

Flashback exhibit: A look back at Miami in the 1980s

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Photo courtesy Donna Plana

Miami still sizzles, but back in the 1980s it was called the Wild Wild West, a Casablanca, and to add to its lore, it became home to the iconic television show Miami Vice.

Now, images from that turbulent, but stylistic decade, when Cocaine Cowboys, Don Johnson and the Mariel boatlift altered the landscape, are the heart of a photo exhibit opening Friday at the Freedom Tower — across the street from where the Miami Heat are battling in the NBA Finals.

“Flashback: Miami 1980s” is a display of 15 photographs of the era — cleverly inset into period-specific television sets. It features the

Actor Don Johnson shoots a scene from Miami Vice.

work of Miami Herald photographer Charles Trainor Jr., former Herald photographer Donna Natale Planas and freelance photographer Alexia Fodere, who concocted the idea of displaying the photos on TV sets.

The exhibit at the MDC Museum of Art Design, on the second floor of the Freedom Tower, runs through Aug. 10.

The show opens Friday with a 6 p.m. reception that is open to the public.

Admission to the exhibit is free. The Freedom Tower is at 600 Biscayne Blvd.