

THREE FOR THE SHOW



"Don Quijote" by Epifanio Irizarry

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT
Special to the STAR

Of the three Ponce artists — Epifanio Irizarry, Ivan Rosario and Wichie Torres — now showing collectively at Galeria La Caleta in Old San Juan, Irizarry is the one with full professional control even when the works are in hard-to-control watercolor. He swings, his brushes swing, his well-known figurations swing to his antique yet ever germane spirit of the life force.

A new touch flattens his pictures considerably. He lets the white paper show white in many places, in a semi-abstract manner. He used to envelop all his picture plane with mellow golden washes of color, for a



"Jugado de dados" by Wichie Torres



"Paisaje II" by Ivan Rosario

THREE FROM PONCE

STAR photos by JOSE GARCIA

more baroque and profound spatial effect. Now, with the white touches it is the picture plane which is seen first as modern painting demands. So dear old Fano is alive to the chase of the moderns.

The new touch is still awkward, when the white spaces function as if lighted by a chalky white light. But Fano will soon adjust and then all the pictures will come out all right. It is a welcome sight to see older painters dare to experiment.

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Ivan Rosario who is exhibiting oil paintings in the show, was born in 1923 and came back to painting only lately, led by Irizarry and Torres. He paints romantic-realistic landscapes which have a warm but wholesale quality and plenty of bucolic details and color.

Wichie Torres who is also exhibiting oil paintings, was born in 1952,

studied for a year at the Institute's Plastic Arts School, then at Ponce Catholic University in Ponce. He paints cool typical Puerto Rican landscapes with very groups of people enjoying such charming actions as kite-flying, fishing, eating ices and preparing the piglet. The people are always seen first, no matter if placed in front, middle or rear ground. The trouble with both painters' work is that every detail is painted "close-up" every time, as in the case of most beginning realist painters.

By "close-up" I mean each tree, each figure, each house, each part of the work is painted as if only it existed. Children have the same kind of magic vision of how things differ from each other. The result can be a charming primitive enumeration of all the things in the world.

But since the vision of Torres or Rosario is hardly primitive and

is quite photographically realistic, their pictures most times look as if each part within each picture doesn't know the others socially. The parts act independently. They do not swing together as they should when in one picture, under one atmosphere, one rhythm, one world.

Of course, as people grow older they learn to see the forest first and not each tree; they learn how all things can look alike in this world. Rosario and Torres can hasten the process by studying the impressionists more deeply. They will discover that all shadows are not the same value, that shadows in daylight are cool blue because they are sky-lighted, that a yellow under blue light will turn gray, not green. If they study aerial perspective, and let it bathe the whole picture, then all the parts of their pictures will know each other socially and esthetically.

THE ST. GERMAINS

When clay is understood and worked as by a true sculptor such as Jerry St. Germain, who recently exhibited at Manos Gallery in the Condado Convention Center, it comes through as a noble material not just a useful one.

A sculptor grabs the clay as its very proprietor and makes it do unheard-of things, such as St. Germain's series, "Fruncidos," paper thin slabs of clay which he wraps around a sturdy cen-

tral shape, much as embroidery on a dress. The slab thinness is almost beyond what clay can or should do.

His most haunting work "Tres Gracias Recordadas," created out of a simple flat slab of clay which has been pushed and pulled exquisitely until the soft, flowing relief pulsed with life. It merits more than passing interest, and is remembered gladly by the mind's eye long after the show parts of which will be extant when you read this.

The "Three Graces" are echoed in the same exhibit by "Sueno," a combined effort in clay and fibers by Jerry and his wife Leticia. The pulsing young girl's head is set off by the very strong linear rhythms of the fibers. "Jute and Clay" and quite a few other such arresting combinations are the result of a happy art and marriage partnership. May both prosper as they work together.

—Felix Bonilla Norat



"Tres gracias recordadas" by Jerry St. Germain

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 Mon. to Sat. 10
to 12 and 1 to 4 Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Carved wooden birds by Elpidio Collazo

GALLERIA BOTELLO
208 Cristo St. 723-9987 Prints, painting and
sculpture, mostly by Puerto Rican artists.

GALLERIA COABEY
La Casa de las contrafuerzas, Calle San Sebas-
tian. Current Exhibition: Small paintings and
drawings of well-known artists.

