

# LANDSCAPES and ST

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT  
Special to the STAR

The present exhibition of Puerto Rico landscape and still-like paintings at the University of Puerto Rico Museum in Rio Piedras is actually not all black, white and gray although the initial impression is decidedly so.

It starts with last century's "Monte Eden" by Manuel Jordan which is quite Barbizonesque, both tight and loosely brushed, and the orthodox, academically realistic "Coconuts" by Francisco Oller and even the latter's slightly impressionistic "Landscape."

Many old paintings turn dark with age, for chemical reasons and when they don't get aired or exhibited often, as happens at our UPR art museum. The museum's building plans have been arrested since the days of Jaime Benítez. Even Abraham Diaz Gonzalez, who is supposed to be an art collector, did little for UPR art collections or art buildings. Art is a limbo when socio-political and economic pressures squeeze and those pressures come out gray in art in more ways than one.

The darkest work in the show is Lorenzo Homar's "Le Lo Lai," but darkness here was Homar's intellectual design, his metaphoric message, the stilled song coming from a very darkened La Perla and the darkened holiday garb on children singing with sad time-stopped introspective faces, making for a very potent picture. Maybe it is not a very painterly picture since it is too linear in contour, its color is timidly localized as on illuminated manuscripts and its textures too much like porcelain all over. It is most unpainterly but it is a very

potent image indeed. Homar's tenderness and partiality as the children's defender against darkness, is the light that shines forth from the picture, a "cante jondo" in our Puerto Rican soulscape and landscape.

"Child and Bird Cage" (1966) by Myrna Baez is lighter in tonal scheme than Homar's work but it too is black and white in realization with only a very small touch of light blue-green in one area. An intimate quite tactile corner of a garden is represented. Introspected, a boy is arrested in time.

Myrna Baez should study two very painterly works in this show. One is all grays too but these are not produced, by black and white as hers are, or seem to be, but by the admixture of color complementaries. I refer to "Medano" (1963) by Luis Hernandez Cruz which is quite handsome in its atmospheric involvement, its front facing design, its amplitude and loose contours and its tactile presence. The other is the very colorful "Still Life" (1949) by Fran Cervoni whose open brushwork imparts rhythmic movements to the modelled, not planal, forms; whose color is brilliant yet also atmospherically enveloped; whose contours are loose apropos, since contour lines do not exist for painterliness; whose modeling of forms is done by appropriate color patches rather than by the tonal modulations so present in most Puerto Rican paintings, as typified by Lorenzo Homar's "Le Lo Lai."

Nice painterly grays can also be seen in Jorge Rechany's "Salmorejo" still life with its anecdotic design, in Julio Rosado's flat-toned 1954 powerful "Quinque" with its willfully de-

signed, semi-geometric reality and in Jose Melendez Contreras's tightly controlled yet rhythmically moving 1958 "Bell Tower." The latter combines geometry with atmospheric realism and futurist movement plus nice texture in a dignified construction using quite restrained color. It is electrically belabored but it comes off very well. The simply drawn birds startled by the clanging bells is a potent very direct graphism.

Nice impressionistic color can be seen in the two swashbuckling joy-of-life sketches, "Goats in the Vigia" (1957) and "Veleros" (1957) by Epifanio Irizarry. I am told good old Fano still goes outdoors to paint and fish every possible day. Like all true impressionists and expressionists he couldn't and wouldn't paint or draw a straight line if his life depended on lines or contours do not exist for painters except as energy strokes or when two planes meet a-shimmeringly.

Other painters show an orthodox impressionist palette. First, the two eldest: Miguel Pou is as usual staid and orthodox in his 1955 landscape "Casablanca" and his humble 1938 "Hammock Salesman." A tired quizzical look on the face of the street vendor is quite well realized. Also well realized is Jose R. Oliver's 1956 "Slum," a charming, lively painterly commentary on flag-ridden, slum houses during any electoral campaign, any year, till hell freezes over, amen.

