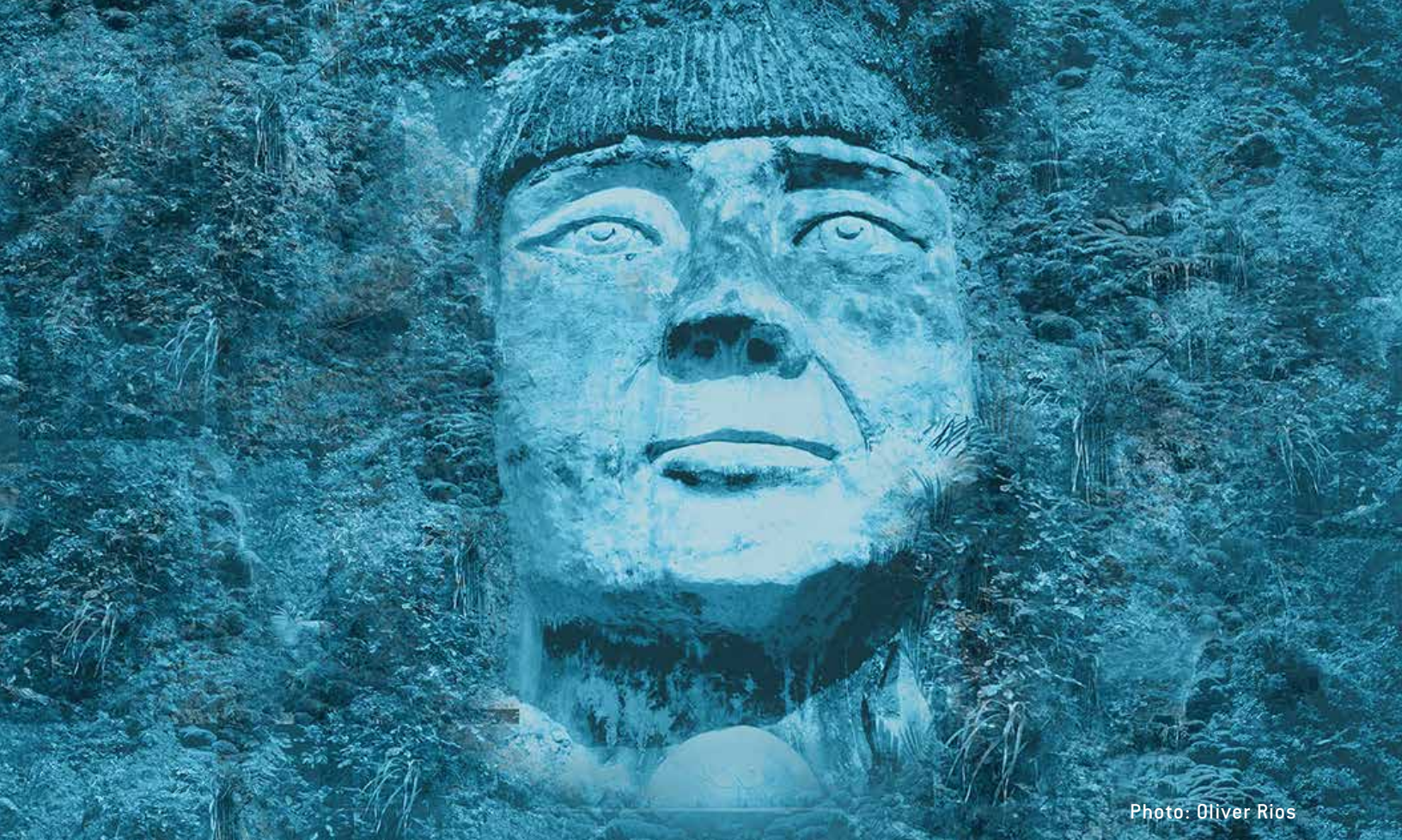


# MORIOSDESIGNS™





My commitment to raising awareness with innovative techniques perseveres everyday. My visual creativity and communication skills help improve social and environmental importance which influences communities today. As Creative Director of Orios Designs, my mission is to showcase uplifting and meaningful images through photography, visual design and typography, while striving to inspire the human spirit. #oriosdesigns



# BORICUAS UNITED

Hurricane Maria made land fall on the island of Puerto Rico on September 20th 2017, leaving the Island in desperate need for help. Boricuas United, a fundraiser supported by top talented artist in the entertainment industry came together to help the victims of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. The funds collected on October 15th, 2017 were donated to the Hispanic Federation which created The UNIDOS Disaster Relief Fund.

The Hispanic Federation (HF) is the nation's premier Latino nonprofit membership organization. Founded in 1990, HF seeks to support Hispanic families and strengthen Latino institutions through work in the areas of education, health, immigration, civic engagement, economic empowerment, & the environment. 100% of donations to UNIDOS goes to help children, friends and families recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria and the Mexico City earthquake.

Orios Designs continues to support the Boricuas United mission. A portion of the sales made on [shop.oriosdesigns.com/boricuas-united](http://shop.oriosdesigns.com/boricuas-united) goes to UNIDOS to help support families recover from the disaster caused by Hurricane Maria.

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PUERTO RICO RELIEF FUNDRAISER  
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# CITI 100

100 PUERTO RICAN ARTISTS  
100 YEARS OF THE JONES-SHAFROTH ACT

DEFEND  
PUERTO RICO

MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup> 2017  
OPENING NIGHT  
THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017 • 6-10PM

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CURATED BY ADRIAN "VIAJERO" ROMAN  
DEFENDPR.COM • @DEFENDPR

Signed in 1917 by President Wilson, The Jones-Shafroth Act granted U.S. citizenship to anyone born in Puerto Rico on or after April 25, 1898, a complex and significant turning point for the people of Puerto Rico.

Curated by Puerto Rican artist Adrián Viajero Román, DEFEND PUERTO RICO's CITICIEN traveling exhibition featured 100 artworks highlighting the historical and present-day impact of the Jones Act, with its opening reception Thursday, March 2, 2017 at The Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center. It has also traveled to La Casa de Cultura Ruth Hernández Torres San Juan, Puerto Rico. A Seed on Diamond Gallery in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and closing reception at The Julia Del Burgos Cultural Center In East Harlem, New York.

# CITI100

100 PUERTO RICAN ARTISTS  
100 YEARS OF THE JONES-SHAFFROTH ACT

A DefendPR Multimedia Art Group Exhibit - [www.defendpr.com](http://www.defendpr.com) - 03.02.2017 - 02.04.2018

Following strict visual guidelines of size and a black-and-white only palette, the exhibit's theme is one of visual consistency and commitment, acting as a metaphor of the unified voice and solidarity of Puerto Ricans during a critical political time. Coinciding with the 100 year anniversary of the signing of the Jones Act, CITICIEN, in an effort to nurture greater solidarity and collaboration, that featured 100 Puerto Rican artists from the island and the diaspora.



Oliver's photography of Puerto Rico and New York creates a visual history of the Jones Act and how it has affected our brothers and sisters who live on the Island. In his first written poem, Rios describes how unjust this Law is for all Boricuas.



The Clemente Soto Velez Cultural and Educational Center opening reception. Photos: DefendPR





