

May 15, 1977

ART

CHIESA

By BEATRIZ RUIZ DE LA MATA
Special to the STAR

It is certainly unexpected when a quiet young man in his first one-person show tries to upset all sorts of preconceived ideas and to revolutionize the medium he works in.

Particularly when he achieves his end in a most subdued and refined way — and with great impact.

Wilfredo Chiesa's book "Relatos de un Paisaje Asesinado," on exhibition at La Casa del Libro is a work executed with painstaking care. Its elegance from cover to cover produces a

pleasant surprise, particularly when you consider the youth of the artist involved.

The book is the result of a collaboration between artist Wilfredo Chiesa, writer Tomas Lopez Ramirez and musician Rafael Aponte Ledee, and is a serious and successful at-

tempt to integrate several different artistic media. They have even approached this concept in a novel manner, for Chiesa's silkscreens are not illustrations of the text but on the contrary served as an inspiration for Lopez Ramirez' poems, and Aponte Ledee's music was in response to the relationship already existing between the text and the silkscreens.

Although by 1970 the avant-garde Aspen Magazine had published and was sending to its readers (and we could say to its listeners) poems accompanied with musical scores and recordings (including the famous first experiments by Yoko Ono and John Lennon) none could compare with the beauty of the present volume.

Lopez Ramirez's text responds fully to "the visual concepts expressed in Chiesa's work and a feeling of delicacy and refinement runs throughout both works as to the composition of although Aponte Ledee I am fully aware of the importance of contemporary music, I suppose I find myself in a situation similar to Pablo Casals' who used to claim that for him "music had ended with Brahms." In my case I have developed a distinct partiality to Bach and Vivaldi that allows me to fully appreciate very little else. So, I enjoyed the visual aspect of the musical score more than its performance from cassettes, but it would be interesting to see how a music critic responds to the Chiesa-Lopez Ramirez-Aponte Ledee work.

Chiesa's book is enhanced by a playful element. The artist experimented with the concept of "windows" that open onto one another, giving unity and organic quality to the work. Paraphrasing the much-quoted John Donne's "Devotions," no page "is an island, intire of it self" but "a part of the maine." This work functions as a totality.

The concept of the work of art as an indivisible whole, is what led Chiesa to choose the book form instead of the more usual loose sheets



Una ventana
por donde todas
las ventanas nos revelan
el escondido paisaje
del mundo
para saber de una vez
si existe aquello
que buscamos.
Una ventana
que nos lleva al centro
de la tierra
desde nosotros mismos
al verdadero lugar
de los encuentros.

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 9 p.m. Sat. 9 a.m.
to 5:30 p.m.

Current Show:
an exhibition by the Jose J. Acosta
School.

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: "The Art of the Watermark"
and "Relatos de un paisaje asesinado," a book
of serigraphs by Wilfredo Chiesa.

EL TRAPICHE GALLERY

200 Cristo St. San Juan. Open Mon. to Fri. 10
to 12 and 1 to 4. Sat. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cur-
rent exhibit: "La postal Artística en
Puerto Rico."

GALERIA COABEY

Calle San Sebastian 101
Current Show: Ceramics by Agustin de
Andino.

GALERIA DE LA CASA CAMPECHE

200 Calle San Sebastian Open Tues. to Sat. 12
p.m. to 6 p.m. 723-5251

GALERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900

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

GALERIA GUATIBIRI

1003 Gonzalez Ave., Santa Rita
Open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6
p.m.

GALERIA ISABEL II

City Hall, San Juan Mon to Fri.
Current Show: Paintings by Arch.
Eduardo Beale.

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. Also, in the Jury Room: Paintings
by Raul Fernandez Vega.

yes, many windows

diurnal Missals with both text and illustrations plus music
" Book of Hours " " " " " " "

La Casa del Libro

of a portfolio. Fearing that his work would be pulled apart for hanging selected pieces, and wanting to create a more intimate relation between the work and the viewer — who will have to see it by choice and at the appropriate moment, he has given no other choice.

Chiesa's decision is particularly commendable when you consider that most local collectors buy art according to their wall space and their decorating scheme and that whenever their running feet of space is exhausted they cease to collect. We hope a new generation of artists and collectors will make this "buying art by the foot" habit obsolete in Puerto Rico.