Younger was Jose Dobal, the angst-ridden and time-ridden brother of Narciso Dobal. Since 'Ciso, the professional in the family, didn't paint much in quantity, his brother took off



by Jose R. Oliver



by Fran Cervoni



"Goats in the Vigia" by Epifanio Irizarry



"Le Lo Lai" by Lorenzo Homar

## EL TRAPICHE GALLERY

200 Cristo St, San Juan. Open Tues. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Current exhibit: A pictorial history of the sugar industry.

## 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.

## GALERIAS DE LAS AMERICAS

152 Fortaleza Street 723-5787. 725-1455 Open Tues. to Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Paintings by John P. Stewart

## GALERIA COABEY

Calle San Sebastian 101 Graphics, Drawings and sculpture. Current show: First anniversary exhibition.

## GALERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900

Ponce de Leon 900, Santurce. 725-2617 open 9-5 daily except Tuesday and Wednesday.

## GALERIA DE LA CASA CAMPECHE

200 Calle San Sebastian Open Tues. to Sat. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## GALERIA QUARAQUAO

Callejon de la Capilla. Off San Francisco Current show: "Exposicion colectiva de puertorriquena"

## GALERIA QUATIBIRI

1003 Gonzalez Ave., Santa Rita Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Current show: Paintings by Rafael Rivera Rosa

## GALERIA MARIA RECHANY

Magdalena 1363 Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. to Sat. 725-4828. Paintings, and prints by Puerto Rican artists

## GALERIA PITIRRE

Condado Convention Center. 723-6163. Open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Current Works by Jose Alcea and a collective

## MUSEO DE LA FUNDACION

Behind Tapia Theater, Plaza Colon Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mondays. Artifacts and sculpture. Current show of the Tapia Theater

## MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES

Instituto de Cultura 253 Cristo St. Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. C and graphics. Current show: "Mestizo miniature works in copper"

ART

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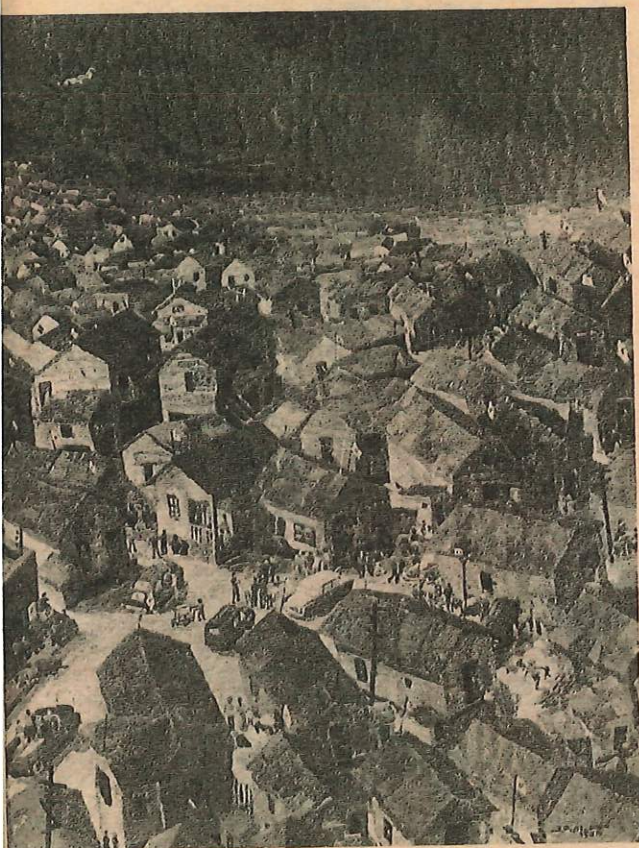
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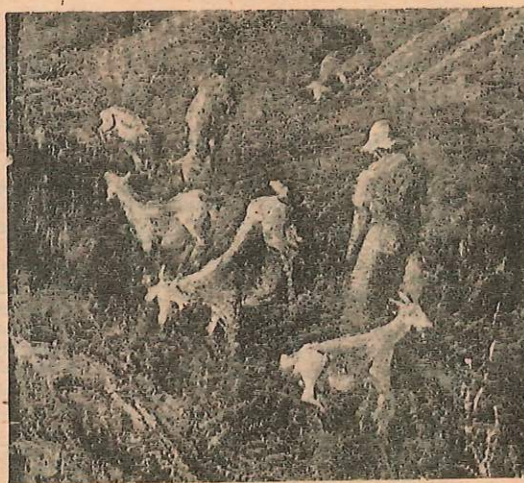
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"Slum" by Jose R. Oliver



