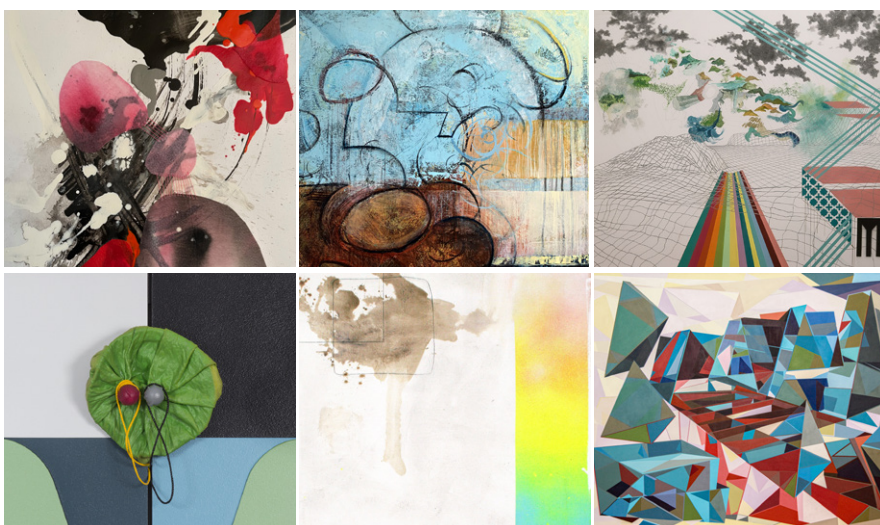




ABSTRACTO/LATINO: LATIN AMERICAN WITH AN ABSTRACT FUSION

NOVEMBER 3, 2021 – JANUARY 21, 2022



BLOCK GALLERY

ABSTRACTO/LATINO: LATIN AMERICAN WITH AN ABSTRACT FUSION

Stacy Bloom Rexrode

Curator of Exhibitions and Collections

Georges Le Chevallier

Guest Curator



Abstracto/Latino: Latin American with an Abstract Fusion is an exhibition highlighting Latinx artists living in North Carolina who are working in abstraction.

Latin America is a diverse region with a wide range of landscapes, cultures, ethnicities, and a very complex history. There is also a harsh political and economic reality based on hundreds of years of colonialism, exploitation, and an unofficial caste system. Due to these hardships, there has been a mass immigration to “El Norte” in search of what is thought to be a better life.

Immigration is always a difficult matter. