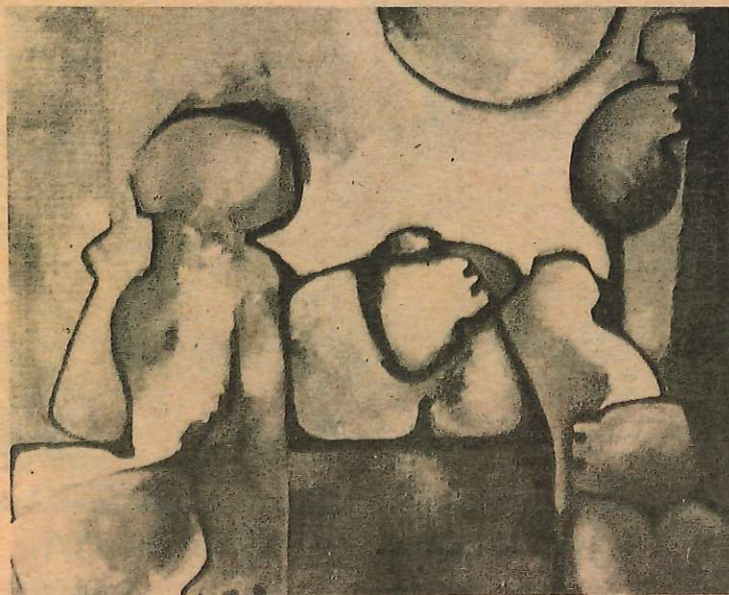


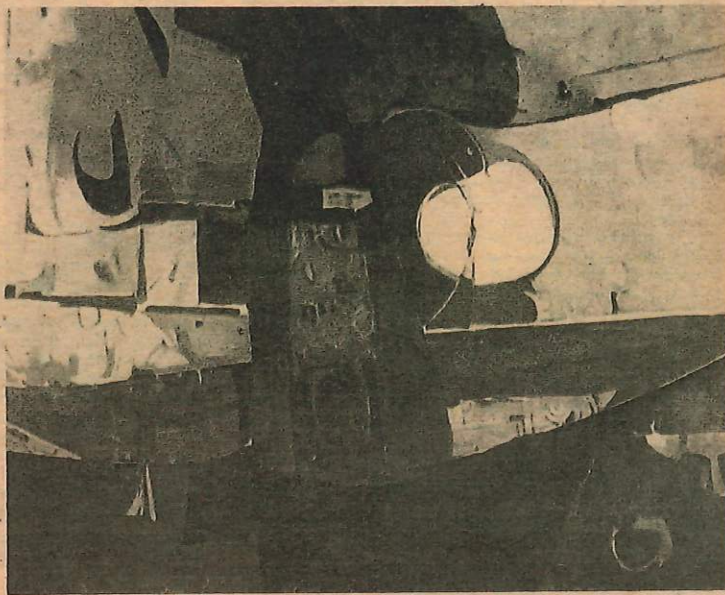
July 31, 1977

We have seen the future and it

The University of Puerto Rico Students Annual



"Pintura No. 1" by Sandra Martínez



"Vision de Xipratmos" by Ángel L. Rodríguez

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT
Special To The STAR

I am worried about the future of Puerto Rico, so I worry about its young artists. They think art is a matter of style. But, guiltily I feel maybe it's the fault of professors and art jurors that such an idea has taken hold of our young as seen in current shows.

In last Sunday's "Youth Blues" article Art Student's League professors and the jurors for its Students Annual Show were unintentionally left holding the bag of blame. But I am asking all jurors and art pace-setters, in Puerto Rico, not the League alone to think of art as if it were a substantial sport or song of life and death, not a display of style or dress alone. Art is both form and content; it is emotion dressed, an idea in visual shape.

Style and substance are both necessary for art and for our social and political life. If we want to win our race with destiny in the 21st century. We have a plethora of styles in art and politics. Each political party and status carries a different style of life; each art style is a different percept of reality.

But what is our substance? What is the unifying passion of our tribe? What is the collective substance of our pride? Does it show in our art or in the administration of

our public life? It does show in the marvelous Masters Game of election time. Our elections are alive. Then something dies. Why?