"Still Life" by Fran Cervoni



"Coats in the Vigia" by Epifanio Irizarry



"Lololai" by Lorenzo Homar

## GALLERIES

**CARNEGIE EXHIBITION HALL**  
Carnegie Library Ponce de Leon Ave.  
Stop 1. Puerta de Tierra. 724-1046 Open  
Mon. to Fr. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.  
to 5:30 p.m.

**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.

**EL TRAPICHE GALLERY**

200 Cristo St. San Juan. Open Tues. to Sat. 10  
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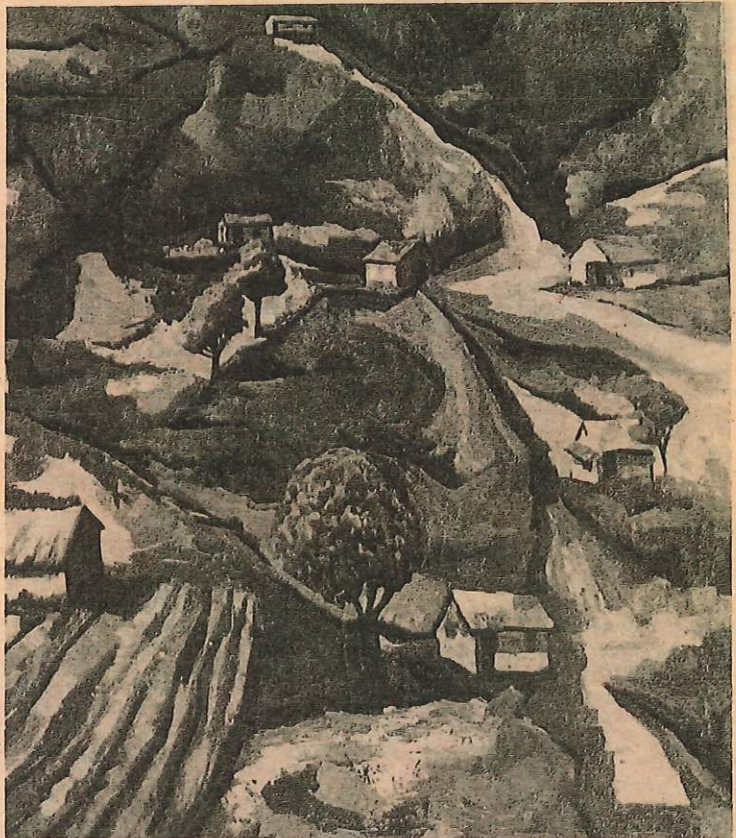
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Magdalena 1363 Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon. to  
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# STILL LIVES at UPR

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and in three meteoric years, au-  
todidactically, produced about 500  
paintings, then died. Chamaleon-styled  
Jose is shown here in an explosive  
1956 "Veleros," which is quite radiant  
in its yellows and quite painterly too.  
Orthodox impressionistic realism is  
in Juan A. Rosado's 1952 "Luquillo  
Seen from Fajardo," which is cum-  
bersome as was usual in his outdoor  
paintings. But the dutiful work is a  
haunting, cool-and-collected rendition  
of a moment of misty or vapory  
magic. Samuel Sanchez shows sweep,  
depth and epic simplicity in his  
"1960" Monte de Barrio Nuevo,  
Bayamon". More belabored — and an  
orthodox Sanchez of the 50's — is  
his "Landscape with Washer Woman."  
This is the only sturdily working per-  
son in the whole show. Pou's ham-  
mock vendor is a part-time worker;  
Homar's le-lo-laiying children are ar-  
rested; Irizarry's goat-herd is playing;  
this willfully striding woman is work-  
ing. The whole landscape is whirled  
by her step.  
Last on purpose, to dramatize the  
fact that no landscape exhibit could  
ever be held in Puerto Rico without  
one of his urban scenes, is Luis  
German Cajigas' beautiful "La Perla."  
Most of the above painters need not  
be represented for a reasonable land-  
scape exhibition — but Cajigas must.  
It's his forte. "La Perla" is one of his  
best, quite resonant in color even  
when the color is contoured sharply.  
A shadowed La Perla has its private  
wash ashining under the shining sky.  
The exhibition will continue through  
Friday. The museum is open from 9  
a.m. to 3 p.m. today and from 9 a.m.  
to 9 p.m. on weekdays.

