

RicanVisions Bios

Artists

MANUEL ACEVEDO

Manuel Acevedo (b. Newark, NJ, 1964) is a Bronx-based multidisciplinary artist. Acevedo began his career as a street photographer in Newark. His work combines photo-based imagery, conceptual graffiti ciphers, and architectonic visualizations that reflect the ever-shifting boundaries of diasporic communities within the urban landscape. Acevedo's public art projects and site-based installations surface the contested histories of specific areas while addressing issues of gentrification, neocolonialism, and developing regenerative spaces. His work is built on forty years of practice inspired by urban experiences in the United States and city lore as a Puerto Rican artist. Acevedo has been exhibiting his work in the United States and abroad for over forty years.

ARMANDO ALLEYNE

Armando Alleyne's painted and collaged renditions of jazz musicians, Afro-Latin singers, boxers, but also family members and friends have a rhythm all-their-own. Parallel to his practice of painting portraits of Black icons, he allows elements of his lived experience to take form in his work. Never shying away from the seminal, the sensual or the political, Alleyne's lifetime of paintings tell a story of how we are subject to our city and how in it we can search for the tools to heal. Armando Alleyne (b. 1959, New York) grew up in Lower Manhattan and graduated from The City College of New York with a B.A. in Education and Fine Arts, in 1983. He lives and works in Brooklyn.

NAYDA COLLAZO-LLORENS

Nayda Collazo-Llorens, born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, is a visual artist who works in various media, including drawing, video, installations, and site-specific works. She earned an MFA from New York University and a BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. Her work has been exhibited at El Museo del Barrio in New York, The Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, The Bass Museum of Art in Miami Beach, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico and Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico in San Juan, Museo Universitario del Chopo in Mexico City, and the Dowse Art Museum in New Zealand, among others. She lives and works in Kalamazoo, Michigan and is a 2024-25 Rooted + Relational Hybrid Fellow at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College (CENTRO).

VYCZIE DORADO

Vyczie Dorado is a New York City-based painter originally from central Florida. Dorado received her BFA from The Cooper Union. She was a recipient of the Oxbow Residency (2021), exhibited her first solo show with Swivel Gallery (2022), and recently finished a residency with

Eighth House Residency in Vermont (2024). She has been featured in publications for Fondazione Imago Mundi, Hyperallergic, Ouch!, and Emergency INDEX Vol. 9 by Ugly Duckling Presse. Born into this cyber age, her practice examines the personas we build for online, digital echo chambers, and these manicured profiles that gloss over real world climate change. In addition to her painting practice, Dorado also does performances in relation to maternity and internet safety.

ORLANDO ESTRADA

Orlando Estrada is an interdisciplinary artist based between Miami and Brooklyn. His work engages with the concepts of post naturalism, identity, and the human condition. Having spent his childhood in the otherworldly setting of a military base on the coastal cliffs of Puerto Rico, Estrada's move to Miami during his teens ignited a fascination with the relationship between humans and the natural world. This connection serves as a foundational inspiration for his ongoing series of sculptural landscapes, depicting dreamlike worlds that seamlessly blend natural and synthetic materials.

MARINA GUTIERREZ

Marina Gutierrez is a multidisciplinary artist from NYC working in community, public and studio arts. She has received a NYC Arts Commission Design Award for the DeBurgos Center and Prospect Park's Imagination Playground as well as fellowships from the Joan Mitchell Foundation, Mid-Atlantic Arts, and NYFA. Gutierrez co-authored 'ART/ VISION / VOICE Cultural Conversations in Community' (2005) with Amalia Mesa-Bains and was a longtime director of the Cooper Union Saturday Program. Her creative approach intertwines poetry and conceptual art with cultural notions (a veritable commingling of Neruda, Haacke and La Llorona).

LEE JIMÉNEZ

Lee Jiménez is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and community organizer dedicated to storytelling as a means of empowerment and connection. Their work amplifies voices within queer, trans, and Caribbean communities, exploring themes of home, memory, pleasure, and interconnectedness. Lee served as a Mellon Fellow at The New School (2022-24), where they co-founded The Re|Organizing School and collaborated with organizations such as Rock Steady and Wild Seed Farms. In 2023, they presented their audiovisual storytelling project ¿Y Tu Abuela, Dónde Está? alongside scholars at The New School and the International Center for Photography. Lee received the Create & (Re)Connect Fund from The Laundromat Project in 2020 and 2023, and collaborated with Ghost Note Agency on Nike's Aqui Me Quedo campaign in 2021. Their dedication to arts education spans six years at institutions like FABnyc, Pioneer Works, and MoCADA.

