

**Peter Wang**



*Simple Happiness*  
 Photograph  
 24 x 16 inches  
 Price: \$350

Peter Wang has taken his passion around the world, allowing his camera to capture the imagination and the hearts of the people. Like most of Latin America, Brazil has persevered through challenging times. Simultaneously, Brazilians are widely known for their warm, friendly demeanor and love for life. "Simple Happiness," a photograph of a Brazilian couple working together in an open marketplace in Rio de Janeiro, not only portrays the true resilience of the Brazilian people, but also reminds us all that true contentment comes from within.

Film, Drawing,  
Television,  
Sculpture,  
Dance,  
Theatre, Poetry,  
Culinary Art,  
Literature,  
Advertising, Blogging,  
Radio, Film, Drawing,  
Painting, Art, Sculpture, Opera, Dance, Video, Theatre, Poetry

**the arts**

Fashion,  
Painting, Art,  
Opera,  
Video,  
Photography,  
Music,  
Architecture,  
Fashion, Television,

Imagine Life Without Them

Mills Pond House Gallery is dedicated to showcasing the artistic development and achievements of our region and the nation. Our exhibitions provide diverse art experiences for individuals and reach our local communities through classes, special events and community outreach programs that focus on active and collaborative learning through the medium of art. By exhibiting historical and contemporary works of art from local to national sources, we bring arts and people together to discover, enjoy, and understand the nation's rich and diverse artistic heritage.

The gallery is operated by Smithtown Township Arts Council, a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization. With ten exhibition opportunities each year, artists from almost every state in the nation have exhibited with us over the past 36 years. Guest jurors contribute to the critical dimension of the selected works in the gallery, providing a venue for artists working in a wide variety of media and subject.

Smithtown Township Arts Council Mills Pond House Gallery

660 Route 25A, St. James, NY 11780

[www.stacarts.org](http://www.stacarts.org)

[executivedirector@stacarts.org](mailto:executivedirector@stacarts.org)

631-862-6575



# ARTE



# LATINO

**August 22—September 23, 2009**

Mills Pond House Gallery  
 St. James, New York

## Demetrio Alfonso

Demetrio Alfonso's artwork is bold, passionate and provocative. His paintings are abstract compositions of combined organic elements and found objects. An immigrant from his native Canary Islands, Spain, Demetrio studied painting for seven years at the acclaimed San Alejandro Art School in Havana, Cuba and an additional six years at the School of Visual Arts and the Arts Student's League in New York. Recently, Demetrio's creativity and his passion for his painting has reached a turning point, his inspiration broke him free from traditional forms of expression and as a result was selected as one of the select few artists represented by the International Art Fair in Beijing, and Shanghai, China in May 2006.



*Symphony*  
Mixed media  
23 x 18 inches  
Price: \$8,000



*Red (Rojo)*  
Mixed Media  
40 x 31 inches  
Price: \$6,000



*Black*  
Mixed media  
32 x 26 inches  
Price: \$3,500



*No Name*  
Mixed media  
40 x 31 inches  
Price: \$2,700

## Diane Arellano



*Señor Calavera*  
Photograph  
12.5 x 10.5 inches  
NFS

Diane Arellano's photography focuses on documenting the everyday experiences found in Latino communities. She is most interested in documenting the constant intra-clashes of Latino generations grappling to define a marginalized community's identity within the boundaries of a dominant American culture. She is interested in documenting the components of a community. What makes a space or a person Latino? She is captivated by the visual nuances, similarities, differences, and textures, which denote generation, levels of acculturation, race, gender, and class.

## Kenneth Verdugo



*I'm the Guy on the Right and the Left*  
Digital print  
11 x 14 inches  
Price: \$8000



*My Mother, Them and US*  
Digital print  
11 x 14 inches  
Price: \$8000

Each of the images represents a very personal view of being an American-born, middle-classed, Hispanic - raised within an extremely white community - compelling one to have a much anglicized view of oneself.

