

Feb. 3, 1978

PORTFOLIO

A message in art from Garcia

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Special to the STAR

In words and works both, the young professional painters are sending messages out. Art is no longer silent.

These young professionals manage somehow to study, travel and paint abroad and come back here, ready to produce wonders. Others are partly formed elsewhere, especially in New York. Then they come here to finish their studies or produce wonders too.

All of them get to be known first through their extroverted words in art gatherings, then through their works in group or one-man shows. It may be illuminating to listen to one of them.

Let's pick Adrian Garcia, not the actor on TV, but the painter who now has a one-man show at La Fortaleza's interior patio, open every day until 4 p.m. through Monday. A native of San German, he started in New York's School of Visual Arts. He also worked in such well-known graphic centers as Atelier Marlot and Litografia Cinoreu. Then he hit on Taller Boricua, Puerto Rico's art working-base in New York where they teach art to children.

Garcia then worked as organizer and teacher in Harlem's Museo del Barrio and participated in group shows in New York University and in various New York museums and galleries.

Then he came home.

He has already shown paintings in some of our galleries. Now there is his one-man stand in La Fortaleza's Cultural Affairs art program—16 paintings, 9 drawings, 2 water colors and 5 graphics. I hope he sells some: but La Fortaleza is not supposed to be a market place in people's minds, and Fortaleza guards scarce clients away. Imagine, having to know-how to gate guards as I did before they grandly allow you to see the art works as if they were state secrets!

"Art means liberty to me," Adrian Garcia says. "Art creates symbols. Symbols are supposed to be universal. But it depends on environment. You can pick the paintings. I did in New York by their greyness: look at the 'Veigante.' I did there, compare it to the saturated 'Veigante II' done here."

Nice pictures both. Number I is rosy grey and shaped like a woman's erotic delta with curious folds in the middle to suggest the vejigante's body.

Number II is in happy bright blues and greens, but the vejigante body is lost in a gestalt or configuration which suggests a pregnant figure. Garcia has married again since he came to Puerto Rico and his wife is decidedly and happily pregnant.

Many folds are spray-painted in most of these pictures. How come? Do they symbolize culture layers Garcia has been subjected to between here and New York? Different layers of one reality? Those folds attracted my attention in Garcia's two works admitted to the Institute's painting "Muestra"—this past autumn. Both are in this exhibit: "Cemi de Oro", almost abstractly surrealistic, and "Pajaros", or birds with human figures. The figuration fluctuates interestingly as it is acted upon by the folds, though some parts are stressed as definite figures against the "folding" ground.

This hide-and-seek-folding business is a definite cultural trait of Puerto Ricans in New York: they have to seek for many things, would like to "fold" away from others in the mainstream. That's okay as long as they don't lose parts of their self and their heritage in many folds.

"I never denied my Puerto Ricaness," Garcia says. "On the other hand I don't want my art to be seen as purely ethnic: I want it to be seen as the work of a Puerto Rican who is an artist first. What I do as a citizen is apart. Being an organizer is apart. I want to be a mural painter."



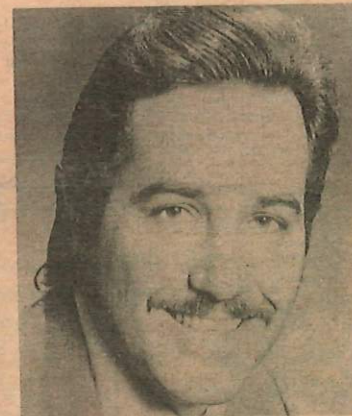
Adrian Garcia, a young painter whose works are on exhibit this weekend at La Fortaleza.



Sophy Hernandez, one of Puerto Rico's top singers, will be appearing this weekend at the Tapia Theater in Old San Juan. She will offer shows Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings at 8:30 and a 3:30 Sunday matinee. Tickets are \$5. Saturday night's show will be televised live over Channel 11.



Jacob Morales is Octavio and Alba Nydia Diaz plays Susan in a scene from Walter Rodriguez's drama, "The Persecution of Octavio Perez" which is being staged at the Sylvia Rexach Theater in Puerta de Tierra this evening through Sunday. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. with a 3:30 Sunday matinee.



The Patio Theater in the Santo Domingo Convent will be the scene of three concerts this weekend. Roy Brown, left, will offer a recital there Friday evening at 8, singing his own compositions based on poems of local poets. Pianist Pedro Rojas, center, will play works of Pedrell, Albeniz, Poulenc, Ravel and Debussy Saturday evening at 8:30. Tenor Antonio Barsorda winds up the weekend's activities in a concert Sunday at 4:30 p.m. singing selections from compositions by Handel, Montsalvatge, Delibes and Morel Campos. Admission to the Friday and Saturday recitals is \$2 and \$1 for Sunday's concert. The convent is located off Plaza San Jose in Old San Juan.



Gloria Shuman and Billy Antonetti are the cuddling couple in the Civic Theater of San Juan's English-language production of "Cabaret" at the Condado Convention Center. The play begins 8:30 p.m. tonight and Saturday and 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$5. If you bring your car, you are advised to park several streets away since the avenues around the center will be closed off this weekend for the Condado Carnival.



Roberto Figueroa and his group appear tonight and Saturday night at the Pales Theater, 204 San Sebastian St. in Old San Juan, performing, among other numbers, "Para Decir Adios," which Figueroa wrote.



It's both Carnival and Mardi Gras time in San Juan with the former taking place mostly in and around Old San Juan and the latter livening up the already lively streets of the Condado. Among the events will be the Carnival's coronation procession 8 p.m. Saturday from the gardens of La Fortaleza to the Condado Convention Center for the crowning as carnival queen of Reininta Benitez, above.