



o.p.art

More than 10 years ago, I invited a group of highly talented Puerto Rican artists and friends (Reyes Melendez, Victor Ortega, Wilmer Velez, Frank Fournier II, Erik Carrion and Mauricio Laffitte) to join me in an effort to organize and help promote the works of Puerto Rican artists living both inside and outside of Puerto Rico. We have drawn on the talents of those living in widely diverse locations abroad, spanning nations throughout the world.

O.P. Art has organized various exhibitions to showcase the variety of works created by the artists over the course of the organization's history up to the present.

O.P. Art reflects their intellectual, artistic and conceptual investigations of the individual artists.

O.P. Art is a nonprofit artist collective run by artists that supports the development of contemporary artists, their work and creativity. Our principal objective is to promote the work and provide a direction for emerging artists on an international level through gallery and museum exhibitions. Furthermore, Puerto Rican artists as individuals find that they can no longer rely on funding from entities and institutions which once promoted artistic expression both within and outside of Puerto Rico. This is the result of budget cuts in the art programs and the economic environment of the last decade.

The following is a brief history of how I gave O.P. Art its start:

In 1994, created a group show called "The New Faces of Puerto Rican Art" at Ateneo Puertorriqueño in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico and Peter Madero Gallery, New York. Including 49 artists from all different media.

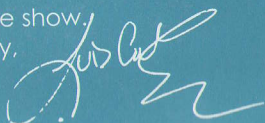
In 1995, El Museo Arsenal de la Puntilla in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico produced a collective called "Expresión es un Grito Visual," including 44 artists.

El Museo de Las Americas in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, did POP@OPART December 1999 - January 2000, with the works of 17 other artists.

In 2004 started La Taza de Oro Gallery featuring a different O.P. Art artist every 6 weeks.

And now, 10 years later, Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center has invited O.P. Art to present an exposition that portrays the art of Puerto Rican artists today.

Enjoy the show.
Sincerely,




I N A R T W E T R U S T

Nuevas Caras del Arte Puertorriqueño New Faces of Puerto Rican Art.

Peter Madero Gallery, New York, March 3-17, 1994

Ateneo Puertorriqueño, San Juan Puerto Rico, April 14-28, 1994.

The new faces of Puerto Rican art. A wide spectrum of colors and shapes. From the bright blues of **El Caribe** to the deep grays of New York. A diversity of ethnic backgrounds. A homogeneous group, we are not. Even people who are not named Rodríguez or Ramírez de Arellano are Puerto Rican. You may ask why? Perhaps once you live in contact with our **revolú cultural** you become part of it. After **quinientos años** of a history marked by many occupations and attacks **lo imposible era** that we didn't have an identity of multiple faces. We are a cultural and racial **mescolanza**. We are not a race, but a nation. Comprised by many cultures. Blended into a new one. A colorful, beautiful, rich, new culture. From **La Perla** to **Garden Hills**, from **South Bronx** to **Greenwich Village**, we all have that **mancha de plátano** that might fade, but never dies. **The melting pot syndrome** started in Puerto Rico five hundred years ago. Que el que no tiene **dinga** tiene **mandinga**, and this exhibition is evidence. By no means a comprehensive review of our culture, but a necessary outlet to express what we are all about. We are not the nuevas caras only in the sense of age - some of us have been **en la brega** for over a decade or two - but in this collective exhibition we are indeed the new faces in the sense of a new, greater exposure. **Te hablamos a new language**, a new style influenced by a series of **new issues**. Issues like poverty, el medio ambiente, sexual preference, la raza, AIDS, el aborto, love, drugs, la passion, corruption, la infidelidad, the status, la transculturación, life, la muerte... you know, like reruns of Geraldo. We also speak in sensual lines and passionate, inviting colors, depicting the beauty that lies around us and within us. From **primitivism** to **futurism**, you can find it all here. We invite you **a que te des un viaje**, take a deep breath and dive into all these microcosmos. **Smell** the sweet aromas. See the magical tonalities. **Feel** the sunny warmth. **Hear** the exotic sounds. **¡Saboréalo!** Once you have done this...you'll be in touch with the nature of our reality.