Factors associated with identity are often reconfigured or re-manufactured through the lens of public perception. In other words, when asked who I am or what I am - my answer is too often poorly articulated, "confused" and/or misunderstood. I may look the part, but I do not feel the part, and I do not identify with the community I am perceived to represent. As such, I am compelled to serve as a representative of a very marginal group within that community - as one fully assimilated. However, now upon living in Texas (our largest border state) - I have suddenly become very aware of who I am because I am reminded daily (in casual conversation) that I am of the "other." In other words, my understanding of self has little to do with public perception.

As a consequence, within these images, I have tried to visually express who I am and what I feel: factually and unapologetically *conflicted*.

## Chris Vivas



*The Gathering*  
Wood fired shigaraki clay  
8 x 6 inches, 5 lbs  
Price: \$450

Alienation of the individual from the world is an important component in my work, as is the outside world's perspective upon the individual. The work within my Hollowmen Series focuses on the existential dilemma possessed within us all. Stemmed from both a personal and impersonal perspective the figurative work captures the individual's desire to remain isolated and unseen with a slight gesture of the head, poised in avoidance, the introverted nature is revealed. It is the desire to not be seen as one struggles to battle with the conflict of not wishing to be revealed while also not wishing to acknowledge what one truly is.

Through my own experiences, being Hispanic, I have experienced situations of alienation, sometimes my own willingness to be on the outside and other times without any choice in the matter. The Hollowmen Series also is an outside look at the situation of others within a broken system. The artwork functions as both a personal account and objective perspective on the treatment of the individual in a society in constant intellectual segregation.



*The Four Corners*  
Wood fired shigaraki clay  
13 x 8 inches, 10 lbs  
Price: \$500



*Diverging Figures*  
Wood fired shigaraki clay  
12 x 5 inches, 10 lbs  
Price: \$450



## Fabio Rodriguez



*Don Caceres: Er Carita e Perro*  
Oil  
24 x 48 inches  
Price: \$2,000

I use the palette knife to express my frustration with the world around me, to strike at those who have silenced me, to enlighten those who misunderstand me.

Growing up in two distinctly different places, Dominican Republic and the United States, I was the constant outsider. Self-expression proved difficult because my opinion was unsolicited and unappreciated or my inability to speak English created a barrier. I grew accustomed to watching people speak about ideas I did not agree with and remained silent, assuming the role of contemplative observer. These experiences stirred up feelings that necessitated articulation and the effect was painting and drawing. I use painting as a vehicle to reflect events I believe are detrimental to humanity in an attempt to create awareness and inspire change.



*El Burro y el Tiguer*  
Oil  
87 x 45 inches  
Price: \$1,000

My current work stems from an exploration of the city of Santo Domingo during my most recent visit in the summer of 2006. Returning after a four year absence, I witnessed major developments occurring throughout the country. Our customs appeared to be fading away and people no longer seemed to take pride in the things that identify us as a truly unique culture. It was then I became concerned with the impact of globalization and technological advances on the social, economic, and political institutions of the Dominican Republic.

## Jose Romero Jr.



*Because She Thinks I Don't Love Her*  
Oil  
36 x 60 inches  
Price: \$2,300

My recent surreal analytical paintings are layered with personal narratives that encompass Latino culture, history, politics, and irony. In my paintings I want to raise awareness and encourage discussion about the spectrum of ideas that challenge and inspire our community. The work is not to be considered a series, but a journey through life growing up Latino in America from the politically charged to the humorous landscapes of my life in order to capture our saga. The intense images and colors read like a personal diary that all generations can connect with.

Within my work I questioned calcified views of authenticity and cultural purity through hybridized imagery. I am also interested in how our stories are often ascribed to objects and how these objects become surrogates for cultural exchange. I include these objects under the pretext of those interpretations in my paintings to enhance the educational component and provide an entrance into my painted narratives.