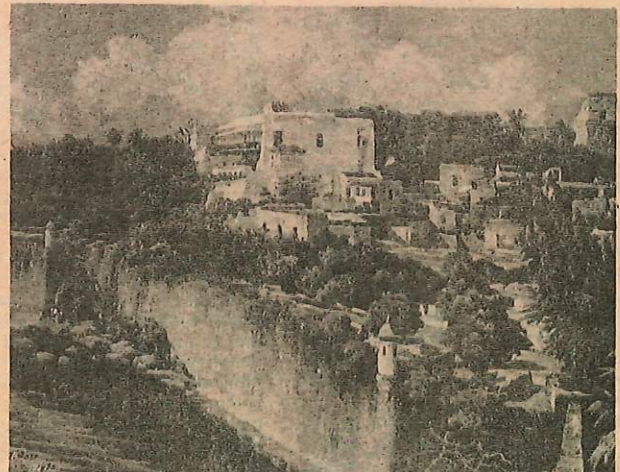
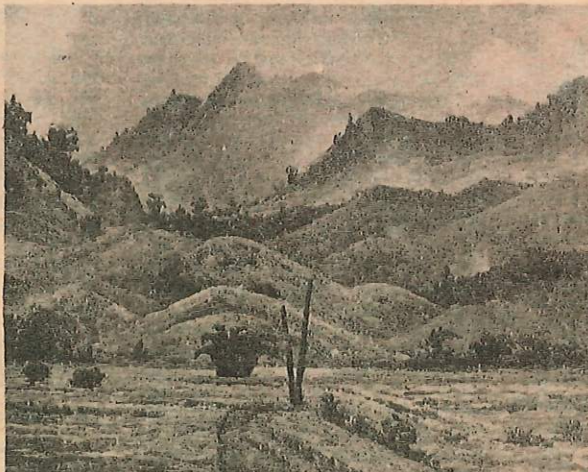


"Landscape" by Felix Rodriguez Baez

Photographed by Pipo Grajales



"Luquillo Seen from Fajardo" by Juan A. Rosado



"Casablanca" by Miguel Pou

**GALERIA PITIRRE**  
Indado Convention Center. 723-6090 Ext.  
12. Open daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Current show:  
works by Jose Alicea and a collective show.  
**MUSEO DE LA FUNDACION**  
Behind Tapia Theater, Plaza Colon 725-5982.  
Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Mon. Indian  
facts and sculpture. Current show. "History  
of the Tapia Theater"  
**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. Current show: "Mestizos" 14  
sculpture works in copper

**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 Leonilda Gonzalez  
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: Nativity scenes by artesanos.

**MUSEO DEL MAR**  
Pier One, Old San Juan  
Open Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m.  
to 5 p.m. or until ships sail. Current Show:  
"Lighthouses of Puerto Rico" by Ramon A.  
tinez Montes.

**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.;  
**SALON ISABEL II**  
City Hall. Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.  
to 4 p.m.  
**UPR MUSEUM**  
764-0000 Ext. 2452 or 2456. Open daily from 9  
a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays; 9 a.m., to 3 p.m.  
Saturdays and Sundays. 10 to 5. Current Show:  
"The Child" Exhibition of sculptured Christ  
Child images and still-lives and landscapes by  
Puerto Rican artists.