COMMEMORATIVE CATALOGUE

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO INAUGURATED
THE NEW EAST WING
COMPRISED OF FOUR NEW GALLERIES
ON NOVEMBER 19, 1982
THE 489TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE DISCOVERY OF PUERTO RICO

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Mr. Jack Aguirre
Executive Director
Museo del Barrio
1230 5th Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Aguirre,

On behalf of The City of New York, I am pleased to extend greetings to the members and friends of Museo del Barrio as you celebrate the opening of your new museum wing.

This event is another milestone in Museo del Barrio's 13-year history of growth and contribution to the cultural and educational vitality of community and City. All New Yorkers join with me in congratulating those whose dedicated efforts have led to the opening of the new wing, and to Museo del Barrio's ongoing success in fostering cross-cultural understanding and respect.

My congratulations to one and all and with best wishes for a most enjoyable and memorable celebration.

Sincerely yours,

Evelyn K. Davis
Mayor

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Robert Rodriguez
Council Member, 8th District
New York, N.Y. 10027

George Aguirre
Jack Aguirre
El Museo del Barrio
1230 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10027

Dear Mr. Aguirre and Jack,

I am pleased to salute you both on this historic occasion. Celebrating the opening of four new galleries at El Museo del Barrio. This represents a major step forward in the cultural development of our neighborhood.

I am happy to have been a part of this effort. Our community rejoices in this celebration and looks forward to sampling the artistic fruits of your labors.

It will be a pleasure to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony on November 16, 1982.

Sincerely,

Evelyn K. Davis
Council Member 8th District
November 3, 1982

George L. Aguirre, Chairman
Board of Trustees
El Museo del Barrio
230 W. 53rd Avenue
New York, New York 10027

Dear Mr. Aguirre:

The opening of the new east wing makes manifest the dedication and achievement of the Board of Trustees and the staff of El Museo del Barrio. Your vital and enlightened partnership of Puerto Rican culture will continue to provide for the enrichment of all New Yorkers. I am proud of the city’s assistance in your endeavor.

On behalf of the entire agency and the many city officials who share my commitment to El Museo, please accept my hearty congratulations.

Sincerely,

Henry Goldsmith
Commissioner

THE NEW WING—PA’LANTE.

In November of 1977 we moved to our present location at 1230 Fifth Avenue. At that time we began renovating our West Gallery and in April of 1978 we opened our first exhibition in our new home. The exhibit was called Resurgimiento and we wrote then “Resurgimiento is the Spanish word that means resurgence. We selected this word for our inaugural exhibition... because it both foretells and summarizes the Latin presence in North America; it presages the role of El Museo del Barrio in the cultural life of the Latin community....”

Ambitious as we were then we could not have more accurately foreseen that we were to become in a matter of four years the most important Hispanic cultural institution in the city and in the nation.

Since 1978 we opened more than 20 major painting exhibitions including two exhibitions that were international in scope; we opened the largest installation of Santos in the U.S.; inaugurated the f:STOP Gallery and held 18 photographic exhibitions. In this period we drew the attention of critics and Latin and Anglo audiences as well. And we adopted museum practices throughout our operations.

And now we take another quantum leap. A new wing with four new galleries will double our exhibition space.


Jack Agleros
Director
THE NEW WING:
DR. RICARDO ALEGRIA GALLERY
OF CARIBBEAN PRE-COLUMBIAN ART

The Gallery features a wide waterfall, a pool and a handicapped accessible ramp. The finished feeling is one of a sub-tropical setting, green and moist. The visitor descends or climbs the ramp and views the objects and educational materials in a setting that will remind him or her of El Yunque in Puerto Rico. But it could be anywhere in the Caribbean.

When installed in 1985, there will be stone collars, duhos, cemic, body stamps, bowls, etc.

The gallery has 1,000 square feet of floor space. It was designed by William Bowles, Director of Design for El Museo since 1977. Mr. Bowles used Delgado/ Humeau as consulting architects.

The Trustees named the gallery for Dr. Ricardo Alegria in a resolution that passed by acclamation. It read in part "...in recognition of your lifetime dedication to promoting the art and culture of the Pre-Columbian people of the Caribbean and your devotion to the building of institutions that would preserve and promote the Puerto Rican culture..."

Dr. Alegria is by far the most distinguished humanist Puerto Rico has produced in the last fifty years. His scholarship and activism are unprecedented. Author of over 15 books, he has founded more than 10 museums, overseen the restoration of two 16th Century churches as well as the city of Old San Juan, and participated and supervised many archaeological excavations.

