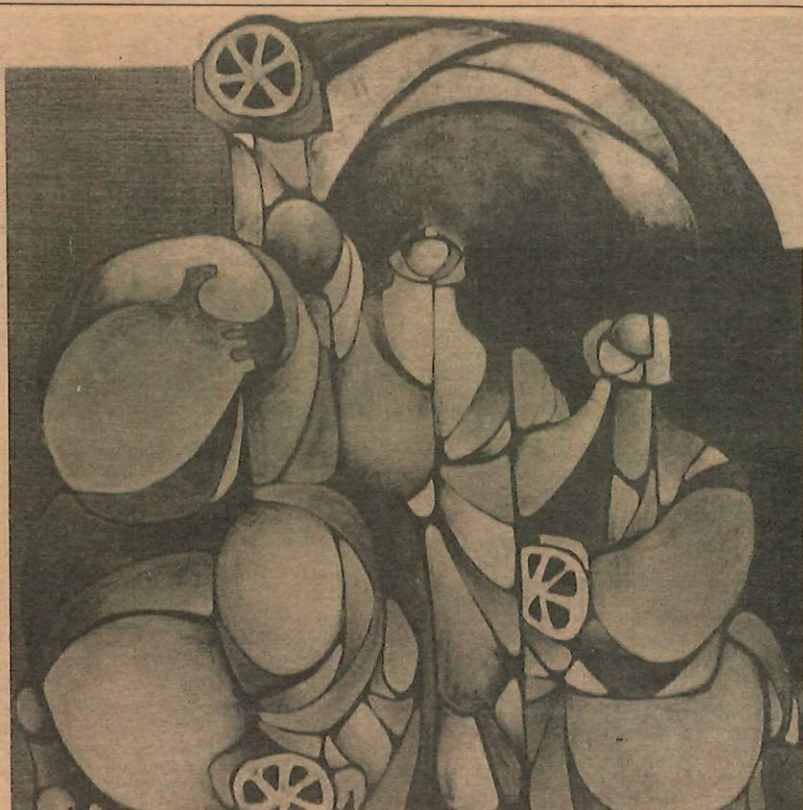


FIVE at the UPR Museum



DE PEDRO



MARTINEZ

By FELIX BONILLA NORAT
Special to the STAR

The University of Puerto Rico expressed itself this past year in countless ways befitting a 75th anniversary. In the Fine Arts Department, 32 art exhibitions were held, although some of them got what they merited, silence, since quality suffers when art comes in quantity. Besides the museum's exhibits, many others were held in such places as the main library, the General Studies Library, and even in the theater, not counting cases when UPR art students expanded into Old San Juan for their exhibits.

I do count three conceptual art pieces, such as the one put on by students Rafael Trelles and Ramon

Frontera in defense of the UPR art teachers when we are attacked willy-nilly by the jurors of the last UPR Student Art Contest. Any student can enter including art students. The jurors mistakenly took the art teachers to task for the general bad quality of the entries. Trelles and Frontera brought a wastebasket into the exhibit to ritually do away with such jurors and their dictums. It is true that a funny thing happens to jurors when they judge at UPR; they pan UPR products and get away with it.

Two other conceptual art pieces should not count as art, but they were, and good or bad as you wish. One was the chancellorship shuffle" when former Chancellor Ismael Rodriguez Bow was axed. The second

was the "Tapia Coronation Venture," when the university moved north for a one night stand.

One of the more interesting events last year was the mano-a-mano at the museum: works of UPR art students of the UPR, followed by works of students of the Institute School of Plastic Arts. The students compensated for the deficiencies of each art center, thereby speaking well of both places.

A new cycle of life and art begins at the university this month and the first art sign is the present show at the museum: five graduates exhibiting 23 paintings of surprisingly steady quality (though you wouldn't expect it if you went by the catalog cover, a helter-skelter communally produced pastiche sum-of-parts. Each part is more than the total here.

