



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO PRESENTS ANTONIO LOPEZ: Future Funk Fashion On view June 14-November 26, 2016

A Tribute to the Puerto-Rican Born Fashion Illustrator and
His Prolific Three-Decade Career

PRESS PREVIEW: June 13, 5-6pm followed by a champagne toast



Detail of Antonio Lopez, Portrait: Angelo Colon, 1982, Pencil/watercolor on paper, 31 x 23 inches, [Ramos / Antonio: Three Decades of Fashion Illustration / London: Thames & Hudson, 1995 / p.160]

NEW YORK, NY—El Museo del Barrio announces an exhibition in tribute to Puerto-Rican born fashion illustrator Antonio Lopez (1943-1987) and his prolific three-decade career on the New York fashion scene. The exhibition will draw attention to the importance of his working relationship with his life-long business partner, Juan Ramos, and Lopez's impact on integrating models of color into a prominent role in the world of high-fashion for the first time. The exhibition will open on June 14 with a private reception from 6–9pm and will be on view through November 26.



ANTONIO LOPEZ: Future Funk Fashion will be divided into the following core themes and understudied aspects of Lopez's work: the body (with subthemes on the fractured body and the body of color), music, the street, and the influence of Afrofuturism. Among the most important of these themes is the power of the street, including graffiti, music, politics, and dance, and how these influences figured into Antonio's work. During his lifetime Lopez's colorful and flamboyant illustrations appeared prominently in *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Vanity*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *The New York Times*, *Interview* and *Women's Wear Daily*, drawing fresh attention to race, gender and body images within the world of high fashion.

El Museo's exhibition will bring together a unique assemblage of over 150 works including Lopez's prolific drawings, Instamatic photographs, archival photographs, his clothing and shoe designs, and uniquely focus on how Lopez's and Ramos' work impacted a new canon of beauty in the 1970s and into the 80s. Thematic sections within the exhibition will be built around his illustrations, his relationships with particular models (Grace Jones, Pat Cleveland, Jessica Lange, Jerry Hall aka "Antonio's Girls"), his shoe and jewelry designs, and images of people he came to know and love from the streets of New York City.

The show's co-curators are Rocío Aranda-Alvarado, Curator at El Museo del Barrio, and Amelia Malagamba-Ansótegui, a scholar from Arizona State University and University of Texas San Antonio. Dr. Malagamba's 2003 essay on Antonio Lopez for the Smithsonian Latino Center at the Smithsonian Institution continues to be a key text today for the ways it explores Antonio's attentiveness to race, gender and the body.

A large selection of works will be loaned from the Estate of Antonio Lopez and Juan Ramos, directed by Paul Caranicas. Additional works will be borrowed from various private collections in New York City, including the collection of designer Narciso Rodriguez.

ABOUT ANTONIO LOPEZ

Antonio Lopez was born in Utuado, Puerto Rico on February 11, 1943. His family migrated to East Harlem in New York City when Antonio was seven and he attended P.S. 77 on East 104th Street. To keep her son off the streets, Lopez's mother, a seamstress, would ask him to draw flowers for her embroideries. He also helped his father, a mannequin maker, to apply make-up and stitch wigs onto the figures. At the age of twelve, Lopez earned a scholarship to the prestigious Traphagen School of Fashion, which provided Saturday programming for children. From there he went on to attend the High School of Art and Design and the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Lopez rose to prominence illustrating fashions for *Women's Wear Daily* and *The New York Times*. He eventually became a freelance artist for many of the



top fashion publications. He collaborated with the noted designer Charles James, creating an illustrated inventory of James' fashion designs (now in the collection of the Chicago History Museum). He later moved to Paris with his friend and business partner, Juan Ramos, where they both worked with Karl Lagerfeld and many other designers.

Through his work, Lopez made great strides in exploring and representing the gender-based, ethnic or racialized body within the world of high fashion. His imagery helped to develop and underscore a new canon of beauty throughout the 1970s and 1980s. He died of complications related to AIDS on March 17, 1987 at the age of 44.

SPONSORS

ANTONIO LOPEZ: Future Funk Fashion is made possible thanks to major support by Tony Bechara. Additional support to the exhibition has been given by The Coby Foundation and Public Support from New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the New York City Council.

PRESS MATERIALS

Current and past press releases about El Museo del Barrio's exhibitions and programs are available for download at: <http://www.elmuseo.org/press/>

For further press materials please contact:

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ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs.

El Museo del Barrio is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104 Street in New York City. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am. to 6pm. Admission is suggested.

For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

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and Twitter. To promote the exhibition use #AntonioLopez
#FutureFunkFashion

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