

# **Educators' Resources for** ***One Language is Never Enough:*** ***Latino Artists in Southern New England***

Please find below **information** about both exhibitions and **pre-visit suggested discussion topics** to prepare students for their visit. Research has shown that doing the first and second steps listed below helps students concentrate on learning once they get to the museum.

**Your visit will fulfill the general fourth-grade History framework of studying the people of the United States.** Both exhibitions are examples of how American culture has been, and is, influenced by people from other countries and cultures.



Highly Recommended Reading:

[billhowe.org/MCE/15-misconceptions-about-multicultural-education/](http://billhowe.org/MCE/15-misconceptions-about-multicultural-education/)  
Mar 19, 2009 - *15 Misconceptions About Multicultural Education*. Jerry Aldridge et al.



**If you wish to schedule a tour, please contact Ann Descoteaux, Director of Docents, at 978-345-4207 ext. 302.**

## **Pre-visit Preparation for Students**

### **1. Please tell students the agenda for their visit...**

They will go on a guided tour of *One Language is Never Enough: Latino Artists in Southern New England*. At the end of their visit they will do a short writing activity. There (may or may not) be time to look in the gift shop, the *One Language* Learning Lounge, or other parts of the Museum. They (may or may not) eat lunch at the Museum.

### **2. ... and remind them of Museum etiquette**

- Please do not touch the artworks because the salts and oils in your fingertips will damage the art;
- Please do not run – either you, others, or the art could be hurt;
- Please use a normal speaking voice;
- Please listen respectfully to your fellow students' ideas about the artworks – you may hear an idea that makes you see the artwork in a new and interesting way!

### **Discussion Suggestions**

- What does "contemporary" mean? "Traditional?" Does "traditional" always mean "old?" (These two terms are key to understanding both exhibitions.)
- What are some kinds of art, and some materials used to make art?
- (painting, sculpture, wood, clay, fabric, plastic, recycled materials, reeds or other plant materials, etc.)
- Why do you think artists make art? What can you learn by looking at art from different cultures?
- What does "Latino" mean? What countries are Latino people from?
- What do you already know about Latino culture or art? What kind of art do you think Latino artists might make?

## **One Language is Never Enough:** Latino Artists in Southern New England

### **Introduction**

This exhibition features works by twenty-four, professional, contemporary Latino artists from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. Several teach on the college level, and several have national or international reputations. Artworks were chosen for their diversity of media and high quality, and not with any particular theme in mind (although a few themes emerge).

FAM hopes visitors come away from this exhibition understanding that contemporary Latino artists work in all media and create museum-quality art about all kinds of subjects, and are living here in New England.

*Teachers please note: Drawings by Raúl Gonzalez III will not be included on the tour due to their violent and sexual content. These works are displayed behind a wall so students will not see them as they pass through the gallery.*



### **Themes**

- Concern for the environment
- Spirituality
- Identity: Biculturalism and heritage; Stereotypes of Latinos
- Explorations of art materials, composition, and blending artistic styles



### **Exhibition Components**

#### **Artworks**

- Realistic and abstract paintings
- Sculpture: Traditional wood *Santos* carvings; mixed media sculpture
- Prints: Silkscreen prints; linoleum prints of Yoruba (African) deities,
- Photography of traditional festivals in Honduras; of the artist as different personas, and more
- Videos
- Collages

#### **Educational**

Labels in English and Spanish, in the exhibition and Learning Lounge

In the Learning Lounge (interactive)

- Definition of Latino, small map of Latino countries
- Writing activity: Share memories evoked by the exhibition (one person at a time)
- Drawing activity focusing on the use of line (1-2 people at a time); sketch (non-violent, non-sexual) by artist Raúl Gonzalez on display
- Short video showing carving of high-density foam used by artist Victor Pacheco
- Model of a *Santos* carving in process, examples of templates, books and tools belonging to the artist Carlos Santiago
- 11-minute video about three Yoruba deities (prints of which are in the exhibition) read in English and Spanish by artist Imna Arroyo and her daughter (seating for 4, possibly two more on floor)
- A touchable (gently) collage, display case showing collage materials used by artist Diane Barcelo
- Collage activity using lickable colored paper and rubber stamps (adult supervision needed) – (seating for 4)
- Painting with water using a Chinese brush and a regular flat brush on a Buddha Board – referring to artist Miguel Trelles's work combining Chinese and Latino landscape motifs (one person at a time)
- Display case showing artist Lisie Orjuela's art materials and tools
- Photography activity: Using your own phone/camera, select a backdrop and choose some props to wear, and have your photo taken. Short explanatory label about the history of artists taking on different personas.

**'Latino'** is short for 'latinoamericano.' Strictly-speaking it refers to people who come from the territories in the Americas and Caribbean Sea colonized by Latin nations, such as Portugal, Spain, and France, whose languages are derived from Latin. People from Mexico and even French-speaking Haiti are thus all 'latinoamericanos.'

For the most part, however, individuals from countries which were French colonies (such as Haiti) do not consider themselves Latinos, as their cultural identity tends to be different from those countries colonized by Spain and Brazil.

*From: Angel R. Oquendo, Re-Imagining the Latino/a Race, 12 Harvard BlackLetter L.J. 93, 96 - 97 (1995), and Joana Dos Santos, Cleghorn Neighborhood Association, Fitchburg MA.*

## **Latin American Countries**

Argentina	Haiti
Bolivia	Honduras
Brazil	Martinique (France)
Chile	Mexico
Columbia	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Panama
Cuba	Paraguay
Dominican Republic	Peru
Ecuador	Puerto Rico (US)
El Salvador	Saint Barthélemy (France)
French Guiana	Saint Martin (France)
Guadeloupe (France)	Uruguay
Guatemala	Venezuela

## ***Santos de palo***

From Religious Icons to Folk Art

Carved wooden saints, *santos de palo*, have been a tradition in Puerto Rico since the late 1400s, when Catholicism was introduced by the Spanish colonists. Originally *santos* occupied household altars, where they were worshipped by their owners. People believed the wooden saints could deliver their prayers for good fortune and healing directly to God.

Today *santos* are seen as folk art, symbols of Puerto Rican culture, and are found in galleries and museums. This proud tradition is carried on by *santos* carvers like Carlos Santiago in Puerto Rico and the United States.

*Adapted from an article by David Morales and the Santos team of The Puerto Rican Cuatro Project, found on the website below.*

To learn more about *santos* history and carving, visit  
The Puerto Rican Cuatro Project at <http://www.cuatro-pr.org>

## ***Santos de palo***

De Iconos Religiosos al Arte Popular

Los santos de madera tallada, *santos de palo*, han sido una tradición en Puerto Rico desde las finales de los años 1400, cuando el catolicismo fue introducido por los colonizadores españoles. Originalmente los *santos* ocupaban altares domésticos, en donde eran adorados por sus dueños. La gente creía que los santos de madera podían entregar sus oraciones para la buena fortuna y curación directamente a Dios.

Hoy en día los *santos* son vistos como arte popular, símbolos de la cultura puertorriqueña, y son encontrados en galerías y museos. Esta orgullosa tradición continua en Puerto Rico y Estadounidense por los talladores de *santos* como Carlos Santiago.

*Adaptado de un artículo por David Morales, y el equipo Santos del Proyecto del Cuatro Puertorriqueño se puede consigr en la pagina de web abajo.*

Para aprender más acerca de la historia y el tallado de *santos*, visite  
el Proyecto del Cuatro Puertorriqueño  
<http://www.cuatro-pr.org>