Casa de Cultura Ruth Hernández Torres. San Juan, Puerto Rico. Photos: DefendPR



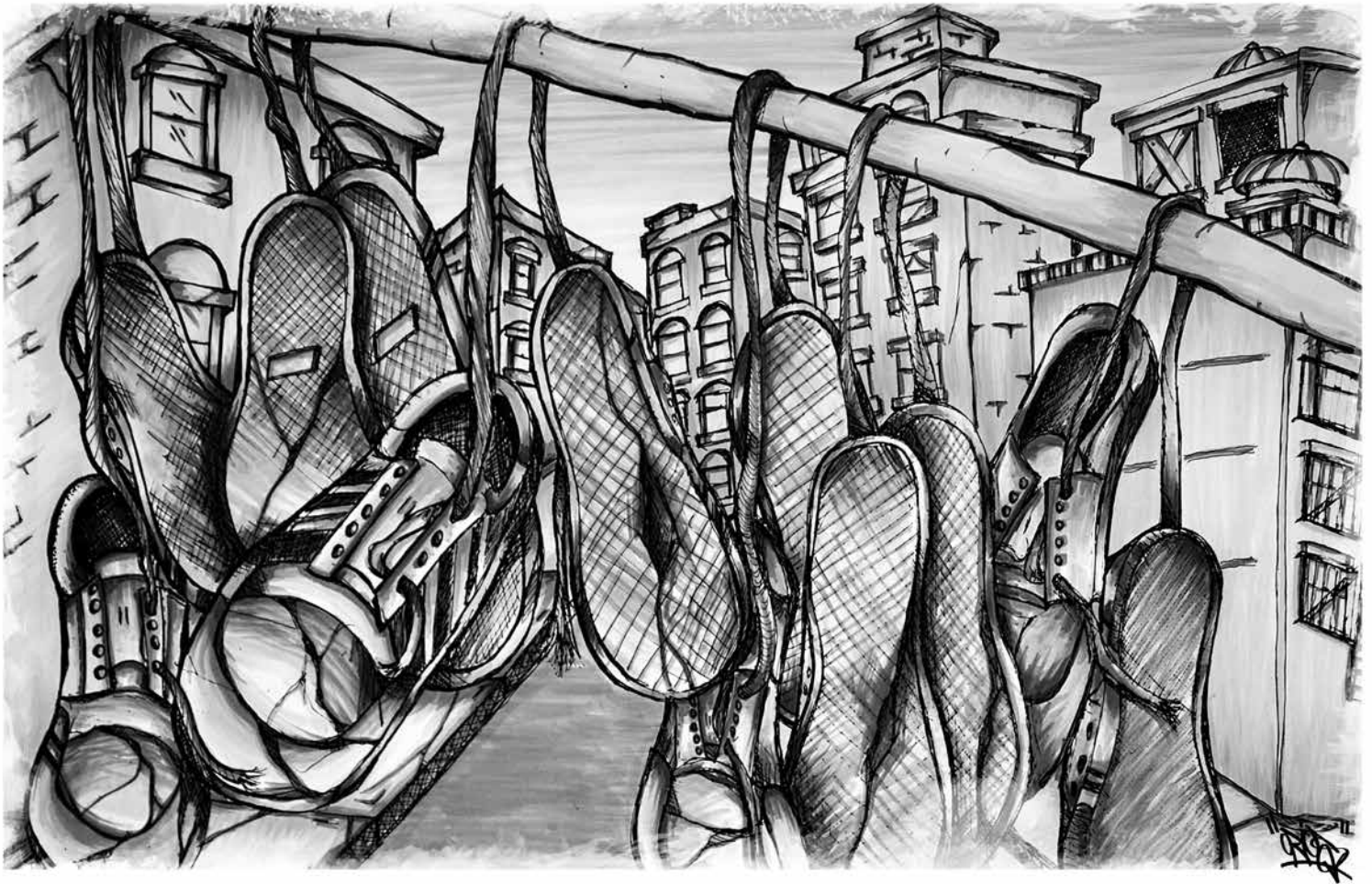
Closing show at The Julia Del Burgos Cultural Center In East Harlem, New York.



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INDIEGOGO



# kNOWing

On November 19th, 2016 Orios Designs and Pepe Coronado collaborated with artist to showcase recent prints by Coronado Print Studio. Curated by Erin K. Hylton, “kNOWing” represents an awareness of the power of image to engage and inform conversations about identity, self-discovery and personal histories. With skilled techniques and in collaboration the artists encourage each other and the viewer to take a journey of consciousness, challenging notions of reality and dystopia.



Recent works from Coronado Print Studio (2016)

# kNOWing

curated by Erin K. Hylton

Opening Reception  
Saturday November 19th, 5:30 - 8 pm



180 East 118th St., 3rd Floor  
New York, NY 10035

Contact Info: 240.620.1461  
coronadoprintstudio@gmail.com

Acevedo, Manuel  
Alvarez, Laura  
Coronado, Pepe  
De los Santos, Rene  
Fernandez, Alex  
Flowers, Marquita  
Garcia, Aliosky  
COCO144  
Guerrero, Alex  
Jimenez, Leslie  
Joseph, Jonathan  
Leys, Rejin  
Luciano, Miguel  
Martinez Dominguez, Carlos Jesus  
Nuñez, Gregory Rafael  
Pimentel, Maria Amalia  
Polanco, Narciso  
Rios, Oliver  
Rodriguez, Yelaine  
Roman, Adrian Viajero  
Ros-Suarez, Moses  
Salasar, Juan  
Vladimir, Cybil Charlier  
Kelly Williams, Michael





# THE VALUE OF CULTURAL EQUITY

When we were children living on 118 street, between Lexington and 3rd avenue, the streets were our playground. Street games like Hot Peas and Butter, Kick The Can, Whiffle Ball, Skelzies and telling mother jokes kept us out of trouble. Those were the days of our innocence and love for eachother. On Sunday, August 7, 2016 the artist of 118 st. honor the past by remembering our old neighborhood and all the family and friends we lost. Murals on the walls of our neighborhood are the thumbprint of our culture. It is the way we maintain our identity and existence in the age of gentrification.

# THE VALUE OF CULTURAL EQUITY



Photo: Oliver Rios



# MI QUERIDO BARRIO

## MY BELOVED COMMUNITY AUGMENTED REALITY EXHIBIT

Entitled “Mi Querido Barrio,” this exhibit incorporates AR [augmented reality] technology and landmarks locations significant to the culture and history of the African diaspora in El Barrio/East Harlem. Oliver Rios and other artist trained by internationally acclaimed Tamiko Thiel, expert artist in the new technology, produced site-specific pieces highlighting the area’s cultural history and offering a unique immersive experience. Using smart phones, tablets and geo-location software, visitors will be invited to view and learn more about El Barrio/East Harlem, its rich history, and the contributions of the African Diaspora cultures to the neighborhood and to the city.

One of the participating artists of Mi Querido Barrio, Oliver Rios, explained the importance of the exhibition, emphasizing that it will allow artists and audiences alike “to preserve our legacy, our roots, our parents’ struggles.” Mr. Rios, who grew up in East Harlem, spoke of the rapid changes the neighborhood has seen in recent years, “where you see a condominium, there was a community garden; where you see a Duane Reade there was a family owned restaurant.” Mr. Rios considers the exhibit a necessary step in preserving the rich history and texture of the neighborhood. “The hard sweat and tears of our parents, friends, aunts, and uncles should never be forgotten. We may not be economically rich, but we have a rich culture. Who better to tell our story than us?”

# MI QUERIDO BARRIO

Dr. Moreno Vega went on to add, “HOME is where our heart, our history, our culture, our awareness of our creative selves and intentionality reside. HOME is a human right, and the exhibitions and public programs of the CCCADI will examine the intersectionality of all that HOME means to a healthy society.”

With the Ford Foundation’s support, CCCADI and its audience celebrate the grand opening of their new headquarters in East Harlem with exhibitions that engage its visitors in an aesthetic series of experiences that shine light on the rich history, traditions, and changes of MI QUERIDO BARRIO – OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY.



Photo: Oliver Rios

## blippAR.

**STEP 1.** Download the free Blippar app. **STEP 2.** Choose an AR image from the portfolio that is marked with “Interactive Art”. **STEP 3.** Open the Blippar app in your phone and scan the image to activate.

### ACTIVATION TIPS.

Wait a bit as you blipp. The content can take a few seconds to load.  
Make sure the image is well lit, using the flash feature if necessary.  
Make sure to hold your device steady as you blipp.



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BLIPP IMAGE  
COMES TO LIFE



# LYDIA'S MAGIC GARDEN

Lydia's Magic Garden AR project tells the story of a beloved community garden that was started in El Barrio by resident Lydia Roman. When viewers activate this augment in their devices they will learn the history about the garden through photographs that depict the early years of the garden (early 1990s), and throughout its growing seasons up until 2008 when it was taken over by developers and downsized. The photos included in this project have been taken by Lydia Roman and Oliver Rios. Lydia's Magic Garden is located at 100 E. 118th street, East Harlem, NY.

# MI QUERIDO BARRIO



# DEL PUEBLO RESTAURANT

Del Pueblo Restaurant AR projects features an East Harlem diner that served Spanish cuisine in the early 1970s. As a part time photography student in New York City, owner Everaldo Rios photo-documented the inside of his restaurant with traditional black and white photography. The original prints have been scanned and enhanced by Oliver so viewers can time travel to this local eatery through this augment. Del Pueblo Restaurant is located at 2118 3rd Ave. East Harlem, NY.

MY BELOVED COMMUNITY  
AUGMENTED REALITY EXHIBIT

# MI QUERIDO BARRIO

On October 10, 2016 renowned curator, Lowery Stokes Sims joins Yasmin Ramirez, Marta Moreno Vega and Regina Bultrón Bengoa curated a 3-part exhibit centered on the theme on HOME. A variety of artists and mediums, including the latest in augmented reality, explored home in the age of gentrification, dislocation, migration, exile, belonging, health and unaffordable housing.


Together, the exhibitions chronicle East and West Harlem as far back as the 1970s, exploring the many meanings of home and the similar interpretations for artists of different regions. All demonstrate how individual and collective memories provide a powerful tool for recreating, imagining, and reconstructing cultural traditions to establish a “home” away from home.



Photo: Oliver Rios & CCCADI

# MI QUERIDO BARRIO

Click to open news link




## The Creators Project

### Creators

#### How Augmented Reality Is Fighting Cultural Erasure in East Harlem


As high rises replace brownstones, artists turn to augmented reality to preserve cultural landmarks.



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Culture and history are vital, though often invisible, parts of any community, but the *Mi Querido Barrio* (My Beloved Community) augmented reality tour, presented by New York City's Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute (CCCADI), showcases the many different ways AR can make visible the unseen. The digital art project is part of the *Home, Memory, and Future* exhibition celebrating the Caribbean Cultural Center's grand reopening in its new East Harlem location.

