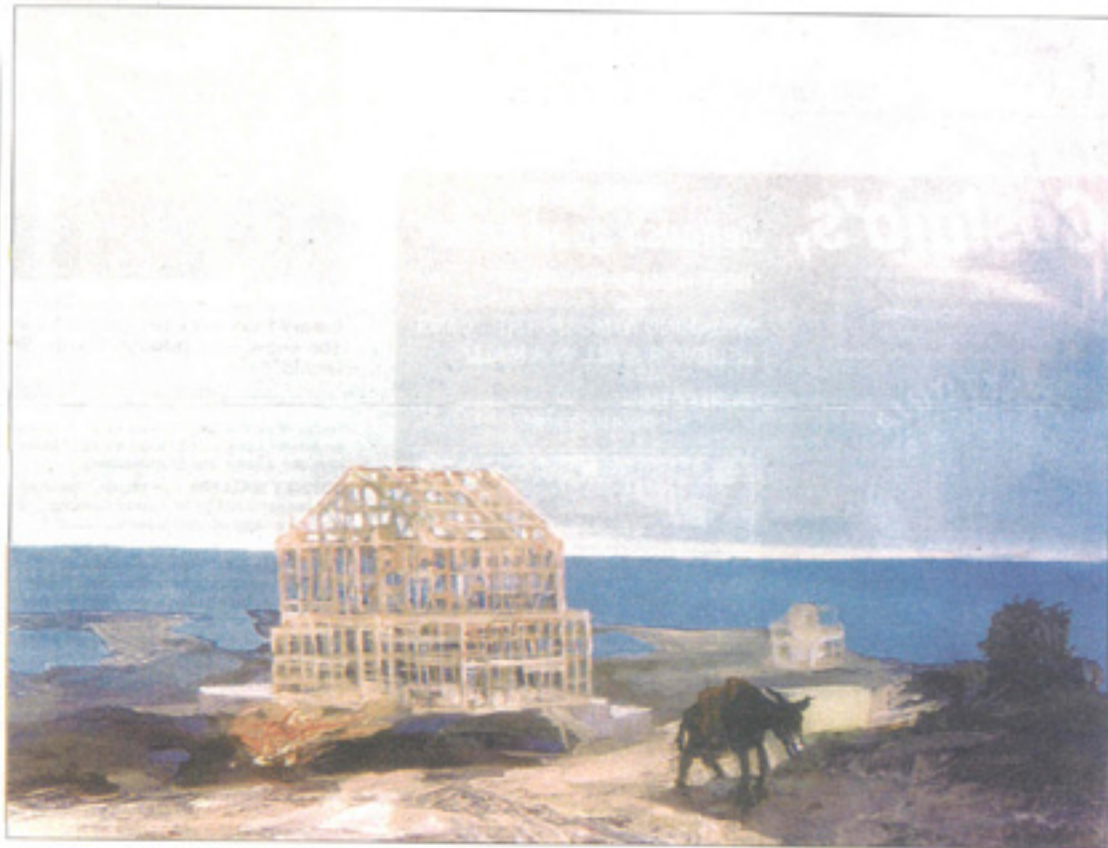


# Sarasota's *Calendar* of the Arts

## A voyage to 'Donkeyland'



Leslie Lerner's "Annibale's Donkey."

During the month of March, Allyn Gallup Contemporary Art/Mira Mar Gallery will feature recent work by Leslie Lerner. This nationally known artist will present "Donkeyland," a series of paintings created since the time of his last solo show there two years ago.

Critics refer to Lerner's outstanding skills as a painter, and the evocative, sometimes tongue-in-cheek references to important contemporary issues. In this body of work, he grapples with huge socio-economic forces confronting us globally in this post-9/11 era.

Says the artist: "I discovered the donkey ... it was a particular donkey in a painting illustrating the holy family's flight to Egypt by Annibale Caracci. I identified with this donkey, so I stole him. Then the war started, and my donkey became an iconic connector

representing the artist, the event and our crude understanding of it. So here we are, all of us in donkeyland, caught up in a spectacle fueled by religion, technology, oil and revenge. Mute, saddled, led and faithful."

Lerner's art is in many national collections, including the Ringling Museum, the Corcoran and National Galleries of Art in Washington, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He lives in Sarasota and is an instructor at the Fine Arts Department at the Ringling School of Art and Design. His work was last seen in late 2003, in a one-person show in New York City.

The exhibit will run from March 3 through April 3. Gallery hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. For further information, call 366-2093. The gallery is located at 1284 N. Palms Ave.