



EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO EXPANDS PERMANENT COLLECTION WITH WORKS GIFTED BY THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO LOPEZ & JUAN RAMOS

El Museo increases the breadth and depth of its Latin American and Latino art collection with a historic gift of Antonio Lopez and Juan Ramos artworks



(R/L) *Susan Baraz, Carnegie Hall Studio, NYC / Preparatory collage for fashion editorial published in the August 28, 1966, issue of Fashion of the Times, The New York Times.* Antonio Lopez (drawing) and Juan Ramos (photography). 1964. Courtesy of the Estate of Antonio Lopez & Juan Ramos.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEW YORK, March 15, 2017 – El Museo del Barrio is thrilled to announce its acceptance of 47 works from the Estate of Antonio Lopez & Juan Ramos, to be housed in the museum’s permanent collection. Of the works gifted, 4 are collaborative works by Antonio Lopez and Juan Ramos, 35 are by Antonio Lopez, 2 are by Juan Ramos, 2 are by Carlos Rodriguez, and 4 are by Matthew Olszak. The gift, which comes on the heels of El Museo’s hugely successful 2016 exhibition *Antonio Lopez: Future Funk Fashion*, represents the largest gift the Estate has ever given a cultural institution. El Museo will be responsible for the conservation, exhibition, and continued research of the works, presenting them to audiences and furthering the learning and appreciation of Lopez and Ramos.

In a statement in support of the historic gift, Paul Caranicas, Director of the Estate of Antonio Lopez & Juan Ramos, said:



El Museo is a vital arts and cultural institution, whose genesis as a Puerto Rican museum founded in a school, and transformation into a respected platform for bringing Latin American and Latino art to a broad audience, is something that Antonio and Juan would have held dear to their hearts.

Antonio and Juan believed deeply in the power of education. During the '70s and '80s, they lectured and mentored students at universities and museums across the US and the Caribbean, including the Fashion Institute of Technology, Pratt Institute, Kent State, the Pasadena College of Art and Design, Altos de Chavon, and the Smithsonian Institution. Antonio and Juan, both of whom spent portions of their childhood in Harlem, took constant inspiration from the streets of New York (or any city they were living in) and became celebrated for bringing a diverse cultural energy, a post-civil rights sexual liberation, and the visibility of queerness into mainstream fashion.

The donation of these works reflects the depth of their practice and artistic ideology: portraits of the break-dancers they worked with from the neighborhood they loved, archived materials from their educational lectures, and high-fashion editorial drawings that demonstrate the inspiration they derived from Harlem's vibrant culture. Antonio and Juan were, and continue to be, pioneering figures in the intertwined histories of art, fashion, and design, and I am delighted that these important works will remain a part of El Museo's growing collection.

El Museo is honored to accept this generous gift, and grateful to have such phenomenal works to add to its growing permanent collection. Lopez and Ramos were monumental artists. Beyond their contributions as brilliant fashion illustrators and creatives, they were also trailblazers - well ahead of their time as they challenged notions of beauty, gender, and sexual identity promoting diversity and openness through their works and collaborations.

ABOUT THE ESTATE OF ANTONIO LOPEZ & JUAN RAMOS

The Estate of Antonio Lopez & Juan Ramos preserves and promotes the work and legacy of Antonio and Juan, celebrating their substantial and ongoing contribution to art, fashion, and history.

The scope and depth of the Estate is in large part thanks to Juan Ramos' diligent organization and conservation of the process and practice of his and Antonio's diverse careers. Juan maintained a collection of their original drawings, tear sheets, journals, archived materials, and photographs. The two artists worked across New York, Paris, Milan, Tokyo, and other cities worldwide from 1964 until Antonio's death from complications related to AIDS in 1987. The Estate was administered by Juan Ramos until his death in 1995, since which time it has been directed by artist Paul Caranicas, Juan's partner of 24 years, and close friend to Antonio.



The Estate regularly loans works to a diverse range of institutions, and commercial and public galleries. The Estate has published extensively on the artists' work, including the artist monographs *Antonio Lopez: Instamatics* (Twin Palms Publishers, 2012) and *Antonio's People* (Thames & Hudson, 2004). Works from the Estate have contributed to numerous books, magazines, and scholarly publications. The life of Antonio and Juan is the subject of a documentary by director James Crump, *Antonio 70: Sex Fashion & Disco*, forthcoming in the spring of 2017.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio is New York's leading Latin American cultural institution. Through its extensive collections, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events, El Museo educates its diverse public in the richness of Caribbean and Latin American arts and cultural history. By introducing young people to this cultural heritage, El Museo is creating the next generation of museum-goers, while satisfying the growing interest in Caribbean and Latin American art among a broad national and international audience.

For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org. Connect with El Museo del Barrio on Facebook at facebook.com/elmuseo, on Twitter at [@elmuseo](https://twitter.com/elmuseo), and on Instagram at [@elmuseo](https://www.instagram.com/elmuseo).

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