Dr. Alegria received his Ph.D. in anthropology from Harvard University, and has been awarded three Honoris Causa Ph.D.'s, one of them in Law from New York University. In 1977 Dr. Alegria founded the Center for Advanced Studies of Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, which is an advanced degree awarding institution. He is married to Prof. Carmen Pons and they have two sons, one a lawyer, the other a Social Anthropologist.
VIDEO GALLERY

The need for a permanent Video Gallery grew out of the Museum's position in the building Latino center for film and video. Now in its third year, the Museum has sponsored national open screenings by Latino film and video artists. The Video Gallery will provide an outlet to video makers for their work, and to introduce Museum visitors to video art, documentaries, experimental pieces, and to archival programs such as the recently of publically broadcast material. The video gallery has some 300 square feet of space and can accommodate up to 25 persons comfortably.

The gallery was inaugurated with the following video tapes: Time, by Juan Sobre, Video Panama; by Cecilia Vicuna, and Breaking Street Dancing, by Romany Nisie.

ART HISTORY GALLERY

So many visitors to El Museo inquire about the history of painting in Puerto Rico that a permanent installation was called for. The Art History Gallery has fifty linear feet, and will be installed in a didactic exhibition. The first Puerto Rican painter, Jose Campeche will be represented and the most recent modern will probably be Misael Pau (1880-1967). No living artist will be presented in the installation. Color transparencies, color reproductions, and black and white photos will give a sampling of each painter, tell the viewer where most of the artist's work is, and present a brief bio of the artist. This permanent installation will not be accomplished until 1983. For the inauguration of the new wing this gallery will have drawings by William Bowling of the pre-colonial gallery.

EAST GALLERY

The East Gallery will provide El Museo del Barrio with a very flexible space for the exhibition of the permanent collection on a rotating basis, and changing exhibitions. The outer walls of this 1,400 square foot gallery provide 101 linear feet. Through a suspended ceiling, composed of panels that drop down in many patterns, the gallery may be expanded to almost 400 linear feet. This panel system was designed by El Museo's Director of Design, William Bowling, and was built through a grant from the Museum Program of the National Endowment of the Arts.

The East Gallery was inaugurated with an exhibition called Recent Acquisitions. A special essay on the exhibition follows.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

El Museo del Barrio began systematically collecting in November of 1977. A year later in October of 1978 the first Recent Acquisitions exhibition was opened. The show consisted of 21 artists exhibiting 25 paintings and 2 sculptures. The catalogue for that exhibition, quickly went out of print and is now itself a collectors item.

The paintings curator of that time suggested a novel approach to the catalogue essay—why not let several artists' comment on the collection? Thus, three well-known Puerto Rican artists, told a significant truth although they each write from different perspectives, Rafael Colon-Morales, "a collection that is in its beginning... the arduous field of Puerto Rican art, where there exists little documentation... El Museo is the only entity in New York City to initiate this type of collection." Jose Corbalan, "a constant reminder of the existence of these...artists whose struggle...should be noted in the history of art." Jorge Soto, "We have to be very critical with ourselves...to deal more consciously and qualitatively with the permanent collection of El Museo del Barrio." Also in that catalogue was an essay that said in part, "...Recent Acquisitions also signals to the public that El Museo del Barrio now embarks upon a serious and aggressive acquisition policy. The Board of Trustees is committed in word and deed to the expansion of the fine art holdings as well as objects related to Puerto Rican culture." Much has changed and little has changed since that time in 1978. We still wish for larger collections, still suffer from the lack of an endowment to purchase works. This newsletter was chosen by curators Jacqueline Bisqui and Gladys Pena. It is an impressive selection. Powerful paintings and powerful sculptures, asserting that the New York Hispanic artist knocks with ever growing insistence on the doors of the universal world of art.
# LIST OF RECENT ACQUISITIONS EXHIBITED

## EAST GALLERY


2. **PAJARO MÉNDEZ, (1977)** Carlos Roig, Rivera, b. 1932, Puerto Rico, Acrylic/Oil/Masonite, 36 x 34 in., Museo Fund & N.E.A.