*Her Will My Heart All Confusion*  
Oil  
60 x 86 inches  
Price: \$1,000



*Celestial Battle with Thor Demon*  
Oil  
50 x 23 inches  
Price: \$1,000

## Joycelyn Bila



*Espere Bailar*  
Acrylic  
24 x 36 inches  
Price: \$2,700

A Long Island native whose roots go back to Sicily and Puerto Rico, Joycelyn's art draws inspiration from the human face. Her deep respect and admiration of Native American and Hispanic People and their culture has influenced much of her work. Some of her subjects are those she has had the honor of meeting, knowing and photographing over many years. Chief Spirit Eagle, a Comanche Medicine Chief, now Peace Chief, commissioned Joycelyn to draw and paint his portrait. She is the only artist ever permitted to do so.

## Mariana Castro De Ali



*My American Experience*—Video  
NFS



I find myself without voice. As a woman, as an immigrant, as a brown person, the art is my voice. Through my work I merge my experiences with daily elements of my personal life such as tampons, threads, and common conversations. I include profane and sacred elements to create a dialogue that invokes strong emotions and stirs the intellect. I work in various media; painting, sculpture, installations, sound and video. My work is simple and provocative. I blend my intellect and body to contribute with conscious energy towards these creative pieces that portray my desire to interrupt the stereotypes around gender, belief and race.

## Gil Corral



*I Thought You Were Something Else*  
Oil  
16 x 20 inches  
Price: \$450

This piece is taken from a body of work entitled El Paso, The Pass : The Pass from Here to There. An ongoing series depicting my observations of experiences growing up Mexican-American on a border town. Growing up where the convergence of two different cultures sometimes overlap, clash and even morph into a unique regional identity.

This painting explores first impressions and stereotypes. Skin tone and physical features used as an almanac or reference guide, absurdly defining a human being as this or that. A pervasive, and in all honesty, uncomfortable and awkward labeling that is too common on both sides of the tortilla curtain.

It is my hope that this painting assist in leading to larger questions and curiosities, and that it may shed some light on common origins. And also question the limiting boundaries of "definition" and "physicality."

## Pura Cruz



*Border Wall (6 of 6)*  
Mixed media  
6 panel piece, various dimensions  
Price: \$3,500

Border Wall, fence-like segments in variable scale, point to political and social concerns. There are walls around us all, some more transparent than others. An article in the summer issue of ARTnews opened with the words of a California congressman: "A national museum of American Latino is conspicuous for its absence." In Border Wall, silent silhouettes depict daily dramas ala ancient Greek vases. The viewer can see both opponents and the immigrant laborers leaping, twisting, jumping and tumbling to their destination. A shadowy figure is tied to a guitarra, as if crucified. This idea is a personal one. The ARTnews article closes with a question: "How do you handle controversial issues like immigration?" It went on to state, "What you don't want is for our future generation to go see a hokey, Disneyland approach to our culture." The "broken guitarra" has become my signature and a tribute to mi padre, Narciso.

## Michi Jigarjian

This series visually challenges the boundaries of space and time as it relates to Heritage. Being a Mexican American, I often feel the blurred lines of identity between the two cultures. The concept of identity as it pertains to nationality is a common thread throughout the United States. Each abstraction is created through the layering of hundreds of images of my relatives from Mexico to the United States. By condensing over a hundred years of ancestry, this series creates a unique approach to the popular subject of typology. Typology by definition is the classification of things according to their characteristics. These images have become a typology of my DNA.



*What Remains*  
Mixed media print  
25 x 25 inches  
Price: \$500



*What Remains II*  
Mixed media print  
25 x 25 inches  
Price: \$500



*What Remains III*  
Mixed media print  
25 x 25 inches  
Price: \$500

## Ramon Ramirez



*Phantom City*  
Charcoal, collage & pastel  
27 x 34 inches  
Price: \$825



*El Dios Que No Pudo*  
Charcoal & collage  
26 x 34 inches  
Price: \$825

My work has been centered on the built-environment, specifically that of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area. Born and raised in Los Angeles, the urban landscape has made a tremendous impact on the development of my psyche. I paint the urban environment, not to replicate it, but to digest it and to understand the trends and social conditions that it generates.

