

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO PRESENTS

RAPHAEL MONTAÑEZ ORTIZ

The first monograph of the Nuyorican artist,
and founder and first Director of El Museo del Barrio

VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

Wednesday, July 22, 7-8:30pm | FREE, To RSVP, [click here](#)

NEW YORK, NY, July 15, 2020 – El Museo del Barrio is delighted to present in collaboration with Editorial RM, *RAPHAEL MONTAÑEZ ORTIZ*, the first monograph of the preeminent Nuyorican artist and founder of El Museo del Barrio, Raphael Montañez Ortiz. Edited by Javier Rivero Ramos, the monograph seeks to redress the scarcity of bibliographical resources dedicated to the life and work of an artist who early on committed himself to push and exceed disciplinary boundaries. Sailing through the wake of abstract expressionism into recycled cinema and afterwards into object-oriented and performance-based deconstructivist art, Raphael Montañez Ortiz has spent more than six decades at the forefront of American postwar art. To purchase the publication, please [click here](#).

“One of the most radical creators and pioneers of his generation, *RAPHAEL MONTAÑEZ ORTIZ*, offers El Museo del Barrio an opportunity to push the boundaries of identities, showcase moments of harmony and tension in our lived history as a museum, and challenge and expand limited visual art narratives. Entropy speaks about the need for transformation, about the irreversible changes that are generated within complex systems. This spirit is evidenced in El Museo del Barrio today and for years to come.” Said Patrick Charpenel, Executive Director, El Museo del Barrio

The preeminent monograph features leading voices in the visual arts world. Artist Pedro Reyes shares an intimate conversation with the artist in his New Jersey home focused on his long career and on the pressing question how we can transform violence into a creative experience. Kevin Hatch, Associate Professor of Art History at State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton, offers an examination of Montañez Ortiz’s revolutionary experimentation in the media of film and video, as well as his extraordinary aptitude for creative self-fashioning, whether in text, performance, photograph, or moving image. Finally, Chon Noriega, Director of the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, and Adjunct Curator at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), offers seventeen propositions (moments) that were pivotal in Raphael Montañez’s formation as a human being, and subsequently as an artist. The monograph concludes with a curriculum vitae of the artist’s extensive trajectory, updated and revised by Ana Cristina Perry, CUNY Graduate Center PhD candidate, Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow in Latinx Art and IUPLR Mellon Fellow.

“For far too long, canonical art history devoted to American art of the second half of the twentieth century neglected one of its most innovative artists. Premised on the Eurocentric myth of the *homo faber*, it failed to comprehend

the trailblazing character of Raphael Montañez Ortiz and his life-long endeavor to harness the human condition's primal energies. At once a painter, performance artist, sculptor, filmmaker, teacher, community organizer and writer, the work of Raphael Montañez Ortiz defies disciplinary categorization. This publication offers for the first time a panoramic view of a prolific career spanning more than six decades," writes the monograph's editor, Javier Rivero Ramos.

VIRTUAL BOOK LAUNCH | Wednesday, July 22 at 7pm

In celebration of the launch of the monograph, El Museo is delighted to host a special evening with artists, friends, and contributors, featuring the participation of artist Raphael Montañez Ortiz himself; monograph editor Javier Rivero Ramos and contributors Chon Noriega from the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center; Kevin Hatch from the State University of New York (SUNY) Binghamton, and Ana Cristina Perry, CUNY Graduate Center PhD candidate, Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow in Latinx Art and IUPLR Mellon Fellow; as well artists Marcos Dimas, Pedro Reyes, and Juan Sanchez. The conversations will be followed by a Q&A. To RSVP, [click here](#).

RAPHAEL MONTAÑEZ ORTIZ funding provided by Galeria Labor, and Dobel.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, founded by a coalition of Puerto Rican educators, artists, and activists, is the nation's leading Latino and Latin American cultural institution. The Museum welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of these communities through its extensive Permanent Collection, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events.

The Museum is temporarily closed due to COVID-19. To connect with El Museo via Social Media, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For more information, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

###

PRESS CONTACT:

Rose Mary Cortes, El Museo del Barrio
T: 212-660-7102 | E: rcortes@elmuseo.org

Nicole Hervás, Editorial RM
E: nicole@editorialrm.com