3. **LOCIO LOCAL, (1975)** Luis Cruz González, b. 1942, Cuba, Oil/Canvas, 70 x 100 cm, Museo Fund


5. **TYCER, TYCER, (1976)** Tony Berchon, b. 1942, Puerto Rico, Acrylic/Canvas, 84 x 74 in., Museo Fund

6. **EL HERNANDO DE DEIVIAN, (1978)** Rafael Calle Rodríguez, b. 1941, Puerto Rico, Acrylic/Canvas, 18 x 27 in. x 14 in., Gift of the Artist


9. **ARTIFACT TO KEEP SECRETS, (1977)** Oyo (Francisco Colon), b. 1942, Puerto Rico, Assemblage, 2 1/4 in. x 4 1/2 in. x 3 1/4 in., Museo Fund & N.E.A.


11. **SPIRIT MAP, (1974)** Marcio Díaz, b. 1943, Puerto Rico, Assemblage, 24 x 16 in. x 60 in., Gift of the Artist


14. **PERSEPTIONS #4, (1979)** Juan Baro, b. 1952, Argentina, Slate and Wood, 73 x 29 in. x 11 in., Gift of the Artist


17. **VIRA ZELE, (1975)** Rafael Ortiz, b. 1936, New York City, Feathers/Cash/Board, A. 30 1/8 in. x 30 x 30 in. x 17 in. x 23 in., B. 33 1/8 in. x 30 x 20 in. x 18 1/8 in., Gift of the Artist

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# WEST GALLERY

PETRÓLEOS DE BORIQUE, (1978) Hector Mendez Catarri, b. 1949, Puerto Rico. The suite in Number III, in a limited edition of XX numbered in Roman Numerals. No artist proofs were made. The edition is signed and dated on the reverse. Each image measures 9 in. x 7 in. The images are of pre-columbian carvings in various locations in Puerto Rico. Purchase. Aguirre Family Fund

# THEATRE GALLERY

ALL OF THE ABOVE COLORED ETCHINGS WERE PURCHASED THROUGH THE MUSEO FUND. THEY ARE BY GEORGES BREZUDEAU, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

1. **MANNERS, (c.1602)** 4 1/2 in. x 8 1/2 in.

2. **THE ESCURIAL, (c.1750)** Anon., 4 1/8 in. x 5 3/4 in.

3. **ESPANOLS, (c.1682)** Anon., 3 3/4 in. x 5 1/8 in.

4. **ESCURIAL-LE TEMPLE, (c.1750)** Anon., 2 in. x 6 1/8 in.


6. **VOLTAIRE, (c.1752)** 7 1/4 in. x 18 1/2 in.

7. **VALLEJOLENT, (c.1752)** 5 1/4 in. x 18 1/2 in.

8. **CARTES CHRONOLOGIQUE ET HISTORIQUE POUR SERVIR A L'HISTOIRE DE ESPAGNE, (c.1700)** Anon., 13 x 12 in.

9. **SEVILLA NIFALIS, (c.1752)** 14 3/4 in. x 19 1/2 in.

10. **ANDRES, (c.1602)** 13 3/4 in. x 19 1/4 in.

11. **BURLAS, (c.1572)** 6 1/4 in. x 18 5/8 in.

12. **ACIJA, (c.1567)** 5 7/8 in. x 18 in.

13. **VELIS MALAGA, (c.1567)** 5 1/4 in. x 6 7/8 in.

14. **ARCHIBINDA, (c.1602)** 6 in. x 18 1/2 in.

15. **LOSA, (c.1602)** 12 2/8 in. x 18 in.

16. **PALACIOS, (c.1567)** 4 1/4 in. x 19 1/4 in.

17. **ACANERELLAS, (c.1567)** 4 1/4 in. x 19 1/4 in.

18. **CABEGAS, (c.1567)** 5 1/8 in. x 19 1/4 in.

19. **GADDI, (c.1575)** 4 1/8 in. x 18 1/4 in.

20. **MALAGA, (c.1575)** 4 1/8 in. x 18 1/4 in.

21. **EUROPE II TAB, (c.1618)** Patrizio Bertusio, 13 3/8 in. x 17 1/4 in.

22. **HABADES, (c.1564)** 7 5/8 in. x 19 1/8 in.

23. **CARTAGA, (c.1564)** 6 5/8 in. x 19 1/8 in.

24. **LE RIXA, (c.1575)** 6 1/8 in. x 16 1/4 in.

25. **SETTENI, (c.1575)** 6 1/4 in. x 16 1/4 in.

26. **FERRANDO II, (c.1700)** R. Caillard, 5 5/8 in. x 4 in.
SPECIAL THANKS

The East Wing would not have been possible without the help of the following individuals and entities:

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