The artists are Maribel de Pedro, Sandra Martinez, Oscar Mestey Villamil, Ruben Miranda and Angel Rodriguez Diaz. Together with Myriam Miranda they exhibited at Casa Blanca in San Juan in early June and I covered the event. But the present show is not a repeat. Most of the paintings have never been shown before and good quality is maintained. Many students suffer quality drops as they approach new art territories.

Maribel de Pedro, for example, is approaching new territory. She is using human figures in her religious compositions whereas before she only hinted at them abstractedly and mysteriously. Now the mystery is gone although the figures do not exhibit explicit qualities yet except for a misty elegance. It will take time to make the figures suggestive, time and hard

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. Current show: Opening Friday exhibit of prints by Otilia Hernandez de Walter of Colombia.

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. "The Art of the Calendar."

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 show: (opening-Monday) watercolor by Ruben Rios.

ELUSTONDO ART GALLERY

200 Cristo (entrance on San Francisco) M.S.; 9-6. Work by Elustondo.

GALERIA BOTELLO

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

GALERIA COABEY

101 San Sebastian St., Old San Juan 723-1018. Current show: prints and drawings by Susana Herrero

GALERIA DE PALMAS DEL MAR

Palmas del Mar, Humacao. Mon-Sat. 10-1 and 2-6; Sunday 2-6. 852-3450 Ext.2507. Works by Puerto Rican artists.

GALERIA FOTOGRAFIA PL 900

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

GALERIA GUATIBIRI

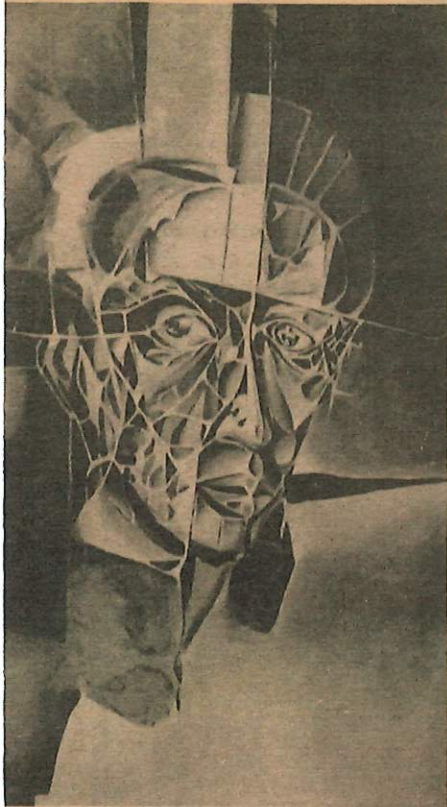
1003 Gonzalez Ave., Rio Piedras. Current show: Works by Rios, De Romero and Gaztambide.

GALERIA LA CALETA

70 Caleta de San Juan. Old San Juan. 723-8627. M-Thurs. 10-6; Fri 10-3, sat closed Sun. 1-6. Paintings and prints by proprietor Luis Caljas, ceramics, graphics and sculpture.

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.

