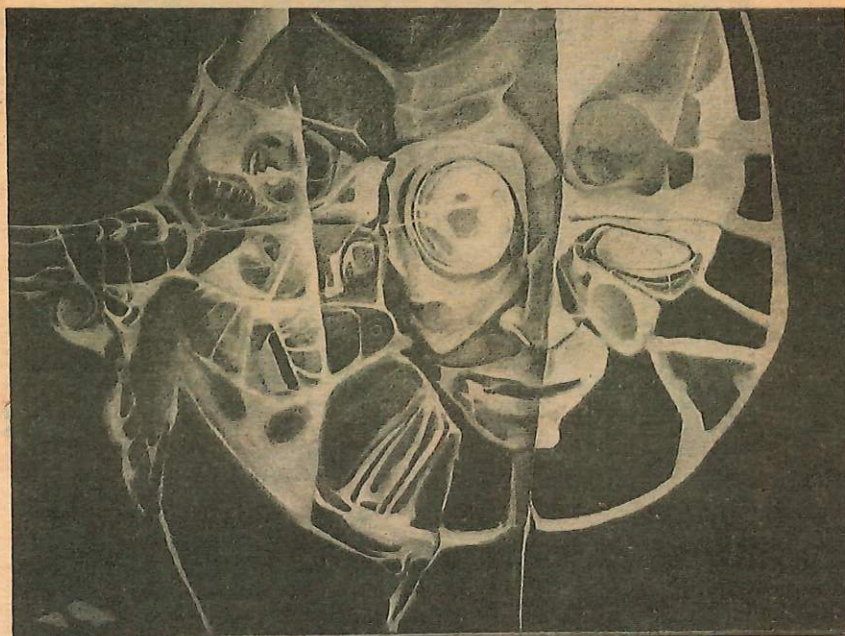


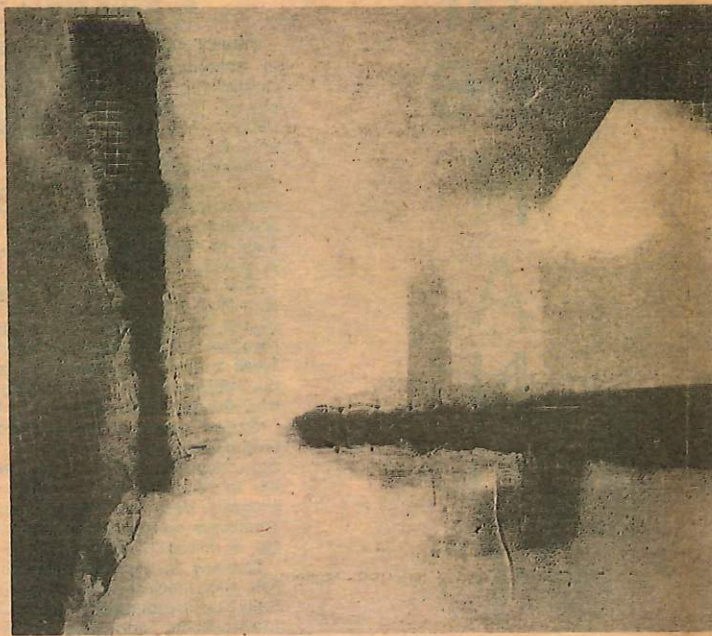
Aug 29, 1976

SUNDAY SAN JUAN STAR MAGAZINE

ART



"Gnomo 2001" by Ruben Miranda Maldonado (First Prize)



"200 anos despues" by Hector Luis Almodovar (Second Prize)

Young Artists Fifth Salon

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT
Special to the STAR

Young people always work harder when they come up for measurement with their peers. Initiation or passage rites and contests of skill are organized to channel such extra energies. Besides, we elders enjoy watching the future as it begins to take shape in front of our eyes. We have quite a few such rites in Puerto Rico in fields that range from art to zoology, in and out of official centers and schools.

The annual University of Puerto Rico student show is such a rite. What gives it distinction is that it is the students themselves who gather it, judge and jury it and publicize the show.

The Institute of Culture School of Plastic Arts which used to exhibit in the institute's large halls, this year may show in its own beautiful premises on the grounds of El Morro. They just moved in last week, after much work by everybody, including its director, Felix Rodriguez Baez.

I envy the institute's Art School its beautiful premises. In the UPR Fine Arts department, we are transients as to facilities. I hope El Morro premises will help create a selective and not a horizontal exposition of everything done in the studios, which is plenty.

A committee of students, with professors acting only as advisors, as in UPR, could help. I am always surprised at the severity of students whenever they are jurors and policemen of their peers.

Similar exhibits for graduating students and for some undergraduates, are a regular feature of other universities, art schools and centers such as the Carnegie Library and the Ateneo. The annual Ateneo Art Contest, which started in 1950 as a measurer of professional worth on a supposedly higher level of accomplishments, is by now another rite of passage for the young. The only salon remaining for supposedly more professional artists in Puerto Rico is the UNESCO show with its one single \$1,000 prize and, naturally, its "honorable mentions."