JUANITA LANZO

Juanita Lanzo (b. 1973, Puerto Rico) is a visual artist, educator, and independent curator working in The Bronx. Inspired by anatomy, life cycles, and the natural world, she creates artwork evocative of growth, sexual activity and reproduction, death and decay, love and loss, pain and pleasure, and healing from trauma. Her works have been exhibited in NYC, Puerto Rico and California. In the last 20 years, she has worked as an arts administrator at The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Bronx Council on the Arts Longwood Arts Project, En Foco, and Bronx River Arts Center, closely collaborating with artists, curators, and activists from the Caribbean, African Diaspora, and Latinos. Lanzo currently lives in East Harlem, NY. She received an MFA from City College of New York (2005) and graduated from University of Puerto Rico (BFA, 1996).

MIGUEL ENRIQUE LASTRA

Miguel Enrique Lastra is a queer, Puerto Rican sculptor and ceramist. His work uses a mixture of materials to include ceramics, fibers, audio, and ice to expand the array, orientations, and augmentations of celebrated and ceremonious bodies depicted in space. He is especially interested in the possibility, multiplicity, and infinity of the body and its preoccupations. Miguel received his MFA in Ceramics at the Rhode Island School of Design in 2022, his BFA in Studio Art at the University of New Mexico in 2018, and was a 2024 participant at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Miguel has been the recipient of a Windgate Scholarship, a RISD x Hyundai Motor Group Research Fellowship, and the Butler Family Graduate Fellowship. He is currently an AICAD Teaching Fellow at MassArt in Boston.

EVELYN LÓPEZ DE GUZMÁN

Evelyn López de Guzmán (b. New York, NY, 1947) is a first-generation Puerto Rican artist whose abstract paintings are characterized by highly saturated color and reverberating forms. She believes that the originality and exuberance of her work lies in her ability for improvisation, as López de Guzmán rarely works from studies and mixes her own colors. The artist renders shapes and objects observed in the city or the natural world as sharp geometric configurations of concentric or interlocking forms which vibrate with a glowing kineticism. López de Guzmán grew up in Manhattan in the 1960s before moving to the Bronx in the mid 70s and eventually to Marine Park in Brooklyn. She received her B.A. and M.A. from Hunter College where she majored in Art and Education and also taught children in Chelsea and Clinton neighborhoods. In the 1970s, López de Guzmán was the first female artist to show at Cayman Gallery in Soho. López de Guzmán's work is part of the permanent collection of the Museo del Barrio and her paintings and prints are hung in the U.S. Embassies.

JACOUB REYES

Jacoub Reyes is a multidisciplinary artist and educator based in South Florida, primarily working in printmaking. He has had exhibitions and interactive public performances at the Asian Art Museum, The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, Frontera Galería Urbana-Guadalajara, Museum of Latin American Art, Highpoint Center for Printmaking, Print Center New York, and Aqua Art Miami, among others. Reyes received awards and fellowships from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant, South Florida Cultural Consortium Grant, 4Culture Grant, Broward County's Artist Innovation Grant, The Puffin Foundation, and Allies in Arts Grant. Notable residencies include the Institute for Electronic Arts at Alfred University (2024), MAC en el Barrio Residency at Hunter College, NYC (2023), UCSF's Library Artist in Residence (2022), and Ma's House BIPOC Artist Residency (2021). Reyes is currently the President of the Florida Printmakers Society. Reyes received his BFA from UCF in 2013, where he was awarded the J.R. Hopes Scholarship.

DAVID RIOS FERREIRA

David Rios Ferreira has exhibited in galleries and museums across the US and internationally. His solo exhibitions include Morgan Lehman Gallery (NY), Wave Hill (Bronx), the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (VT), and the Utah Museum of Fine Arts (Salt Lake City). In New York, he has held residencies at the Lower East Side Printshop and Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts and has participated in professional development programs such as the Bronx Museum's Artist in the Marketplace (AIM). Public art commissions include Meta Open Arts, Art at Amtrak, Percent for Art, and MTA Art & Design. Awards include a New Jersey State Council on the Arts Fellowship, a National Association of Latino Arts & Cultures Fund grant, and nominations for the United States Artists Award and the Joan Mitchell Fellowship. David Rios Ferreira earned a BFA from The Cooper Union and currently lives and works in New York City and Jersey City, NJ.