Our public and art ideals of "substance" strongly hanker after "style," and style is used to cover up... what? Let us start taking stock! We dress up too much for every occasion, but dress is style, not substance.

If our people dance go-go and salsa wholesale; if they bet heavily on races lotteries and games; if they blow horns and drive pell-mell, or get drunk, go broke or become "crazy" every day, they are trying to tell us artists and politicians something substantial which doesn't show normally in our art and politics.

Craziness or out-of-the-norm can be many-splendored, mutants can be saviors, but our artists and politicians are style-bound, afraid of "errors." They can not play as our people can play, because of "what" "who" may say. Thus as people they are free, but as players they are slaves, especially afraid of what arbiters beyond our seas may say.

Let us continue delving into the works done by our young — they are of an age when playful spirits are supposed to be strongest. Are they?

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA'S YOUTH SALON,

open only to the very young, opened handsomely in the Hato Rey bank, lasted until June 17 and travelled to Ponce's Catholic University for July. It was covered in the STAR with seven reproductions of its prize-winning works. Those works show the steadfast eclecticism of Puerto Rican artists and art jurors. We seem to vote, paint and dance to a lot of drummers, as is proper for a crossroads island of multicolored racial and other strains. Prizes went to Pop, informalistic, surrealist, expressionistic, constructivist, photo-realistic and impressionistic works. More than half of the works were not for sale, which may imply that the young painters need their paintings around themselves because as "parents" of such "creatures," they do not feel complete and autonomous within themselves. They need their "kids" as dress or social security for their old age, a most unwholesome kind of parenthood or creativity at any age.

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO 1977 STUDENTS ANNUAL opened at the UPR Museum, stayed until the middle of June and in July is at the UPR General Studies library and in August may go to Ponce. The introduction to the catalog by Luis Hernandez Cruz shows some of the adverse conditions young artists suffer in Puerto Rico. Few good painting shows are held, we have no permanent Museum of Modern art, the media is choked by our

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. Current Show: The Art of the watermark."

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. Current exhibit: "La postal Artística en Puerto Rico."

ESTUDIO 1818
1818 Fndz Juncos. 727-7860. Mon to Sat 9-5. Oils, Woodcuts, Graphics by local artists.

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

GALERIA DE LA CASA CAMPECHE
200 Calle San Sebastian Open Tues. to Sat. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. 723-5252.

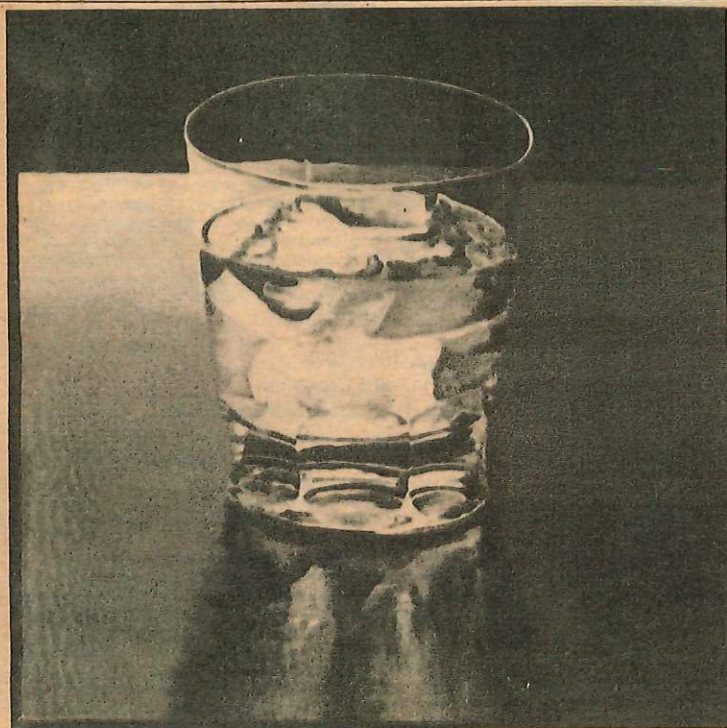
GALERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900
Ponce de Leon 900, Santurce. 725-2617 open 9-5 daily except Tuesday and Wednesday. Current show: Photographs by Frank Kolleegy

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

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.

until Aug 5

isn't art



"Letargo en las rocas" by Graciela Giraldez



A third part of "Trilogía de Alabanza" by Ramon Frontera

"anodyne political reality or by futile games or shows which, as a heavy cloak, hide our aesthetic reality and the superior values from our people." Economic pressures also prevent work.