At the current Fifth Salon of Young Art sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada in the Pan Am Building in Hato Rey 24 young artists are showing various works. They come from many art centers of the island. The limiting factor was youth: from 18 to 22 years of age.

The youth salon dates from 1970 when Antonio Molina found an imaginative partner in the Royal Bank of Canada for the fruition of the beautiful idea, as he found in Martinez

Canas for the UNESCO Salon, and the Carnegie Library for many shows. I wish our banks and businessmen would wake up to the many possibilities of such cultural promotions, not only for tax "direction" or even economizing but also for institutional public relations or image building....

The Royal Bank of Canada can say it has a stake in our 17-to-27-year-old group of artists too since the sixth salon next year may be a special event with only the artists who won prizes in the previous five salons in-

vited. It will be an "inventory" of the careers started by the bank's five previous shows to see how far have the youngsters run since.

This year's youth salon was noteworthy in two ways. For the first time we didn't get any horrible antediluvian specimens of art. Every work was quite sophisticated and professional. And for the first time, we got a religious painter, in this day and age.

Fifth prize winner Maribel de Pedro manages to convey a haunting cosmogonic quality in her religious abstractions, especially the black, white and red one. The longish religious texts do not harm the painting's quality as such but it does spoil smaller works, such as the engraving. The irregularity of the text area destroys the unity of the engraving's rectangle. She has to learn that more text is less art. If she insists on the texts, less imagery will be permissible. The text will have to fight it out with the rest of the elements within the picture.

First prize winner Ruben Miranda's "Gnome 2001" plus his excellent drawings, merit recognition. But he has to think more of painting not of drawing of loose brushstrokes not of facile line or he loses the magic enveloping painterly atmospheres. His



"Sobre un fondo gris" by Victor Maldonado Davila (Fourth Prize)

GALLERIES

CARNEGIE EXHIBITION HALL

Carnegie Library
Ponce de Leon Ave., Stop 1
Puerta de Tierra 724-1046
Open Mon. to Fri. 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
"Artes Eclipse," a student exhibit from Bayamon; plus UNESCO's collection of art works from around the world.

CASA DEL LIBRO

255 Calle del Cristo 723-0354
Open Mon. to Fri. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat. 2 to 5 p.m.

Current show: Books illustrated by Uruguayan artist Antonio Frasconi.

GALERIA BOTELLO

208 Cristo St. 723-2879 Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Sun. Oils, graphic, acrylics, sculpture and Santos. Work of Latin-American Artists.

GALERIA COABEY

Calle San Sebastian 101
Graphics, Drawings and sculpture.

GALERIAS DE LAS AMERICAS

152 Fortaleza Street 723-5787. 725-1455. Open Tues. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

GALERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900

Ponce de Leon 900, Santurce. 725-2617 open 9-5 daily except Tuesday and Wednesday. Current show: "Photography in Printmaking." 30 prints from Pratt Graphics Center.

GALERIA DE LA CASA CAMPECHE

200 Calle San Sebastian "Hoyos blancos," exhibit of photographs by Charles Blasiny Rivera

GALERIA GUARAGUAO

Callejón de la Capilla, Off San Francisco
Current Show: Paintings by Luis G. Sanchez

GALERIA MARIA RECHANY

Magdalena 1383 Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. to Sat. 725-4828. Paintings, and prints by Puerto Rican artists.
Current show: Group exposition by Puerto Rican artists.

GALERIA GUATIBIRI

Gonzalez and Gandara Sts., Santa Rita Rio Piedras.

Old San Juan Portfolio

"Gnome's" background reproduces too decoratively black in an illustrator's way, not as the painterly student he used to be. Both things can be done, Ruben. But keep them apart in spirit, technique and color.

Hector Almodovar was second prize winner with some nice though derivative informalist textuologies, sewing and attaching real materials for textural effects. Lopez Max Diaz and Rafael Colon Morales used to get better effects at his age. He has to keep going either deeper into his thing than they did, or in a horizontal search for other things like such as color, which he slights just now.

Rebecca Castrillo got third prize for various abstract-expressionist works of the glandular, impulsive, colorfull and uncalculating-emotion type. May it ever be thus! her works are Independentista in spirit....

In my previous article in this STAR magazine I said that most Puerto Rican art is good enough for our Popular and Statehood conservatism. Our best works are very serious works, dutifully finished. (Witness Myrna Baez, now at UPR Museum). Our art is formal in spirit: very Apollonian! Our art can and does represent us well in international circles. It is respected whenever we have sent it out. But it hasn't been prospected for world art histories outside of Puerto Rico. Why?