In analyzing our city, the realization of multiple authors has become a key ingredient of my work. No one single entity is responsible for our urban landscape. There are circumstantial forces at work that weave an unintentional aesthetic. This observation has led me to explore the use of multiple materials as a means to communicate the rich urban texture around us. In my approach, I always start with an inspired image; however, I embrace various elements, including gravity, to help manifest the image, often changing course from the initial intention. As our environment is continuously expanding and contracting, I similarly see my work in a constant state of flux, aiming to bring a visual understanding to our changing community.

## Evelyn Ramos



*Coffee Beans and Rags*  
Mixed media  
12 x 12 inches  
Price: \$500



*Couldn't Take My Rag Doll*  
Mixed media  
16 x 14 inches  
Price: \$700

Evelyn Ramos's work tells the stories of her childhood in Puerto Rico where she lived until age six. Her grandmother farmed the land independently, without a man in the household. Evelyn's adopted grandfather from New York, a Cuban exile, washed dishes to earn money to clothe his family and allow his children to have toys.



## Marie-Elena Ottman



*Rebirth-Renacer*  
Coil built earthenware  
15.5 x 19 inches, 13 lbs  
Price: \$850



*Crab-Cangrejo*  
Coil built earthenware  
17 x 15.5 inches, 13 lbs  
Price: \$750

## Gabriela Pickett-Mosier



*Birth of Hope*  
Oil  
18 x 14 inches  
Price: \$450



*Vacío / Void*  
Oil  
23 x 24 inches  
Price: \$500

Like two coils of clay combining into one sculpture, my artwork combines my Panamanian and American upbringing into an expression of both cultures.

I have always been attracted to ancient pre-Columbian artifacts, specifically those found in and around my native land near the Panama Canal. There, I was exposed to the diverse indigenous cultures, flora and fauna found in the tropical rainforest. My artwork stems from these elements and an interest in color, texture, and form.

Each of my sculptures is a metaphorical self-portrait representing the combination of my Panamanian heritage and my American traditions, producing a hybrid with features from both experiences.

My work is created using the ancient technique of coil building. I create my sculptures by blending traditional techniques with contemporary ideas, creating works that simultaneously embrace my roots and explore the contemporary world.

*The Birth of Hope* is a satirical piece that emulates a Madonna and child. However, the figures are skeletons. The use of skulls complimented by the title brings attention to the fact that we are killing the hope for future generations of indigenous groups. The marginalization of indigenous groups in Mexico is an ongoing problem that remains unaddressed.

*Vacío / Void* depicts pre-Hispanic masks and frescoes. There is a sensation of emptiness created by the negative space. The figures seem to be floating and somewhat disappearing. It is a piece that attests to the sad reality that Mexican indigenous groups are being displaced and losing their identity.

## Belema Lauto

My work is a personal statement of my Cuban heritage. "Calle Ocho" is a piece that came about this year as I revisited negatives I had made in 8th Street, Miami, back in 1979. They are in a sense, traces of my memories from my family's annual visit to my grandparents who had also exiled Communist Cuba and were living in Miami.



*Calle Ocho - Revisited*  
Inkjet print  
8 x 20 inches  
Price: \$350

## Antonia Layton

My parents came to America from Mexico in 1950. I was raised to embrace my culture. My childhood memories are filled with annual summer visits to Mexico to familiarize me with where we came from. I can recall visiting art stores and seeing all the beautiful Indians & eagles which inspires me. To this day for every sculpture I make of Indians and/or Eagles comes from within me and my childhood. The Indian represents strength which is Vision of a Warrior and the eagle represents freedom which is Give peace a Chance.



*Vision of a Warrior*  
White translucent alabaster  
23 x 17.5 inches, 60 lbs  
Price: \$6,500

## Gregory Liffick



In the piece "Western Heritage" I am highlighting the unique cultural heritage of the 'Californios,' the Spanish ranchers/landowners and their workers who helped shape California, once part of and really still, in many ways, tied to Latin America. The state and their culture was taken from them by Anglos settlers and this continues to have an impact on the culture and experience of Latinos in California today. The use of leather pieces in the work is symbolic of cattle and ranch life.