Eclectic diversity is again rampant in the many styles present in this handsome show. Supposedly, styles such as the various Pop works here, are in response to a professor's assignment about viewing reality (or segments of reality) anew, microscopically in this case. Supposedly the students are free to change later but that change is not usual, unhappily. Most times a style is adopted hastily as a dress-uniform for life.

A student who did manage to change is Angel Rodríguez Díaz who, from a successful realism a la Rodon, is now beginning to control a planar abstract world, with a somber palette as before. Commendable spirit! He can always go back, so he feels free to experiment while young.

Sandra Martínez had a powerful haunting series of "watchful ancestors" in her initial works two years ago. Now she has simplified them cellularly, imposing tamed textures between them.

Cesar Mercado Ríos has many eyes, many realities, and he searches wisdom by positing his ago as a beginning for a cosmogony or a philosophy. Thus in his

Painted series of "plays with the point" the energy irradiated from each point expands as if to know, and control, the world. In the process it forms ambiguous shapes — of geometry's totems, or myopic ancestors, of man's need for nirvana — in a brittle but quite handsome Op world. With similar soft, refined colors, Ruben Miranda constructs a linear web to trap the spirits and you can hear and almost see them struggling, anguished behind the linearity of his world.

Most of the works in this show are paintings. But in some cases, the graphics come out very well. Miriam Miranda Moyano's "Plays with the Painting Materials" are simplistic and inconclusive, but her textured acuatints are first rate. Ramon Frontera's excessively textured acrylics are too heavy, whereas his intaglios "Psalms" are excellent. Both his abstract paintings and graphics are of religious themes, quite a substance to be tackled in any style. An ink drawing by Lulu Delacre ("Vision de un mundo en silencio") is a quite effective work with its suggestion of uncommunicating people caught up in a spider web of their own making.

There were many other interesting shows by young people this summer. Witness Consuelo Gotay's excellent portfolio on three poems by Luis Pales Matos at the new Oller Gallery in Caparra Heights. Her very rhythmic cut-

ting into the material makes for lively impressions, and she's both humorous and serious, a very decided necessity in our art. Another handsome show by Dessie Martínez at "La Galeria" in Old San Juan has Art Nouveau patterns in the xilographs, and linca (or landscape world to hold unto) patterns in the colographs, a mixed kind of world.

"Taller 72" of Lima, Peru, was at the Museo del Grabado. Far from the expected images of social-realistic Latin art, the young Peruvian artists — most less than 30 years old — are quite professional in technique and all seem to haunt a world of their own making, much like that of many of our young artists, self-and-art-centered. Many of their compositions form a molar mandala design; a great number are erotic or genetic in subject, and the scale is small, as if economy of materials demanded circumspection.

Circumspect also, as are the works of our young artists in Puerto Rico, were the drawings by Fernando Coral Duenas, 28, a professor and art investigator from Ecuador. His naive surrealism and his search for a union of opposites are quite eclectic, classically as is our art. Has Latin America become phlegmatic and pragmatic too, like Puerto Rico nowadays? The "bublic" seems to prefer it is that good?

GALERIA OLLER

Calle Escorial 366, Caparra Hts. 782-3171 Open Tues to Thurs. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri 2-9; Sat. 9-20 Paintings and Graphics by Puerto Rican artists.

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.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF PUERTO RICO

1396 Georgetti, Santurce, Mon. to Fri. 9 to 4. A summary of history of P.R. in antique objects.

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.

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: "In honor of the Tainos of the Dominican Republic."

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.

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.

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 Exhibition: Photographs by Sylvia Calzada and drawings and graphics by Maritza Davila.

SALON ISABEL II

City Hall. Current show: paintings by Magda E. Torres Vazquez

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: Collective exhibit, "Pintura Puertorriquena."