Using the AR app *Blippar*, anyone with a smartphone and a guide to the tour's location markers can point their phone at landmarks across the rapidly-gentrifying neighborhood and unlock augmented artworks, photographs, and interactive features—that bring the past to life. A marker in front of a 7-Eleven, for example, reveals that it was the original location of *Boato Botánica*, a famous and long-standing spiritual emporium that was given just 30 days to vacate the building along with five other small businesses.



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Oliver Rios, one of several artists who participated in *Mi Querido Barrio*, grew up in the historically Latinx area, often affectionately called El Barrio, and still lives there. He remembers when it was a place rich in culture though economically poor, circumstances that are reversing as high rises replace brownstones. The 44-year-old graphic artist spent his youth doing graffiti and painting anti-drug and anti-violence murals and memorials. In some cases, the buildings he painted simply aren't there anymore.

When Rios heard about *Mi Querido Barrio*, he volunteered to contribute his photographs from that time, which can now be viewed on residents' smartphones. He believes AR technology can strengthen his community: "It is a smart way to not only educate, but preserve and connect. I think that the more people start using it, especially the younger generation, the more they are going to open their eyes and want to reconnect," he says.



## One of Nation's Foremost Afro-Latino Centers Gets a New Home

By [Name] | [Date] | [Time]

Nuyorican artist **Oliver Rios**, on the other hand, grew up in the same neighborhood which now houses the new CCCADI, like Dr. Vega. His view of "home" has a more local feel, but he uses technology to bring viewers back in time using photography, and an app called *Blippar*.



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"My role in the 'Mi Querido Barrio' ('My Beloved Community') exhibit is a profound feeling of love for the community," said Rios, who worked diligently collecting the photos and research for this project for the past three years. "It brings me back to my childhood. It brings me back home. 'Home' to me is being in your crib eating rice and beans, listening to your music. It's a sense of happiness, a sense of calm."



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Rios' family has also had a profound impact in the neighborhood. His father was the owner of the popular Del Pueblo restaurant in the 1970's, and his mother started an award-winning garden in the 1960's (part of which still exists today) that brought the feeling of Puerto Rico to the inner city of Manhattan. Rios, himself, was a graffiti artist who mostly created murals for his peers dying from drug-related violence in the 1990's.

**RELATED:** Afro-Latinos Seek Recognition, And Accurate Genomic Course

"Using technology brings art to a plain wall. It brings it to life again," Rios explained while he showed me a photo of a wall which once was home to his graffiti art. "We can show our children a neighborhood that's changed and show them what used to be there: the history, the fashion, how the environment itself has changed. It's instrumental in maintaining the environment."

He added that working on this exhibit, he was shocked to learn how many people loved his dad's restaurant and how it reminded them of 'home.'



# A TRIBUTE TO A KING

In honor of Yomo Toro, Orios Designs had the privilege of presenting to Denise Toro, a portrait of her father floating over the beach of Rincon, Puerto Rico while playing his cuatro. The event was held at the world famous Copacabana. The tribute, directed by Aurora Flores and Zon del Barrio, also included guest performers, politicians and salsa legends. Goya Foods sponsored the historic night delighted with the enormous amount of salseros that participated in the Parranda. The festivities were lead by Zon del Barrio and the famous folkloric group Danza Fiesta. As the crowd danced the night away, we were grateful to share the stage with legendary musicians Larry Harlow, Alfredo de la Fe, Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros, and Reinaldo Jorge. It was truly a night to remember.



# A TRIBUTE TO **YOMO TORO**, KING OF THE CUATRO

## A THREE KINGS DAY DANCE & OCTAVITAS CONCERT.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013**

Join Denise & Minnie Toro in a special Latino holiday dance celebrating the diverse music — from parranda to salsa to jazz — of the Fania All-Star's funky jibaro. Bring your instruments and join the parranda before the show.

Featuring:

**Aurora & Zon del Barrio Orchestra** with Jorge Maldonado on vocals with invited guests:

**Larry Harlow, el Judío Maravilloso:** piano & dir. for the "Quitate Tu Medley"

**Eddy Zervigon**, Flutist & bandleader of **Orq. Broadway** celebrating 50 years in music

**Alfredo "Chocolate" Armenteros**, trumpet; **Alfredo de la Fe**, violin; **Reinaldo Jorge**, trombone  
**David Gonzalez**, guitarist/play write of "Sofrito."; Dancers from **Danza Fiesta** for the Carnaval...

This event will be televised over **HITN, Hispanic Information & Telecommunications Network**

**COPACABANA**

268 WEST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10036

Music By: DJ Elmer G and DJ Lucho

SPONSORED BY GOYA FOODS, INC.



# LOVE, LIFE AND LEGACY

A PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT OF A WOMAN'S JOURNEY THROUGH BREAST CANCER.



Photo: Oliver Rios

In 2011 a mammogram result changed Jackie Lopez's life.... She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer, had a Bilateral Mastectomy in October of 2011, and radiation. All of these steps were sad, difficult, and uncertain, but because of her families love and support the journey was made easier, especially with the help of her daughter Carol. Carol has over 15 years of serving the community and assisting patients at the John Theurer Cancer Center. "What a beautiful blessing for a mother to have". Says Jackie, "Latin women are guerreras (warriors) from beginning to the end, look at your grandmother, mother, sister, cousin, aunt, friends, and especially your daughters"

On October 11th, 2012 Oliver Rios and AIG Latino Network ERG honored Jacqueline Lopez for Hispanic Heritage Month, with a photography exhibit showcasing her triumphant victory against breast cancer. The photos depicted joyous occasions of Miss Lopez's support team, her family. Jackie was very grateful to be recognized.

I would like to thank Orios Designs for a great exhibit. By all accounts it was a success. Besides the personal conversations I had with attendees, I over heard several more conversations regarding how Breast Cancer has touched people's lives. Your experience and professionalism were integral in making this collaborative effort a success. We look forward to working with you on future projects.

- Julio C Gómez, Co-Chairman, ALG Latino Network



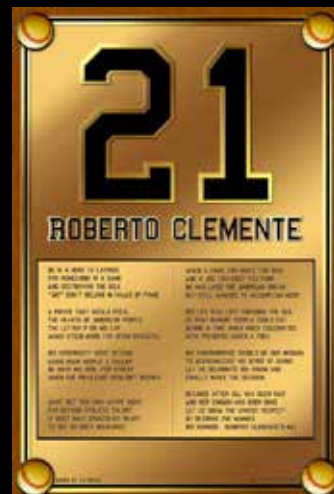
# LA BRUJA PROJECT

A series of artistic posters designed by Oliver Rios, based on and inspired by the poetic works of La Bruja.



Bringing together visual artists and Nuyorican poets, the “See What I Mean” exhibition explores the elastic nature of verbal and visual language. Relationships between how we see and the way we describe the world around us are malleable and intrinsically connected. Within this discourse, the ongoing contributions and legacy of the Nuyorican poets offer important insight. [Re]inventors of the vernacular, they continually encompass other art mediums and expand the boundaries between that which is seen, said and experienced in culture.

Together with visual artists whose work also exists in a realm between expression and perception, the exhibition fosters an expansive dialogue on familiar sociopolitical realities and constructs of everyday life such as: identity, economics, interpersonal relationships, public media and government practices. Incorporating sound, installation, video, drawing, collage, found objects as well as digital and traditional print making, “See What I Mean” offers a look beyond the surface of words and images to reveal deeper understandings.



La Bruja Project available only at [oriosdesigns.com](http://oriosdesigns.com)



**SEE WHAT I MEAN:** Anibal Arroyo, Nicky Enright, Sandra María Esteves, Nicholas Fraser, Caridad De La Luz "La Bruja," Soraya Marciano, Joetta Maue, Elsa María Meléndez, Jesús Papoleto Meléndez, Antonio "Titanium" Montalvo, Christian "XIAN" Montalvo, Urayoán Noel, Ronny Quevedo, David Quiles, Wilson Ramos Jr., Oliver Rios, Karen Shaw and Seldon Yuan

Curated by Marcos Dimas and Christine Licata

**December 3, 2010 - January 15, 2011**

**Opening Friday, December 3, 6-9pm**

Gallery Hours: Tues. thru Sat. 12-6pm, Thurs. 1-7pm

**TALLER BORICUA**

at the Julia De Burgos Latino Cultural Center

1680 Lexington Avenue, NYC, NY 10029

t: 212.831.4333 e: [contact@tallerboricua.org](mailto:contact@tallerboricua.org)