*Western Heritage*  
Ink on acrylic, wood, fabric & fiber  
24 x 24 inches  
Price: \$350

## Gustavo Lucin

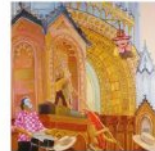
Since I was a child my art has been my closest companion and until today it has remained as the more significant facet of my existence. It is a window of expression for my Latin culture which reflects the vibrant colors, cultural connections and elements of my Latin heritage. "La piñata", "Sorrow" and "Ciego" depict the struggles of the Indian, and poor people in Ecuador. This emotional connection to the existence of social inequality in is also part of my identity. In these paintings, I also celebrate the capacity to enjoy life despite all the difficulties confronted in daily life. I believe that this resilience is also a driving force that has contributed to my artistic, spiritual and personal development in the United States.



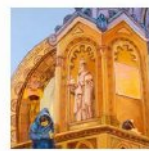
*Jubilee II*  
Oil  
26 x 26 inches  
Price: \$1,500



*Ceigo*  
Oil  
24 x 24 inches  
Price: \$2,000

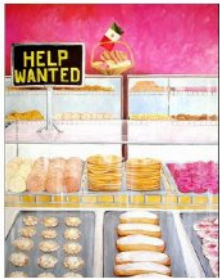


*La Piñata*  
Oil  
32 x 32 inches  
Price: \$4,000



*Sorrow*  
Oil  
24 x 24 inches  
Price: \$2,000

## Stella Marroquin



*La Dulce Vida, Chico's Bakery*  
Acrylic  
36 x 27 inches  
Price: \$700



*I Find Her in the Banana Leaves*  
Water based oils  
36 x 24 inches  
Price: \$800

I do not speak fluent Spanish, but am still proud of my Latin culture. My mother would take us to the local panderia once in awhile to get a treat! Chico's Bakery is located on the South Side of San Antonio. I find the rows of colors and patterns of the sweet breads very beautiful. This particular day they had the *Help Wanted* sign out. It seemed to not only be a sign asking for hired help, but also symbolized the whole immigration issue going on in our country at this time.

My mother's family lived in "the Valley" after crossing the border from Mexico. The Valley is the lower hook region of Texas that borders Mexico. I, however, grew up in Austin, Texas. We would travel to the valley at least twice a year to visit family. My mother was the first in her family to be born in the states, and going to American schools in the early 50's was severely disciplined for not speaking English. So, she did not teach her children Spanish. We would go visit family in the valley, my grandmother not knowing any English and her grandchildren not knowing any Spanish. She has since passed but the banana trees in my backyard still connect me to her memory.

## Fermin Mendoza



*Mother*  
Mixed media  
24 x 80 inches  
Price: \$700

I've found that art is a long and difficult cultivation of soul and skill. In a universe of imprecise outlines between shadow and light there is a place that fits me, that place can be seen through my artwork, that place is the land that I came from and it is also this place I now dwell. My art seeks to show an experience that has been shaped by the journey between these two lands. My art speaks in a unique and vibrant visual language about being a Latino in the New York area.



*Portrait of a Cuban*  
Mixed media  
18 x 12 inches  
Price: \$500



*Truth is...*  
Mixed media  
24 x 30 inches  
Price: \$1,200

## Nora—Chapa Mendoza



*Fuerza de Muier*  
Acrylic  
10 x 7.5 inches  
Price: \$900

My extensive travels throughout Latin America and experiencing the struggles and issues of indigenous people has inspired me to champion them my painting about their lives. I do it to document a visual history as well as to bring awareness to those who are uninformed. I do it for our children, our children's children and the next seven generations, that they may know their history and be proud to continue to keep our culture alive.



*Cruzando Fronteras*  
Acrylic  
30 x 24 inches  
Price: \$1,500