SHEY 'RÍ ACU' RIVERA RÍOS

They 'Rí Acu' Rivera Ríos (they/them) is an interdisciplinary artist, cultural worker, and founder of Studio Loba, a performance and storytelling lab for liberatory futures. They use performance, digital art, and installation to create digital and physical altars that interrupt colonial memory and become doors into decolonial futures. Rivera has 14 years of experience in the nonprofit arts sector, intersecting creative practice with urban planning and community development. Rivera is part of the artist cohort of the Providence Commemoration Lab (2024), a one year residency of social practice art to engage residents of Providence in reimagining commemoration, through which they are developing an artistic intervention on the former Columbus Square in the Elmwood neighborhood of Providence. Rivera was born and raised in Borikén (Puerto Rico) and lives in Providence, Rhode Island, land of Narragansett & Wampanoag peoples. Rivera is an alum of the Global Arts and Cultures MA, Rhode Island School of Design.

KEYSHA RIVERA

Keysha Rivera (any pronouns) was raised in “Little Puerto Rico” aka Holyoke, Massachusetts. Keysha is a technologist, speculative designer and poetic researcher of Afro-Indigenous (Taâino) ancestry who practices in the South. Rivera fuses digital images, ancestral memory, and textiles as a type of visual storytelling and counter-archiving. Her work, rooted in the connection of material and process, creates sculptures, designs, and installations that point to the conversation around the vulnerability of land, the bodily connection to nature, and the tenderness of memory and remembrance. Recognizing craft’s continually relevant and subversive nature, Rivera views its material language as an organic knowledge system and vehicle for healing—where craft becomes an expression of Puerto Rican and Indigenous autonomy and futurity. She has been a resident at MASS MoCA, awarded a Craft Innovator Grant, and participated in a show at the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft.

JORGE LUIS RODRÍGUEZ

Jorge Luis Rodríguez (b. Puerto Rico) arrived in New York City in 1963 at the intersection of the Optical and Minimalist Art movements, incorporating these elements as a two-dimensional artist and later concentrated on sculpture, including the first NY Percent for Art ("Growth", Harlem Art Park, 1985). At the School of Visual Arts he was mentored by George Trakas, Brice Marden, and Louise Bourgeois (BFA '76) and completed graduate studies in Venice (New York University, MA '77). Rodríguez’s work emphasizes issues related to Black and Latin American culture. He has taught art/art history (CUNY, SVA) and frequently travels to conduct research he adds to his artistic practices. His works have been included at institutions in the USA, Caribbean and Europe including Just Above Midtown Gallery, Studio Museum in Harlem, MoMA, Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Arts, Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña, Museo de Arte de Ponce, Manés Gallery.

G. ROSA-REY

G. Rosa-Rey is a Brooklyn, New York-based visual artist. Conceptually, Rosa-Rey’s use of materials is informed by the Puerto Rican diasporic consciousness in the wake of Operation Bootstrap. Born in Isabela, Puerto Rico, Rosa-Rey and her family migrated to Hartford, Connecticut in the late 1950s. In the early 1970s she relocated to New York City to study fine art at Pratt Institute with the mentorship of painter Ernest Briggs. She continued her graduate studies in the same field at Columbia University School of the Arts. Her first solo show, *region in the mind: terrenos y cuentos* was presented in 2023 at Hidrante in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Rosa-Rey’s work has been exhibited at Smack Mellon, the Clemente, among others.

ANGELINA RUIZ

Angelina Ruiz is a Puerto Rican artist based in New York City. Born and raised in The Bronx, Ruiz’s work focuses on nostalgia and memory, the story of the Puerto Rican diaspora, and

a constant longing for home. Their practice has spanned over 11 years, working in photography, video, and installation. Ruiz holds an MFA in Visual Arts from Lesley University, as well as a BFA in Photography from SUNY Purchase. For the past five years, Ruiz has been working as a writer, focusing on arts and culture at the intersection of gender, beauty, and race. Bylines include publications such as Phaidon, Remezcla, Klang Magazine, The Cut, Vox, Allure, and Bustle. In June 2020, Ruiz created The Radical Database, an online platform dedicated to supporting marginalized communities and providing anti-racist resources. Through activist work, Ruiz has learned to utilize her arts background to aid and uplift both her community, and the ones around her.