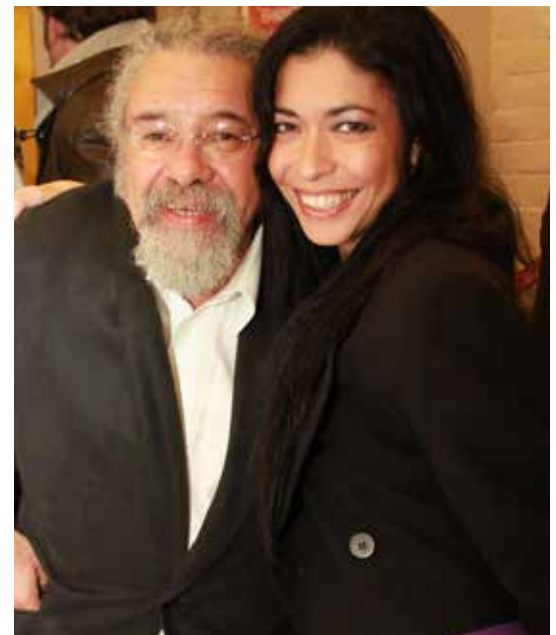
w: [tallerboricua.org](http://tallerboricua.org) 6 train to 103rd Street / Free admission

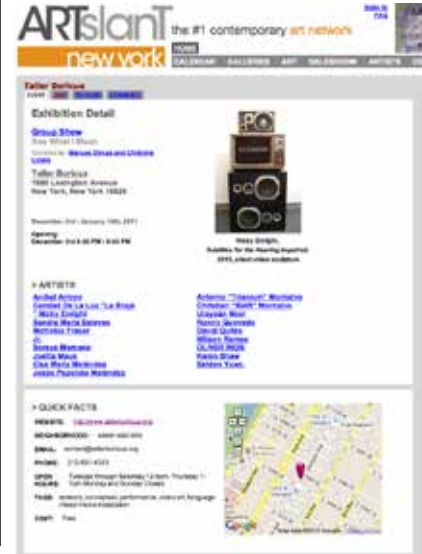
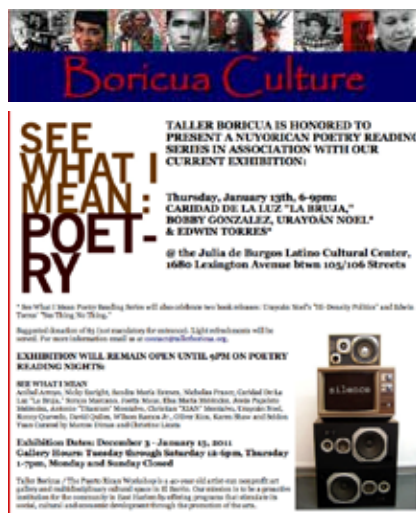
Center is accessible for individuals with disabilities



This exhibition is made possible with support from the New York State Council on the Arts, the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and individual donations

Nicky Enright: *Subtitles for the Hearing Impaired*, silent video sculpture, 3-min. loop, 2010





## East Harlem Preservation



Opening Reception for "See What I Mean" Exhibition  
@ Taller Boricua, Friday, December 3rd, 2010



Opening Reception for "See What I Mean" Exhibition  
@ Taller Boricua, Friday, December 3rd, 2010



Opening Reception for "See What I Mean" Exhibition  
@ Taller Boricua, Friday, December 3rd, 2010



Opening Reception for "See What I Mean" Exhibition  
@ Taller Boricua, Friday, December 3rd, 2010



### The World Deconstructed Word by Word

Written by Robert Waddell

Look at a grouping of words, a wave of type, don't read and the characters, letters, syllables, vowels and consonants dance abstractly as art. Words as shapes become moving images making serious statements, being playfully ironic or just creating a moment where reality is heightened and where the unnoticed becomes noticed.

All of this is best presented in El Taller Boricua's latest group show "See What I Mean," which uses language as a code and words become graphic, sculpture and where a viewer sees his own relationship to words. A dialogue begins to develop between art and language.

Take for example, several pieces that use words as bold colorful statements with one of the artist's frames reading "Love Supreme" and in another frame "Alchemy" in the middle of the image of a gold chain.

Artist Seldon Yuan presents a series of cut out words leaning on a glass table. Like most of this show, the surreal meets the real and a sense of playfulness emerges. Words on embroidery, in an alley nook of the gallery like graffiti with cut glass on the floor and words that are water colored on to paper are amongst the interesting pieces in "See What I Mean."

Hanging above the gallery like a flowing drape is a poem by Jesus Papoleto Meléndez. The words and scroll flow like the tail of a Chinese dragon seen in the clouds. Images don't matter. Words pose, make faces here. Words everywhere which usually are unnoticed become colors of the artist's palette.

In one of the show's four anterooms a TV screen flashes words like "machine" then fades to "machine gun." There are blocks on the floor with sayings about feet "walk in my shoes," "lose the line" and "footpath" that look like pieces from a giant board game.

This exhibition's use of words is visually visceral which comes in the playful image of Carmen Miranda's fruited hat using words by poet Caridad de la Luz La Bruja in the background. Recreated emoji con habichuelas package shows a bowl that's a spinning spiral of words. Multi-colored leaves, poems flashed by camera on the floor and animation frames all comprise this detailed show by various artists. "See What I Mean" is comprehensive as it points out the constant visual barrage language has always had in the culture. The art deconstructs the world as one giant word factory and viewers see new what has always been right in front of them.



Poets and artists included in "See What I Mean" are Anibal Arroyo, Nicky Enright, Sandra Marie Estévez, Nicholas Fraser, Caridad De La Luz "La Bruja," Soraya Marciano, Joetta Maué, Elsa María Meléndez, Jesús Papoleto Meléndez, Antonio "Titanium" Montalvo, Christian "XIAN" Montalvo, Urayoan Noel, Ronny Quevedo, David Quijés, Wilson Ramos Jr., Oliver Rios, Karen Shaw and Seldon Yuan. With this show, which runs until January 15<sup>th</sup>, comes a series of poetry readings.

"See What I Mean" marries the eclectic with the sublime, dadaesque world where words everywhere become art. Collaborating with poets and artists, curators Marcos Dimas and Christine Liosta have disassembled the world, jumbled it up like a giant Scrabble game and reconstructed it so that the gallery attendant realizes and recognizes that words are everywhere and they are art.

Warhol proved a Campbell's Soup can was art as did Roy Lichtenstein's giant cartoons. The collection of artists here sees the incoherence and coherence of words used, misused with lost and misused meanings. This exhibit magnifies what most take for granted – the power and artistry of spoken language. Every day bombarded by political speeches and advertising its reassuring to see artists and poets combine forces to show that language is not merely background noise but woven into the fabric of what we see and where we eat.

Best illustration of the constant disregard and changing nature of language comes in a pile of dead discarded BlackBerries. Artist and poet Urayoan Noel uses the voice recognition on his cell phone to translate Spanish poetry into English with interesting results. Noel writes in his artist statement that "the cheap technology of the BlackBerry is perfectly attuned to the debility of tongues and forms that is the staleless poets...stock in trade."

Translated words and poetry transformed into works of art makes one see what has always been there. The poetry emerges from the words and on their own words become fascinating art.

For gallery hours and more information log onto: [www.tallerboricua.org](http://www.tallerboricua.org)

An Open Letter to City Councilmember Nicky Maué-Worlock Concerning the Julia de Burgos Cultural Center  
A MESSAGE OF CHARGE AND REQUEST FOR ACCURATE HISTORY AND CLARIFICATION FROM THE PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY OF EL BARRO ABOUT THE JULIA DE BURGOS LATINO CULTURAL CENTER  
TALLER BORICUA IS HONORED TO PRESENT A NUYORICAN POETRY READING SERIES  
December 28, 2010  
6:30 pm to 9:00 pm  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH OUR CURRENT EXHIBITION  
Thursday, December 18th, 6-9pm  
SANDRA MARIA ESTÉVEZ, JULIA PAPOLETO MELÉNDEZ, NANCY MERCADO & MYRNA NIEVES  
Thursday, January 13th, 6-9pm  
CARIDAD DE LA LUZ "LA BRUJA," BOBBY GONZALEZ, URAYOAN NOEL, & EDWIN TORRES  
"See What I Mean" Poetry Reading Series will celebrate two book releases: Urayoan Noel's "No-Density Politics" and Edwin Torres' "Tao Tung No Tung" at the second printing of Bobby Gonzales' book "The Last Puerto Rican Indians: A Collection of Dispersed Poems."  
Suggested donation of \$5 (not mandatory for uninsured)  
At the Julia de Burgos Latino Cultural Center, 1680 Lexington Avenue between 105/106 Sts, NYC, NY 10029  
Light refreshments will be served. For more information visit our website at: [www.tallerboricua.org](http://www.tallerboricua.org) or email us at: [info@tallerboricua.org](mailto:info@tallerboricua.org)  
Exhibition and poetry series are both made possible with support from The New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, The Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, Ponce de Leon Federal Bank and individual donations.  
EXHIBITION WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL 5PM ON POETRY READING NIGHTS  
SEE WHAT I MEAN  
Anibal Arroyo, Nicky Enright, Sandra Marie Estévez, Nicholas Fraser, Caridad De La Luz "La Bruja," Soraya Marciano, Joetta Maué, Elsa María Meléndez, Jesús Papoleto Meléndez, Antonio "Titanium" Montalvo, Christian "XIAN" Montalvo, Urayoan Noel, Ronny Quevedo, David Quijés, Wilson Ramos Jr., Oliver Rios, Karen Shaw and Seldon Yuan  
Curated by Marcos Dimas and Christine Liosta  
Exhibition Dates: December 3 - January 15, 2011  
Opening: Friday, December 3, 2010 6-9pm  
Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 12-6pm, Thursday 1-7pm, Monday and Sunday Closed  
Taller Boricua / The Puerto Rican Workshop is a 40-year old artist-run nonprofit art gallery and multidisciplinary cultural space in El Barrio. Our mission is to be a prescriptive institution for the community in East Harlem by offering programs that stimulate its social, cultural and economic development through the stimulation of the arts.  
Tag: Nuyorican poetry