The design and the hanging of the show, the way it was put together and displayed, is singularly attractive...even if by now one has grown accustomed to expect a certain quality and good taste at David J. McWilliams' La Casa del Libro exhibitions. The environment created by Chiesa and Marisol Villamil (who did the beautiful linen covers and helped to hang the show) most favorably fits in La Casa del Libro's tradition and within any respectable gallery's standards.

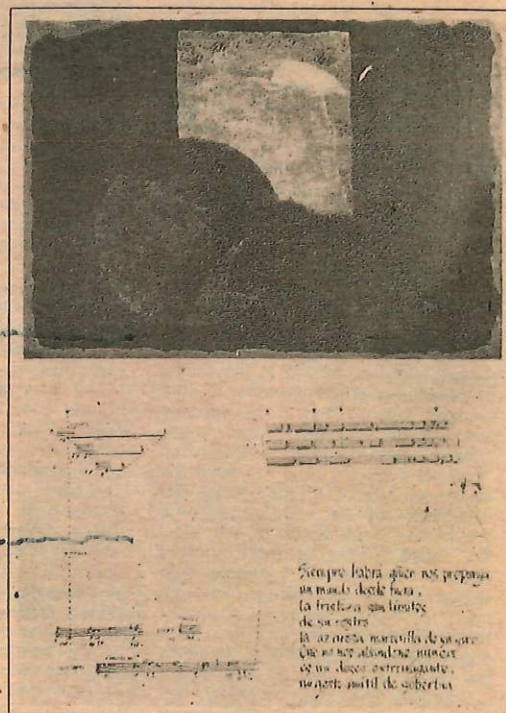
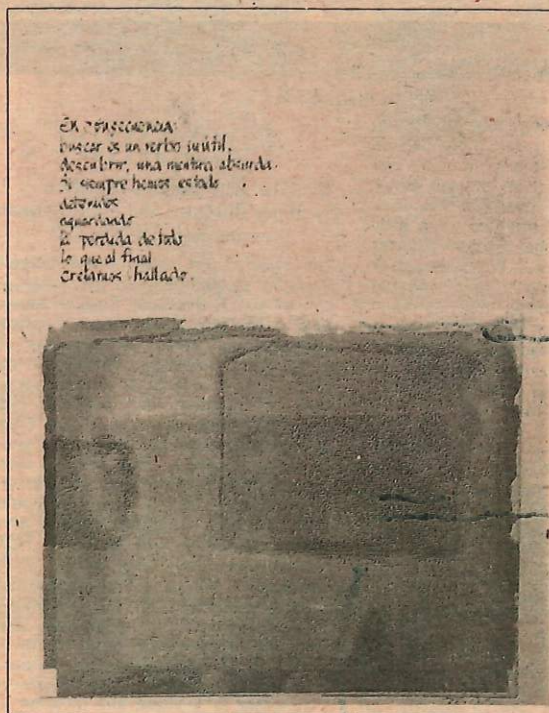
It is my sincere hope that "Relatos de un Paisaje Asesinado" is indicative, in our current artistic milieu, of a younger generation of artists who are seriously working to obtain a certain degree of excellence and that it is not an isolated phenomena.

Chiesa's book consists of 100 numbered and signed editions and 25 artists' proofs, printed in silkscreen by artist Joaquín Reyes on Arches paper, and conceived, designed and produced by Wilfredo Chiesa, with text by Tomas Lopez Ramirez and music by Rafael Aponte Ledee, recorded by Francis Schwartz, with linen covers on Japanese canvas hand-executed by Marisol Villamil.

The book will be on exhibit at La Casa del Libro until May 31.



From left, Tomas Lopez Ramirez, Wilfredo Chiesa and Rafael Aponte Ledee.



Photographed by Rafael H. Trias

GALERIA PITIRRE

Condado Convention Center. 723-6090 Ext. 1632. Open Tues to Thurs. 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri to Sun. 12 to 8 p.m.
 Current Show: Paul Camacho, paintings and graphics

MANOS

Convention Center, Condado. Contemporary ceramics by the Caparra Studio.
 Current exhibition: "Platos"

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 LA FUNDACION

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

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 by Antonio Diaz

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: Claudio Juarez

MUSEO HISTORICO

1396 Giorgetti St. Santurce 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon to Fri. Collection of art, history culture, industry, costumes, stamps, coins. Guides available.

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.

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: Leonardo Nierman