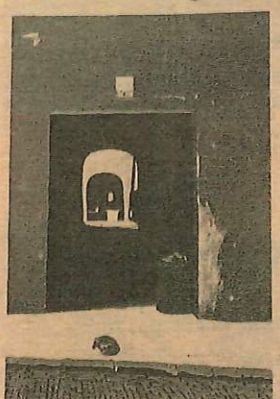
How dutiful all our artists are. Mostly Independentistas in politics, they produce an art fit for our formalistic conservative majority instead of whooping songs to independence. Independence is more sayable with colorful Dionysiac uncalculating emotion and real expressionistic noise and images not with neo-neolithic images nor with semi-realism joined to flat geometric backgrounds as is the norm in most recent works by young and older artists including in this show. Thus Rebecca should go on, in her wild undisciplined way. Her first prize at the Ateneo in similar style, was a handsomer work than any she has here.

Fourth prize in this salon at the Royal Bank was won by an engraving in mixed media by Victor Maldonado Davila. Maldonado's painting with surrealist undertones is a dutiful student's exercise.

Carlos M. Rivera's "Construction no. 3" which won honorable mention reminds us of the hard-edged minimalist geometric painting prevalent here from 1966 to 1970, as if to usher statehood in. Janis Palma's various works were vigorous and free. I noticed with a warm heart that she is studying hands right and left. We need it in Puerto Rico where hands are evaded in painting. She did merit the honorable mention. Also Nick Quijano Torres, with his vigorous water colors and drawings, did win his honorable mention.



"Sone anoche que hablaba con Campeche en la puerta de San Juan" by Lorenzo Homar.



"109 Interior" by Nelson Sambolin



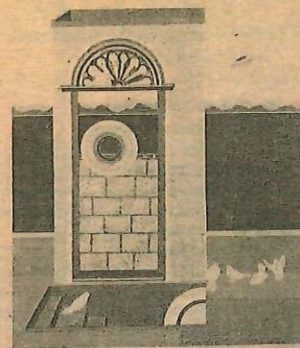
"Kiosko" by Manuel Hernandez Acevedo



"Caleta de las monjas" by Angel Casiano



"San Sebastian 152" by Rafael Tufino



"San Juan 2000" by Rafael Rivera Rosa



"Murallas y chiringas" by Antonio Maldonado

On Sale Now

A portfolio of Old San Juan scenes, "San Juan antiguo visto por los artistas puertorriqueños," produced by Taller Bija, went on sale last week at Galeria San Sebastian, 150 San Sebastian Street in Old San Juan.

The portfolio of serigraphs by some of Puerto Rico's best known artist contains the work of 13 artists and costs \$400. Those who reserved the portfolio several months ago when it was first announced will receive the work of 11 artists for the originally announced price of \$300.

The artists involved are Lorenzo Homar, Angel Casiano, Rafael Rivera

Rosa, Nelson Sambolin, Rafael Tufino, Antonio Maldonado, Manuel Hernandez Acevedo, Isaura Mergal, Antonio Martorell, Jose Torres Martino and Jose Rosa Castellano plus David Goita and Isaac Novoa.

Galeria San Sebastian and Taller Bija plan to sell serigraphs at a price that the general public can afford. Next month the gallery will have a retrospective show by Taller Bija artists, many of whom are known for their patriotic posters.

Further information concerning the portfolio can be had by calling 722-3013, and 723-3013.

LA GALERIA

Callejon de la Capilla, Old San Juan.

GALERIA SAN SEBASTIAN

150 San Sebastian St.

Current show: Exhibit by Taller Bija

MUSEO DE LA FUNDACION

Behind Tapia Theater, Plaza Colon 725-5962. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mon. Indian Artifacts and sculpture.

Current show: Pre-Columbian Meso American Art.

MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES

Instituto de Cultura 253 Cristo St. 723-2320. Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oils, prints and graphics.

MUSEO DE ARTE

Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras 764-0000, Ext. 2452 or 2456. Open every day 5 p.m. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Current show: Paintings by Myrna Baez

MUSEO DEL GRABADO LATINOAMERICANO casa de los Contrafuertes. 101 San Sebastian St., Plaza San Jose second floor. Open every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Current show: Graphics by Antonio Frasconi of Uruguay.

MUSEO DE LOS SANTOS

Instituto de Cultura, Casa de los contrafuertes, Plaza San Jose. Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MUSEO DEL CONVENTO DE SANTO DOMINGO

Instituto de Cultura. Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Corner Cristo and Norzagaray. Plaza San Jose, 724-0700, 724-0702. Current show: Puerto Rican posters art.

PONCE MUSEUM OF ART

Las Americas Ave. 842-6215. Open Wed. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Closed Tues. Current show: Paintings by Jaime L. del Valle, Juan M. Santiago and Victor M. Torres Carrasquillo

SAGRADO CORAZON UNIVERSITY

Ponce de Leon Ave., Stop 26 and a half; 724-7800. Current show: Sculpture by Alberto Torre de Alba and Nemesio Canchani