TAMARA TORRES

Tamara Torres is an interdisciplinary Puerto Rican Afro-LatinX feminist storyteller artist based in Trenton, New Jersey. Working in various mediums, she creates narrative photography and sculptural collages that articulate the interplay between energy and existence. Additionally, Torres paints abstract “mindscapes” that traverse the realms of darkness and light. As a playwright, her work delves into the complexities of diasporic cultures, assimilation, feminism, community, and mental health. Her artworks often feature recurring symbols, including her “shadow person”, symbolizing the broader societal displacement and erasure of individuals in a colonialist world. Inspired by her physical environment, ancestral colors and imagery, and transnational music, Torres’s studio process emanates from a place of truth. Her artwork has been exhibited extensively in the tri-state region, nationally, and internationally, including in cities such as Trenton, Newark, New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, London, Edinburgh, Vienna, Rome, and Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

ISAAC VAZQUEZ

Isaac Vazquez (b. Cleveland, Ohio, the unceded territory of the Erie, Kaskaskia, Mississauga nations) has black curly hair, brown skin, and a pair of eyes that question what has been declared as true. Born into a working class Puerto Rican and El Salvadorian family, he is an interdisciplinary artist who seeks how we discern the past through form. Working within installation, sculpture, or within the picture plane itself his practice revolves around methods of image-making: histories molded from images and images that are cast out of histories; languages embedded within those processes and the very edges of their perception. Vazquez received a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his MFA from Northwestern University. He has received fellowships, grants, and has been a finalist for a number of programs, institutions, and organizations. He has exhibited in Chicago, in venues such as The Yards Gallery, Sullivan Galleries, The Block Museum of Art, The Terrain Biennial, and soon in various other spaces in and out of the U.S.

Curators

Ana Hilda Figueroa de Jesús is a curator and art critic based between San Lorenzo, Puerto Rico and NYC. Focusing on Caribbean, Latin American, and Latinx communities, her research explores memory, affect, notions of tragedy/paradise and Contemporary art. She has collaborated with ArtNexus, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Museo de Historia, Antropología y Arte at UPR, Smithsonian Institution, Reyes-Veray Collection, and Osvaldo Santiago Collection. Received awards from the Museums Association of the Caribbean, International Association of Art Critics – Puerto Rico and Council of Library and Information Resources. Recent research includes “The Esso Salon of Young Artists: Puerto Rico (1964)” and “Remembering the Island of Enchantment.” Ana Hilda holds an MA in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and an Advanced Certificate in Museum Studies from New York University (2024) and a BA in Art History from the University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras campus (2021).

Andrea Sofia Matos is a curator and arts administrator from Bayamón, Puerto Rico, specializing in contemporary art from the Caribbean and its diasporas. She is currently the Arts & Wellness Manager at Urban Health Plan, where she manages a social prescribing program that integrates the arts into healthcare. Recently, Matos served as a Curatorial Research Fellow at Independent Curators International in New York City. Her latest curatorial projects include “I Come From a Place...”, a group exhibition at Tiger Strikes Asteroid in Brooklyn (April 2024) and “BotanicArte,” a group exhibition at Taller Boricua in Harlem (March 2024), celebrating artists as healers. She has collaborated with various organizations, including Puerto Rico Art News, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico, LnSGallery, The Margulies Collection, The Women Photographers International Archive (WOPHA), and the Bronx Art Museum. She holds an MA in Visual Arts Administration from New York University (2024) and a BA in Art History and Photography from Florida International University (2021).

Xavier Robles Armas is a multidisciplinary artist and curator with a focus on public space, photography, and how migration shapes architecture and the self in the U.S. He is currently the Events and Arts Manager at The Latinx Project, where he curated *Tinkuy: Converging Ecologies* (2023) and supported exhibitions including *Re-collections* (2024). A recent Independent Curators International Curatorial Seminar graduate and NALAC Leadership Institute Fellow (2024), Xavier has also been part of the inaugural cohort of Latinx curators in the A&L Berg Foundation’s Early Stage Arts Professionals program. He has held fellowships at the Queens Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago. Xavier is pursuing an MA in Performance Studies at NYU, holds an MFA in Photography from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and a BA in Architectural Studies from Hampshire College. Born in Zacatecas, Mexico, Xavier lives in Queens, New York—by way of Santa Ana, California.