# The Magic Garden Exhibit

## Earth Day 2010

2010

In Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day, Oliver Rios put together an exciting display of work. Creating awareness on the importance of gardens in urban communities and also to motivate residents in supporting those gardens that are still in existence was the focus of the exhibit. Oliver was able to successfully show his work and celebrate Earth Day with the attendees throughout the evening. Guest on hand were Dos Con Flow, Frankie Velez, Domingo Ramos, the members of White Train, Mara Gittleman from CENYC (The Council on the Environment of New York City), the Staff at Casanova Pendrill, Brian Phillips of Prudential, Peggy Morales State Community Woman 68 and many others. Thanks to Jessica Ramos, founder of Keen Entertainment Group and Edgar Marrera who photographed the event. A special thanks to our sponsors NYCCGC, Letsgogreen.biz, GreenMaps, Arts Alliance, TY KU and Latin Kitchen for sponsoring our event.



This spring, Oliver Rios is bringing you "The Magic Garden" a once in a lifetime exhibit featuring trees as you've never seen them before. The Magic Garden is inspired by the community garden created by Lydia Roman located in East Harlem, better known as El Barrio to its residents. This exhibit represents Rios' passion for nature and the importance it is for the community and its culture.



WWW.OLIVERRIOS.COM



# The Magic Garden Exhibit

## Earth Day 2010

2010



**1990 Tree** - Private Collection  
18 x 24 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Thriller**  
18 x 24 ©2016 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Midnight**  
18 x 24 ©2016 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Dos Hermanos**  
18 x 24 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Cargo**  
9 x 12 ©2016 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Primavera** - Private Collection - 48 x 36 ©2010 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Mars**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Felicidad**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Fresa**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



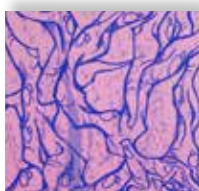
**Lemonada**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Limonsillo**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Dos Hermanitos**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**LY**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Violeta**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Tiempo**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Spring Sorrow**  
10 x 10 ©2010 Orios Designs  
Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



**Rise** - 36 x 12 ©2010 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas

# The Magic Garden Exhibit

## Earth Day 2010

2010



Hermanos Major - 36 x 18 ©2010 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



Sorrow -18 x 36 ©2010 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



2000Tree - Private Collection  
16 x 20 ©2010 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



Winter- 20 x 16 ©2016 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



Tormenta - 20 x 16 ©2010 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas



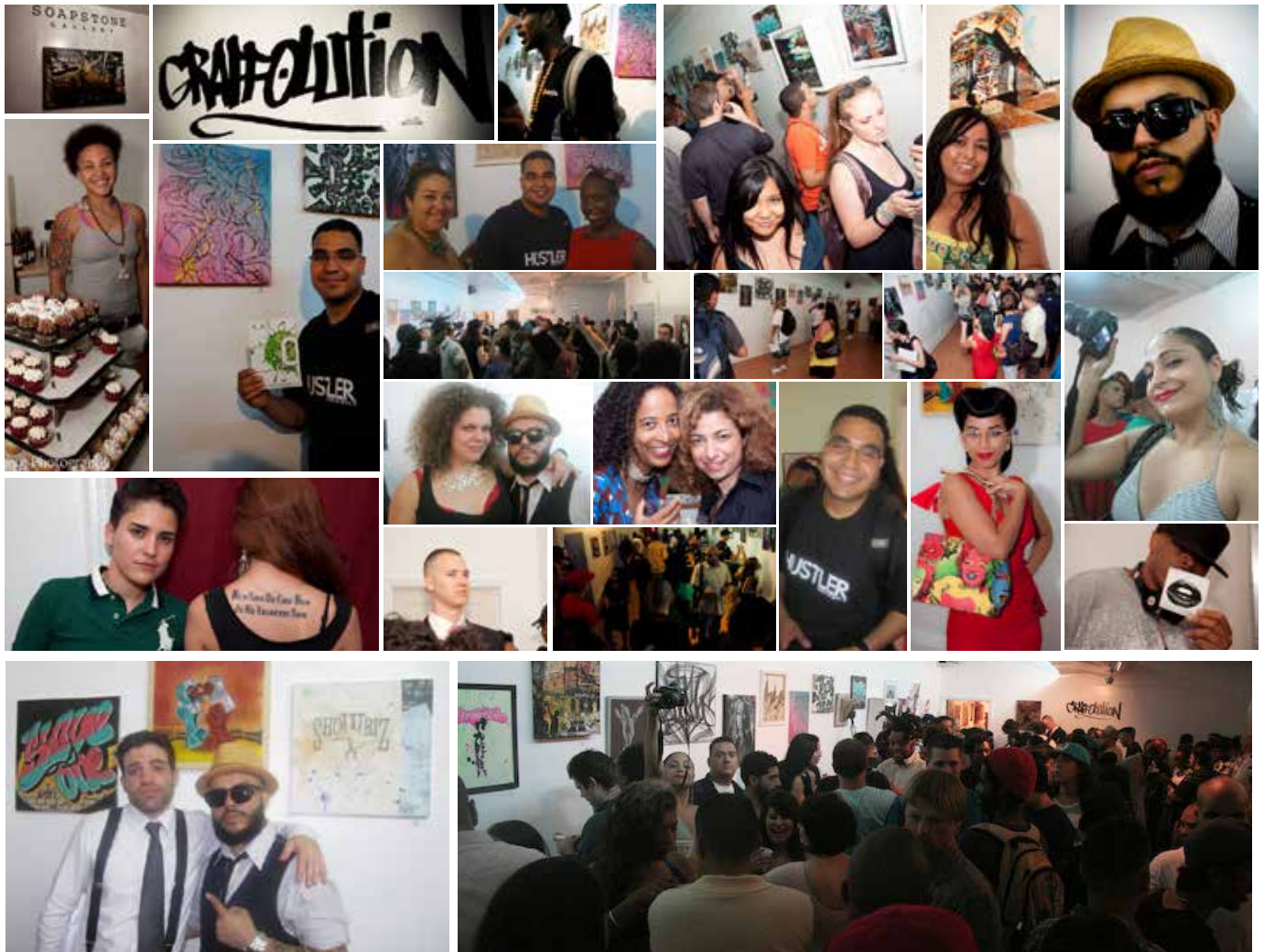
Untitled - 30 x 24 - ©2016 Orios Designs - Spray Paint/Marker on canvas

# Graffolution

## The evolution of graffiti and street art.

2010

Curators Mike McManus and Frankie Velez teamed up to show us what graffolution means to them. The evaluation of graffiti and street art was most definitely displayed at the Soapstone gallery. Orios Designs was honored to display his 2000tree piece along side some really cool artist. This show was packed all night with art lovers admiring works from over 40 artist.



### GRAFFOLUTION

THE EVOLUTION OF GRAFFITI AND STREET ART

#### SOAPSTONE GALLERY

11 w 36th street  
between 5th & 6th ave. 5th fl  
New York, New York 10018

July 15th - August 15th  
Opening: July 15th 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

THE EXHIBITION WILL FEATURE ARTISTS FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF GRAFFITI TO THE CURRENT GRAFFITI AND STREET ARTISTS. CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS ARE FROM SPAIN, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES.

2000TREE BY OLIVER RIOS

## 2010



NEW YORK  
nymag.com

**Gap 1969**  
Premium Jeans

**Subscribe Today** | **Give a Gift**

*(His big dog wants to check out this week.)*

Students will work in groups to create a story or play that illustrates the importance of the environment.



**The Book**

*Soapstone Gallery; 7/15 at 7 p.m.; 11 W. 36th St., nr. Fifth Ave., 5th fl; 718-593-9059*

For your indoor dose of street art there's the group show "Graffolution." For an outdoor, more "authentic" experience, check out [5Pointz](#), "The Institute of Higher Burnin'" a space in Long Island City showcasing legal, high-quality aerosol art (all taggers have to be approved). Bonus: while you're out there, swing by nearby [PS1](#) for one of their dancetastic summer Warm Up parties.



 Recommend  Oliver Rios, Michael McManus, and 60 others recommend this.



The Graffiti exhibit held at The Seaport Gallery was packed within minutes of opening with over 500+ RSVP's and a line snaking out of the lobby (the show was art, Atlantic City packed in the large midtown gallery to see the collected works of over 45 graffiti artists on the east coast, with styles ranging in straight aerosol can to mixed media, sculpture and photography.