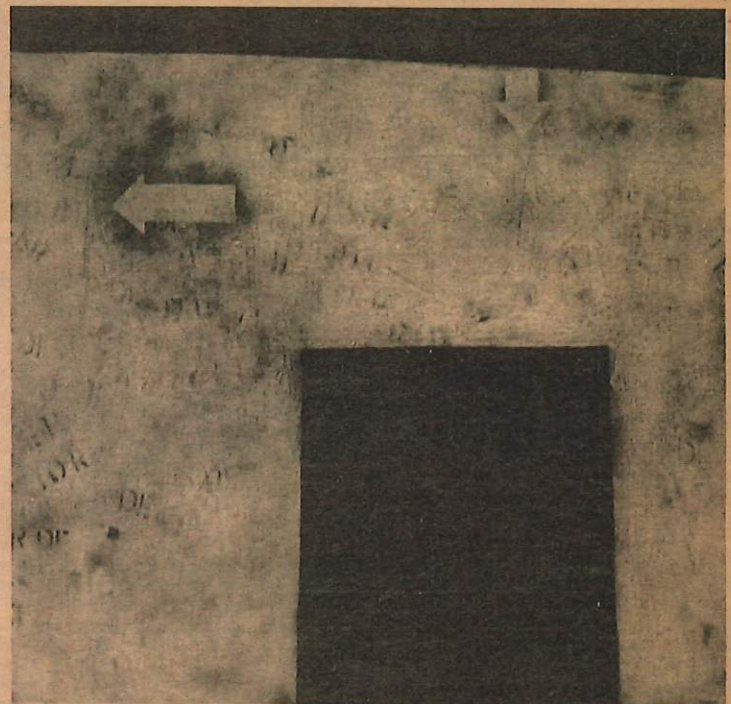


MIRANDA

From left, "Y que de ti que escondes tu corazon con un muro" by Maribel de Pedro, "Ofrendas" by Sandra Martinez and "Autoretrato" by Ruben Miranda; above, "Tres estudios de forma en interior" by Angel Rodriguez Diaz, and right, "Entremuro V" by Oscar Mestey Villamil.



RODRIGUEZ



MESTEY

Angel Luis tells me the group intends to keep tabs on each other over the years and to exhibit together again. Now they are embarking in search of their master's degrees.

Their final aim, they write in the catalog, is "to place Puerto Rican painting in Latin American and world-wide reality."

Quite an aim, isn't it?

work, but Maribel works hard. She can always exorcise the figures and make them retreat into infinity under a misty veil of magic and time.

The works by Sandra Martinez are strong and colorful yet maintain their magic as ancestral figures and archetypes. She models form, usually by modulating the local color into its complement in the shadow parts—which is not a bad tactic. She just won a deserved prize in the Mobil Oil Contest now on exhibit in Carnegie Library.

Oscar Mestey Villamil continues with his series, the "Arlequines" and the "Entremuros" y "Contramuros." His works used to be dark and remain so, but in his latest, "Entremuro V," he establishes a more extended tonal scale (from value 1 which is black, to value 7 which is light. White is value 10). The textural credibility of

his value 7 area in "Entremuro V" is remarkable.

I liked Ruben Miranda's new works. They were sent from the states where he is studying for his master's degree. His compositions are changing. The botanical web he used to enmesh his figures is going away; its vines are gone. Now he concentrates on cells, and ties them together with softly modelled ribbons and pieces of paper. He also dares to leave empty spaces in his compositions, a sign of growth and self-assurance. But I worry about those ribbons; vines are sturdier.

Angel Rodriguez Diaz exhibits five consecutive paintings about a prancing ball agonizing within an interior until the ball bursts. The serial strip effect ties the picture together. Three of them are supposed to be a triptych.

GALERIA MUNICIPIO
City Hall, Old San Juan. Current show: Collective show by Puerto Rican artists.

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

GALERIA RAQUEL
San Jose 257, Old San Juan. Mon. to Sat. 10-6; European oil paintings.

GALERIA SAN SEBASTIAN
104 San Sebastian St. Puerto Rican paintings and Sculpture.

MANOS
Convention Center, Condado. Contemporary ceramics by the Caparra Studio. Current show: Silver jewelry by Colombian Roberto Friedman.

GALERIA W. LABIOSA
415 Sol St. Old San Juan. 724-6293. Mon.-Fri. 1:30-5:30, Sat. 9-5:30. Puerto Rican art.

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 DE LA FORTALEZA
Governor's Mansion, Old San Juan. Open only during business hours. Current show. Works by Epifanio Irizarry.

MUSEO DEL GRABADO LATINOAMERICANO
Casa de los Confaluartes. 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. Current show: Second Ceramics festival.

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
Rio Piedras Campus. Open daily 9-9, Sat., Sun. 9-3. Current show: Works by de Pedro, Martinez, Mestey, Miranda, Rodriguez.