You will become our Witness. Erick Carrion/Reyes Melendez@1994

Artists

Abnel Rodríguez, Aida Irene Fournier, Alberto Valderrama,

A D E C A D E O F A C H I E V E M E N T S

Alexus Gúzman, Andrés Salas Acosta, Arleen Casanova, Aurora Cedeño Danielsen, Axel Damian Reyes, Carlos Cancio, Carlos Espinet, Carlos Mercado, Carlos Nelson Molina, Carlos Ortiz Quiles, Carlos Valentin, Cybelle Cartagena, Daniel del Valle, Edgar Vera, Edwin Pagán, Emily Baerga, Enrique Renta Dávila, Giovanni Caravaggio, George Le Chevallier, George Zavala, Javier Cintrón, Jorge Calderón, José Luis Cortés, José (Pepe) Estrada, Juan Carlos Diaz, Julio Peña, Luis Carle Matos, Luis Manuel Soto, Manuela (Cuqui) Aponte, Maria Eugenia Marcial, Mario Sostre, Mark Camin, Miguel Trelles, Nestor Millán, Pedro Cuevas, Peter Madero, Rafi Claudio, René Juan De La Cruz, Reyes Meléndez, Ricardo Avalo, Ricardo Mulero, Ricardo Ramirez, Vanda Santiago Fournier, Victor Ortega Jr, Willo Font, Wilmer Vélez

EX PRESION ES... Un grito Visual **2da muestra anual 1995**

Arsenal del La Puntilla, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.
June 29, to August 6, 1995.

EX PRESION ES a representation of feelings and voices from within. Here you will discover diversity of cultures, and different ways to phrase forms, colors, and ideas.

Artists

David Alberto, Jose L. Anselmi, Carlos Aponte, Manuela Aponte, Ruperto Aruelo, Jorge Calderon, Luis Carle, Cybelle Cartagena, Giovanni Caravaggio, Mark R. Camin, Javier Cintron, Jose L. Cortes, Pietro Cuevas, Juan Carlos Diaz, Luis Ferrer, Samuel Garcia, Alexis Guzman, Norah Hernandez, Ricardo Ifarraguerri, Antonella Iuri, Miguel Jordan, Amy Kayden, Soraya Marcano, Rick Martinez, Reyes Melendez, Hernan Mercader, Eddie Milla, Ritchard Mitchell, Jose Ortega, Carlos O. Quiles, William Quetzalcoatl, Ricardo Ramirez, Enrique Renta, Millie Robles, Abnel Rodriguez, Vanda Santiago, Leslie Vivienne Tung, Alberto Valderrama, Carlos Valentin, Sonia Valentin, Leonardo de Vega, Wilmer Velez, Villanueva, Mark Vinsun.

POP @ O.P.Art

Museo del las Americas/Cuartel de Ballaja, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico
December 7, 1999 to January 16, 2000

POP.PR @ O.P.Art presents 17 artists whose artwork reflect the effects of our contemporary visual culture as well as the influence of politics and mass media: advertising, television and the appropriation a variety of visual sources. These artists, many of whom were born during the height of the 1960's POP ART movement, continue to re-interpret a traditional Puerto Rican iconography thereby affirming a Puerto Rican identity in the midst of shifting historical events. Many of the works address a variety of spiritual and material concerns including industry and commerce, cultural pride and posterity, personal and political freedom and truth laced with rich, multi-layered histories.

Artists

Carlos Aponte, Cybelle Cartagena Romanacce, Javier Cintrón, José Luis Cortés, James De La Vega, René Juan de la Cruz, Norah Hernández, Eduardo Lalo, Georges Le Chevallier, Reyes Meléndez, Eddie Milla, Enrique Renta, Eric Schroeder-Vivas, Mario Sostre, Miguel Trelles, Rafael Tufiño II, Pepe Villegas.

THE CLEMENTE SOTO VELEZ CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTER
107 SUFFOLK STREET (BET RIVINGTON AND DELANCEY) NEW YORK

I N A R T W E T R U S T

D E C A D E O F A C H I E V E M E N T S

part

Organization of Puerto Rican Artists Inc

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GRACIAS

To everyone who helped us make this project a success:

We assure you that there is plenty more to come.

A todo aquel que aportó al éxito de nuestro primer proyecto: **Le aseguramos que todavía hay mas por venir.**

SINCE 1548
Rums of
PUERTO RICO
THE RUM CAPITAL OF THE WORLD
Fernando Martinez



Da Vinci Group, LLC

La Taza De Oro Restaurante
Yasmin Ramirez and
The staff of El Museo del Barrio
Connections Travel • Fournier-Garcia Family
Goya Foods Inc. • El Nuevo DiaMontalvo Family
Instituto De Cultura Puertorriqueña
El Museo de las Americas
Chase Manhattan Bank, Puerto Rico
Peter Madero Gallery • Debora Gilbert LLC,
Drew Figueroa, Miguel Trelles, Larry Blau,
Neyda Martinez, Joegon.

Many apologies if we have left anyone out.