**Featured artists include:** Sublime, Matt Green, Sea & Sea Tree, Eric Orr, Mike, Joe Russo, Rob Lunnell, Kari Fahrenholtz, Volcanos, Josh Grodan, Manzanita, UR New York (DISA) & SKI, Jon Webster (JHON), Wing (Peters WR KIT), Daniel "Kase" Pils, Charlie Greedy, Bobby, Ace Lincoln Jr., Clark Fly Jo, Ross, KA, E.O., Joe Jurek, Steve, Sara Z, Guy So, HALOZ, Ace Arce, DL, TMNK Nobody, Grimes, Shinn, Neil STANKSON, Oliver Ross, Bader Ross, Dennis, Ace Ross, Gabe Jernette, Ross Barnett, and Redner.



May 26th 2009, Carmen Rubio documented Oliver Rios' paint production for the grand opening of her photography studio. The concept was to create a fun vibrant back drop for her portrait photography.





# Raices Exhibit Hispanic Heritage

2009

To celebrate and close out Hispanic Heritage Month, Orios Designs honored, Caridad De la Luz [La Bruja], and Erik Mayor [Milk Burger] for there positive contribution to the Urban Community. Raices 4.0 exhibited photos of El Barrio to recognize it's beautiful and diverse neighborhood. Guest on hand were Carlos Ramos Jr. [New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson], Robert Rodriguez [Chair, Community Board 11], the Staff at Casanova Pendrill, Leopold Vasquez [Sound of Art], Monique Garcia [Euro RSCG] and the staff of El Museo del Barrio. The Young Survival Coalition also supported by donating brochures for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



## raices 4.0

In this fourth installment of Raices, Oliver Rios remembers his roots through photos of El Barrio.



### RAICES 4.0

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

#### Chimney

2056 SECOND AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10029

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

6-10 PM

YOU AND A GUEST ARE EXCLUSIVELY INVITED TO VIEW THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF **OLIVER RIOS**. RAICES 4.0 WILL SHOWCASE SOME ENHANCED PHOTOS OF FAVORITE PLACES IN EL BARRIO. THE NIGHT WILL BEGIN AFTER WORK AS PROFESSIONALS AND ART LOVERS COLLABORATE AND ENJOY PHOTOGRAPHY IN A RELAXED AND SEXY SETTING.

PROPER ATTIRE IS A MUST. MUST BE 21 AND OVER TO ATTEND.

RSVP: [RAICES@ORIOSDESIGNS.COM](mailto:RAICES@ORIOSDESIGNS.COM)



### OLIVER RIOS, "THE NEXT BIG THING"

By: Jessica Sanchez



#### Oliver Rios, "The Next Big Thing"



Last week I planned on writing about this artist I came across on Facebook, Mr. Oliver Rios. Native New Yorker Oliver Rios was born and raised in Spanish Harlem. He has been

creatively designing and photographing for about 20 years. The urban art form of graffiti helped the artist to strive in the everyday life of El Barrio. Painting murals and embracing in the late '80s and '90s gave Rios the opportunity to expose his artistic talents. Rios now focuses his energy designing posters for charities like breast cancer awareness, with the use of digital photography and graphic design. Raices (Roots) - with the use of digital photography and graphic design this exhibit is a beautiful example of Puerto Rico's traditions and lifestyle in which he loves and embraces.


I feel Oliver to be a very positive influence within our society today. Through his expression of his passions and talent in his imagery we are able to see his way of viewing the issues we face today. In this post you will see samples of his work. He has worked with names such as, Berry Music, Tommy Hilfiger, Urban Latino Magazine, El Diario, La Prensa, American Latino TV, Latinxpress and many more. He explained to me that playing with his father's Canon when he was younger helped spark his interest in photography and his true passion for collage. Also, through graffiti art he learned, "To get respect, you have to give respect".

For more information on Oliver Rios' work please visit <http://www.oriosdesigns.com> or email [info@oriosdesigns.com](mailto:info@oriosdesigns.com)

# Raices Exhibit Hispanic Heritage

2008

In this third installment of Raices, Oliver Rios and Rafael Jimenez highlighted the culture of music from both an island and urban perspective, at the Pomegranate Gallery in Soho. Fiesta de Vino and Moët & Chandon elegantly displayed the true meaning of excellence by encouraging artists and entertaining their guest.



**RAICES 3.0**  
A photography exhibit celebrating Hispanic Heritage month.

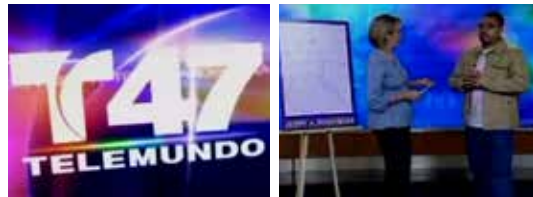
**Pomegranate Gallery**  
133 Greene Street, Between Prince & Houston Street  
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER, 15TH 2008  
5pm-9pm

YOU AND A GUEST ARE EXCLUSIVELY INVITED TO APPRAISE THE BEAUTIFUL TALENTS OF OLIVER RIOS AND RAFAEL JIMENEZ. THE NIGHT WILL BEGIN AFTER WORK AS PROFESSIONALS AND ART LOVERS COLLABORATE AND CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH. ENJOY THE EXQUISITE BLENDS OF INTERNATIONAL WINES AND HORS D'OEUVRES OF FIESTA DE VINO.

PROPER ATTIRE IS A MUST. MUST BE 21 AND OVER TO ATTEND.  
RSVP: [RAICES@ORIOSDESIGNS.COM](mailto:RAICES@ORIOSDESIGNS.COM)

FIESTA DE VINO | MOËT & CHANDON | [r2:studios]

## OLIVER RIOS ON PRIMERA EDICION



## DAILY NEWS | Latino

This week's Latino happenings

CONTACT: [VIVA@DAILYNEWS.COM](mailto:VIVA@DAILYNEWS.COM)

Tuesday, October 14th 2008 9:58 AM

WEDNESDAY 15

**SALSA:** Orchestra Broadway at LQ New York, 511 Lexington Ave. at 48th St.  
Tickets: \$5-\$10; call (212) 593-7575

**EXHIBIT:** Opening of Oliver Rios and Rafael Jimenez's photo exhibit "Raices 3.0" at Pomegranate Gallery, 133 Greene St. between Prince and Houston Sts., 5 to 9 p.m. Free.

## Navani knows...

Oliver Rios: RAICES 3.0 Art Exhibit opening

Oliver is a graphic artist and old friend of the family straight from el barrio. He looked out for me during my brief/non-existent stint as a graphic artist and thanks to Facebook we've just reconnected. When he is not using his skills for advertising, he is busy putting together shows for breast cancer and exhibits like this one to showcase his heritage. This event was quite swanky located at the Pomegranate gallery in soho (fancy). There Oliver showcased his prints inspired by his Puerto Rican culture. For more info check out: [www.oriosdesigns.com](http://www.oriosdesigns.com)

[NAVANIKNOWS.WORDPRESS.COM/2008/10/24/NAVANI-KNOWS-HOW-TO-PAY-IT-FORWARD](http://NAVANIKNOWS.WORDPRESS.COM/2008/10/24/NAVANI-KNOWS-HOW-TO-PAY-IT-FORWARD)



"Props to Oliver, Raices 3.0 and Fiesta de Vino for affording us the opportunity to showcase our art and our culture. I can't wait to see what Raices 4.0 will bring!!!"  
Rafael Jimenez

**FIESTA**  
de  
VINO  
.com

Fiesta de vino is the first Latin exclusive wine club dedicated to educating on fine wines and how to pair them with traditional Latin dishes. Enjoy the exquisite blends of international wines of Fiesta De Vino.  
Join today at [www.fiestadevino.com](http://www.fiestadevino.com)

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Fondée en 1743

[r2:studios]

POMEGRANATE  
GALLERY



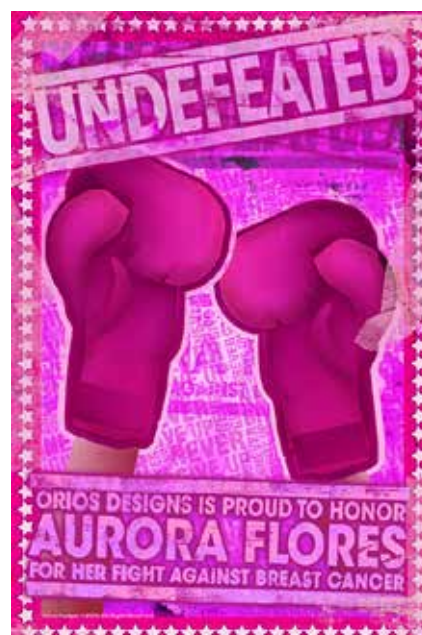
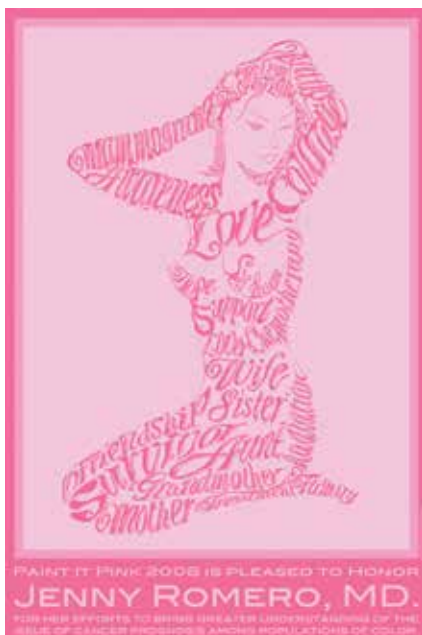
# Awareness