GALLERIA CONDADO
Convention Center. Open 11-7 every day.
723-6090 Ext. 1632 Exhibition of work by local
artists. Current show: Photographs by Jochi
Melero

GALLERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900
Ponce de Leon 900, Santurce. Ponce de Leon
900, Santurce. 725-2617 open 9-5 daily except
Tuesday and Wednesday. Current show: Photos
by Maria Martinez Canas and Jorge Garcia
Garcia

GALLERIA LA CALETA
70 Caleta de San Juan, Old San Juan.
723-8627. Paintings and prints by proprietor
Luis Caligas, ceramics, graphics and sculpture.
Current show: Three Ponce artists: Epifanio
Irizarry, Wichie Torres, Ivan Rosario

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

GALLERIA OLLER
Calle Escorial 366, Caparra Hts. 782-3171. Open
Tues to Thurs. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. 2-9; Sat.
9-2. Paintings and Graphics by Puerto Rican
artists.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF PUERTO RICO
1396 Goergetti, Santurce. Mon. to Fri. 9 to 4. A
summary of history of P.R. in antique objects.

Andres Sierra Pagan at the Barranquitas Cultural Center

Ponce Artists at Galeria La Caleta

The St. Germain's at Manos

ANDRES SIERRA PAGAN



"Caridad"

Andres Sierra Pagan, who exhibited in the Barranquitas Cultural Center until yesterday, and will soon exhibit in San Juan, seems to be aware of what true sculptural form is. It is not the sum of detailed partial volumes but a molar presence or larger volume within which the parts flow naturally and rhythmically, happily encompassed.

Luisa Geigel at the UPR was his teacher. Of all our sculptors, it is she who seems to have most developed a sense of what style is and can do for sculpture. It is immaterial that she hasn't produced as many works as I expected judging from her youthful efforts. She can however transmit the essence of her excellent youthful training, as now witnessed in Sierra

Pagan's best works, though they are mostly sketches.

In his best works ("Buho" in polished fossil stone, "Caridad" and "Mujer Peinándose" in plastic substances such as fiber-glass and Mar-molite) the massive whole is seen first, then the attention centers on the eyes of the sculpture, then on the other parts in turn, all of them in swinging flowing arcs. Details are forgotten within the living and aware mass.

It is a pity most of these sculptures are small in size—it seems to be a Puerto Rican speciality. Our young sculptors wait "for a chance" which may not come. Years of serious study go for naught. Our parks go bare.

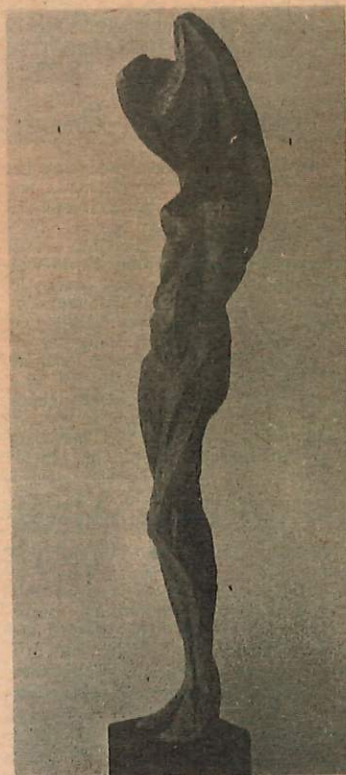
—Felix Bonilla Norat



"La espera"



"Buho"



"Estudio No. 1"

INTERAMERICAN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
IAU, San German, Beverly Student Center.
Current show: Jewelry by Peter Aylen and Judith Connair.

MANOS
Convention Center, Condado. Contemporary ceramics by the Caparra Studio.

MUSEO DE BELLAS ARTES
Instituto de Cultura 253 Cristo St. 723-2320.
Open every day 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oil, prints and graphics. Current show: Works by Angel Pepin.

MUSEO DE LA ESCUELA DE ARTES PLASTICAS
El Morro Grounds. Mon. to Fri. 8 to 5. Sat. 2 to 5. Exhibit by Silk Screen Workshop students.

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: photographs, "Petroglifos de Borinquen" by Oscar Mendez Caratini.

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: Works from the Institute's silkscreen workshops.

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: Retrospective show by Julio Rosado del Valle.

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. Current show: Silkscreens, collages, and drawings by Osvaldo Garcia.

SALON ISABEL II
City Hall, San Juan. Current show: paintings by Olga Reyes.

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. Saturday and Sundays, 10 to 5. Current show: "Barroco Paraguayo"