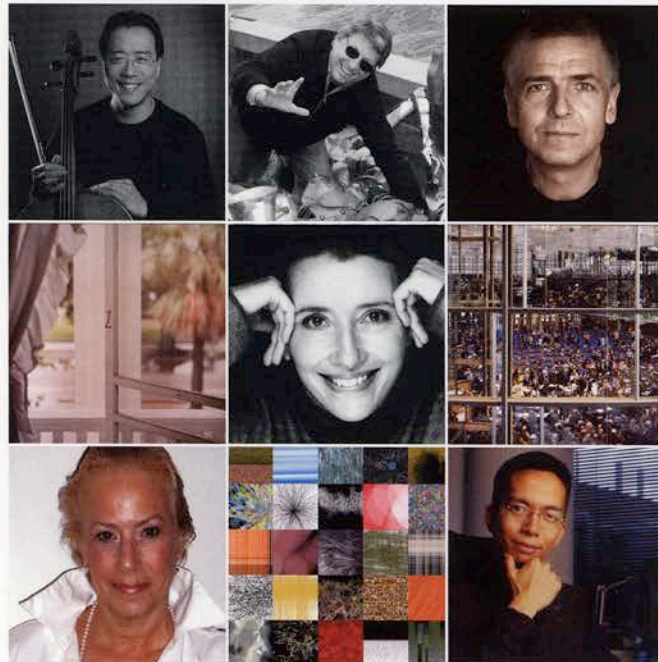


# *Arts and Culture* **IN DAVOS 2008**

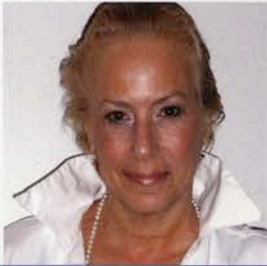


DAVOS, SWITZERLAND 23-27 JANUARY



2008

ARTS AND CULTURE IN DAVOS



Paula Barr  
**Gulf Coast Echo**

Paula Barr was reared in Mobile, Alabama, where her roots still run deep. She completed her art studies at Boston University and established herself as a photographer in New York City while still a young woman. Attracted to architectural, engineering and industrial subjects, she tackled them ingeniously for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the New York Health & Hospitals Corp., as well as AT&T, the New York Times and Microsoft. Devising her own strategies for executing expansive panoramas, she adapted the encompassing format to the diverse specialties of portraiture, cityscape and industrial documentation. These include a circus ring record of lion tamer, Gunther Gebel-Williams, at work; traffic-level scenes of a fast-transforming Times Square; and anniversary views of New York's George Washington Bridge and JFK airport.

In the mid-1990s Barr spent 18 months commuting to the Gulf Coast for an art commission at the Mobile Infirmary Medical Center, producing a 74-foot long photo mural celebrating the local geography; it is still the largest photograph in the world and the first to be made with archival glass tiles of her own invention. On return visits, before and after this work, she photographed the region of her youth and its people – most recently in the period following the devastating hurricanes of autumn 2005.

Raised in a Jewish household during the Civil Rights era of the 1960s, Barr can identify with the people neglected and displaced in the storms' aftermath. Her photographic goal now is to keep alive the memory of a world-famous regional culture and lifestyle that have been wiped out. By focusing on the most devastated locations along the coast-hugging old US 90 highway, *Gulf Coast Echo* also seeks to support efforts to meet the long-term needs of displaced persons and survivors who have lost everything.



Veranda Door, 1978, Mobile, Alabama

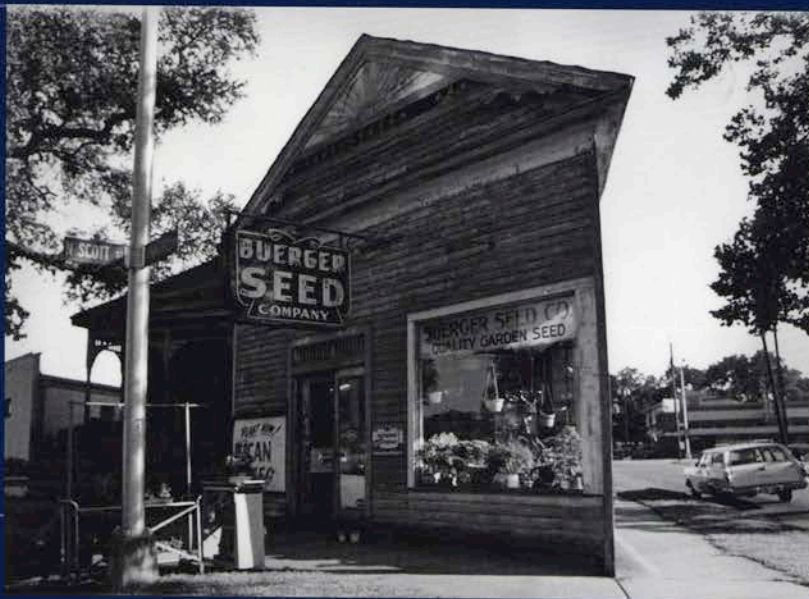
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**“As a result of my early memories, I have a keen awareness of the injustices to which some were subject – I felt them too. Although that was some time ago and I have my career as a photographer in New York City now, the Gulf Coast Region formed my vision and is in my blood forever.”**

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**BARR PAULA BARR PAULA BARR PAULA**

Bed SRO, 1977, Single Room Occupancy, Port of Mobile, Alabama



Buerger Seed , 1978, Mobile, Alabama



Father and Son, 1977, Church Street Cemetery, Mobile, Alabama



Greek Grocery, 1977, Mobile, Alabama