## Paint It Pink Breast Cancer Awareness

2007 & 2008

Orios Designs was proud to be a part of Paint it Pink this year. Thanks to Loris Crawford of Art off the Main and Khadijah “Vibes” Carter of Paint it Pink. This gala contained cocktails and hors d’oeuvres that serves amidst some of the finest works of art being produced by artists of African, Caribbean and Latin American ancestry was a wonderful experience. The event was held at the famous Puck Building in Soho. On air personality Raqiyah Mays of Hot 97 and 98.7 Kiss FM Mc’d the night. There was live entertainment by advocate and breast cancer survivor and Khadijah “Vibes” Carter. Exquisite art was being sold by artists. Curators, professionals and other art lovers were mingling and helping to raise funds for breast cancer awareness and advocacy. The night was inspirational to say the least. Unfortunately, we all know someone affected by Breast Cancer but that only encourages us to do something to support the cause. Orios Designs was proud to contribute a piece titled “Survivors” that was auctioned off, with some of the proceeds going to Young Survival Coalition - The Young Survival Coalition (YSC) is the only international, non-profit network of breast cancer survivors and supporters dedicated to the concerns and issues that are unique to young women of color and breast cancer. ([www.youngsurvival.org](http://www.youngsurvival.org)).

C. Rios



# Awareness

## Paint It Pink Breast Cancer Awareness

2007 & 2008



# Raices Exhibit Hispanic Heritage

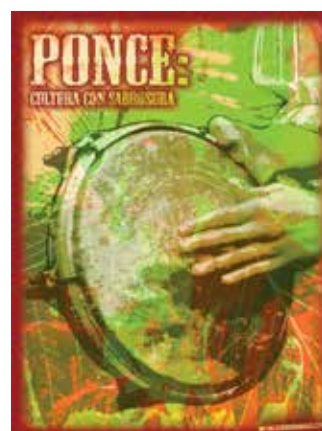
2007

On June 9th 2007 Raices 2.0 jumped off with plenty of art, music and excitement. Oliver Rios showcased 16 of his original digital photography/graphic design prints at the Julia del Burgos Cultural Center. Joe Cruz of Taino Entertainment sponsored and coordinated this event. Among the 1000 guests that showed up were Jimmy Bosh, Dansa Fiesta, Michael Diaz, James the Barber, Robert Rodriguez, Chairperson of Community Board 11, and Peggy Morales State Community Woman 68 AD. There were great performances by Zon del Barrio, Boys Del Barrio, and many others.

The event was sponsored by: Johnnie Walker Black Label Jose Cuervo, Hennessy VSOP, Belvedere, 10 Cane Marti Mojito, Smirnoff, Don Julio and Proceeds of the event were donated to benefit kids with asthma of Metropolitan Hospital.



## 2007



Honoring Commitment to the Arts & Culture  
presents

**PONCE: CULTURA CON SABROSORA**

A Salute to the City of Ponce celebrating the  
90th National Puerto Rican Day Parade

**Zon del Barrio**  
with special guest  
**Sammy Ayala**  
And...direct from Ponce, Puerto Rico:  
**Grupo Esencia**  
**Ballet Salsa Sur**  
also featuring  
**Danza Fiesta**

**Thursday, June 7, 2007 • 7:00 p.m.**

Main Theater  
Hemis Center/Courtyard/CINOV  
400 Grand Concourse  
Free Show


Admission with free ticket  
**Box office #s: 718-510-4455,**  
[www.tonyatlanticarts.org](http://www.tonyatlanticarts.org)

Tickets: \$12 - \$5, Box: \$100 Grand Concourse and 143 E.C.

Sponsored by The Hemis Center/Courtyard Foundation  
with the cooperation of the Office of Vice Assistant Mayor Jose  
Rios. Made possible through the support of the Ponce Tourist  
Bureau of Ponce, Puerto Rico, and the Hemis Productions.  
Design by Chris Gossard Photo: Fred Meyer Photo  
© 2006 Tony Atlantic Arts





**SIGN UP**  
 Receive the RAICES of Puerto Rico 2009  
 by getting RAICES, RAICES, RAICES  
 and 2009 gifts of the season!



[myspace latino](http://myspace.latino)  
[latino.myspace.com](http://latino.myspace.com)



**ON VIEW**  
 RAICES OF PUERTO RICO

**Artes**

**Raices: La Experiencia Puertorriquena ■**



Taino Entertainment and Orias Designs presents us with  
 a Puerto Rican experience including:  
 A photographic exhibit by **Oliver Rios**  
 Music by **Zon del Barrio, Boyz del Barrio, and more!**  
 \*Also, your \$20 donation will benefit the children with  
 asthma at Metropolitan Hospital.\*

*Must be 21 or over to drink.*

**Talk to A FRIEND**  
**PRINT EVENT**

**WHEN**  
 Sat Jun 09  
 1:00 pm

**WHERE**  
 Julio de Burgos Cultural Center  
 1650 Lexington Avenue  
 East Harlem/El Barrio  
 Manhattan

[website](#)

**DIRECTIONS**  
 to 100th Street  
 map

**PRICE**  
 \$20 donation



ALL THE COOLEST STUFF  
TO DO BEFORE, DURING  
AND AFTER THE PARADE

By GRACE BASTIDAS  
June 6, 2007

## ROOTS AND RHYTHM

Feel that Caribbean breeze at Julia de Burgos Cultural Center, a destination that helps give Manhattan the honor of being the other Isla del Encanto. The Puerto Rican hub joins the festivities with La Experiencia Puertorriqueña, a festival of music, art and culture. Check out Oliver Rios' "Raíces Volume 2" photography and graphic design exhibit for a little dose of nostalgia. June 9 at 1 p.m. Julia de Burgos, 1680 Lexington Ave., between 105th and 106th streets. [212] 831-4333. \$20.

# Raices Exhibit Hispanic Heritage

2007

KIRSHENBAUM BOND + PARTNERS  
INVITES YOU TO

# 5 to 9

## THE ART SHOW

ON JANUARY 18TH AT 5:30 P.M.  
AT KIRSHENBAUM BOND + PARTNERS  
160 VARICK STREET, 4TH FLOOR

KBP WHICH WAS FOUNDED ON SPIRITED INDIVIDUALISM AND BREAKTHROUGH CREATIVE THINKING, IS HOSTING THE FIRST-EVER AGENCY ART SHOW. OVER 100 PIECES CREATED BY KBP EMPLOYEES WILL BE EXHIBITED IN KBP'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE SPACE, INCLUDING PHOTOGRAPHY, SCULPTURE, PAINTING, DRAWING, AUDIO AND MORE.

ARTISTS FROM KIRSHENBAUM BOND, DOTOLU AND THE MEDIA KITCHEN, INCLUDING:

# Orios Designs

Mandatory RSVP by 1.15.07 at  
fivetonine@oriosdesigns.com  
or  
Contact Orios Designs Corp.  
646-221-6250



## 'ART'SIDE OF THE CUBICLE

ADVERTISING FIRM INVITES EMPLOYEES TO SHOW OFF THEIR STUFF

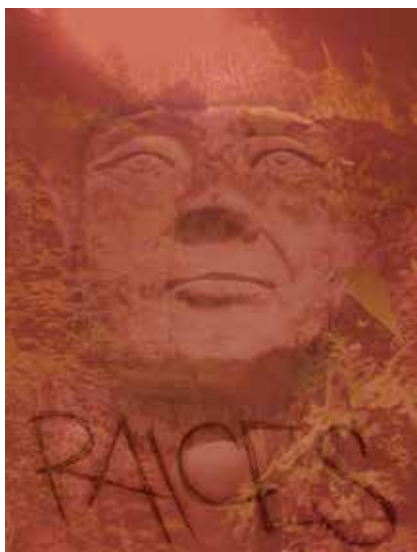


It's no secret that artists face unique circumstances when it comes to survival. We've all heard stories about the "starving artist" who lives out of his car. But thanks to companies like Kirshenbaum Bond + Partners who for the first time welcome its employees to show off their personal projects in a special exhibition titled "5 to 9", artists like Oliver Rios are encouraged to pursue their creativity outside of the office.

Graphic designer Oliver Rios presented "RAICES", an exhibit based on the collaborations of images he photographed in Camuy, Puerto Rico and photos he took of Danza Fiesta- a folkloric Christmas presentation in Aaron Davis Hall last month.

"I went to see them perform with band Zon del Barrio who did a small musical with songs from Puerto Rico, and that was my inspiration to do this," says the 34-year-old artist. "With the images I took, I was first only going to use those photos for the exhibit and then I said 'You know what? Let me play around with it a little more' and it just evolved."





[illegible]

# THE NEW MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

# Exhibits in the 90's

## Testimonio - New Museum of Contemporary Art, 1993

**The New Museum**  
OF CONTEMPORARY ART

583 Broadway, New York, NY 10012 (212) 219-1222

**Testimonio**  
September 10, 1993 - January 2, 1994

*Doña Petra Allende, c. 1935*

All immigrants mold past experiences into memories, relived and retold in response to new times and places. Whether Irish, Italian or Jewish from earlier years or Puerto Rican, Dominican or Mexican in more recent decades, newly arriving groups give testimony to their heritage and its changing meaning in the face of new conditions and challenges.

Despite the many continuities and resonances, there are also important differences between the experiences of the "old immigrants" who came mainly from European homelands in the late 19th and early 20th century and the "new immigrants" who have been arriving since 1940s, most of whom come from Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Middle East. Conditions of departure, arrival and resettlement have changed, as have the memories and testimonies that accompany them. Guiding ideals of assimilation and the "American Dream" no longer apply, or take on new, often contrary meanings.

What is new about the "new immigration"? What social conditions and historical experiences make the "testimonio" of Latinos different from those of earlier immigrant generations?

First, the economic situation in the United States, and on a world scale, has changed dramatically: while the masses of European immigrants came in response to strong industrial expansion and a demand for labor, the "new immigrants" leave their homelands and encounter U.S. society at a time of economic shrinkage and transition. The new immigrants find work harder to come by, and a society less willing or able to welcome their values and ways of life.

These broad changes in economic circumstance have occurred concurrently with major adjustments in U.S. immigration laws. Since the 1920s, U.S. government and corporate powers have intensified the close control over numbers and origins of newcomers. Appeals to the US "national interest"—economic, political and cultural—have taken priority over human needs in setting the shifting agenda for who's let in and who's kept out and contribute to the stigmatization and labeling of particular groups as "undesirable."

The new immigrants, whether from Asia or Latin America, are overwhelmingly "people of color," and are therefore more subject to racial prejudice and discrimination than were their European predecessors. Originating from colonial and neo-colonial nations, often with African and indigenous ancestries, new Latino immigrants are particularly vulnerable to the kind of nativist and racist hostility that has always haunted immigrant peoples, but which in recent decades has become more vehement.

Ironically, as unfavorable as real conditions have become, the expectations of migrating groups are as high as ever, the "American dream" kept alive in the imagination by the pervasive influence of the media. Images of mainstream American life on television, movies and magazines fuel hopes and create illusions far more palpable and intense than anything encountered by earlier immigrants. This syndrome of rising

expectations only makes the sense of disillusionment more severe, and the search for other options more pressing.

Nevertheless, the Civil Rights struggles and social movements of the 1960s and 70s opened new spaces for the maintenance and affirmation of home cultures and a public politics of empowerment. Within this new climate, established educational and cultural institutions have begun to alter their methods for understanding and representing different realities.

*Testimonio* aims to expand the ways in which universities and museums can serve as viable forums for representations of daily life, culture and politics by enlarging the parameters of what is usually shown in museums and who traditionally participates. Organized collaboratively by The New Museum, the CAMEO Project of the Center for Cultural Studies of the City University of New York Graduate School, and residents, artists, workers and community based organizations in East Harlem, Washington Heights and Williamsburg, New York City, *Testimonio* highlights the importance of memory as a reservoir of history, and the crucial role of storytelling as a means of building community. Together, we explore the possibilities for combining the politics of identity with the politics of survival.

*Testimonio* seeks to redefine not only the approach to Latino reality, but also the relationships between university workers, museum workers, artists, community residents, activists and the viewing public. Our goals are to work together to explore new strengths in each of the participating constituencies; to reconsider our understanding of what is "true," "real," "important" and "valuable"; and to question the ways in which we make distinctions between "us" and "them," between one's self and another.

As important as the exhibition itself has been the year-long process of its creation. The art works were not conceived as ends in themselves. Rather, they are more akin to "snapshots" of an ongoing process. The artists' book created at El Barrio Popular Education Program was made as part of a year-long writing and printmaking workshop. The series of photographs produced by activist Petra Allende and CAMEO fellow Carmen Medeiros can only hint at the richness of all the conversations shared by the two women.

As a medium whose primary material is social interaction, video has played a central role in the project. The combination of experimental ethnography and cultural organizing results in a video program focusing on processes of political and cultural empowerment; initiatives for fair political representation; struggles over needs and rights to housing and health care; access to resources and public cultural spaces; and the affirmation of life against death.

These, and other issues, are examined through the voices and testimonies of only a small number of people. No single voice is meant to represent all others. Redrawing the contours of an emancipatory cultural politics means recognizing the vast cultural and political diversity of Latinos, differentiated not only by national identities, but by racial, gender, sexual and class identifications that point toward distinct experiences and agendas. We hope this project is a positive step toward a truly post-colonial Latino identity, and the rethinking of a more just and democratic America.

—*Testimonio Project Participants*

*Oliver Rios, mural en memoria, East Harlem, 1993*



Photo: Oliver Rios

# Exhibits in the 90's

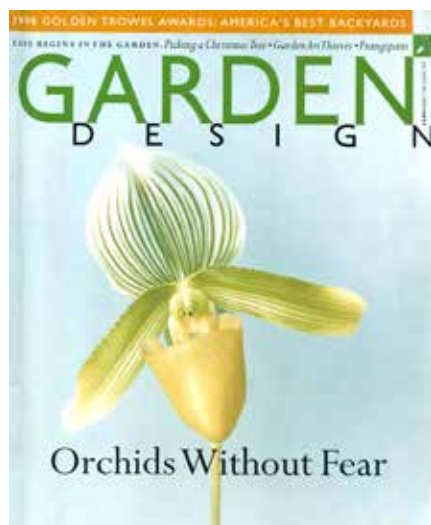
Casitas: Gardens of Reclamation. El Museo del Barrio, 1998



The Magic Garden - El Museo del Barrio archives. Mural by Oliver Rios, Photo by Ejlat Feuer -1997



Casitas - Oliver Rios 1998, Museo del Barrio



Garden Design Magazine,1999

## GARDENS UNDER SEIGE

BY OLIVER RIOS

The Magic Garden (TMG) was established in 1994, by Lydia Roman. Tired of seeing her community with empty lots full of garbage, Roman decided to make a difference by building beautiful gardens. Thirteen years later she has created three lovely gardens that beautifully Spanish Harlem. TMG produces organic cabbage, tomatoes, fresh mint and eggplant in the summer. Roses, lilies, sunflowers and many other plant life grow plentifully, adding color to the neighborhood. There are two casitas for the people of the community to sit, relax and enjoy this gorgeous site. A mural of the Puerto Rican flag, el Caquí and El Momo's castle adds a stunning feel to this urban paradise. Kids from local schools visit TMG to learn about planting and growing fruits and vegetables.

TMG is also proud winners of the prestigious Molly Parris Dress Up: Your Neighborhood contest (1994 through 1998). Photos of TMG have been featured in Garden Magazine, El Vocero, Urban Latinos magazine, El Museo del Barrio and an exhibition about New York City Gardens in Germany. Mrs. Roman has also been awarded The New York City Volunteerism Award by the Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger. But her Magic Garden is in danger of being destroyed by contractors that are constructing buildings in East Harlem.

In order for TMG to survive, the community has to be aware of these circumstances and get concerned enough to protect this very important landmark of El Barrio. It gets its support from organizations like Green Thumb, Parks and Recreation and The Green Guerrillas but even with all that, TMG is still very much in danger of being destroyed. If you want to help save The Magic Garden visit them Monday - Friday 12pm-4pm on Park Avenue, between 118 street and 117 street in East Harlem.



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## LA BARRERA DEL SAN CARLOS

En la ciudad de Nueva York, en el barrio de East Harlem, se encuentra un lugar muy especial. Se trata de un jardín comunitario que se llama Magic Garden. Este jardín fue creado por Lydia Roman, una mujer que se cansó de ver los lotes vacíos y llenos de basura en su vecindario. Decidió entonces crear un lugar donde las plantas y los niños pudieran crecer juntos. Hoy en día, el Magic Garden es un lugar muy bonito, con muchas flores y plantas. Los niños van allí a aprender sobre cómo cuidar las plantas y a jugar. El Magic Garden es un lugar muy importante para la comunidad de East Harlem.

Gardens Under Siege - El Diario La Prensa

# Memorial Murals of the 90's



RIP Raze - Oliver Rios, 1992 - Photo By Martha Cooper



The Legend Lives On! TEE - Oliver Rios, 1992. Photo By Martha Cooper



RIP Chino Chan - Oliver Rios, 1995



In Memory of Che - Oliver Rios, 1990



R.I.P Memorial Wall Art - Martha Cooper and Joseph Sciorra, 1994



Murales Populares en El Barrio - El Vocero, 1994



Harlem On The Verge - Alice Attite, 2003



I am blessed to have some of my murals documented in books, newspapers and magazines.

-ORios  
1994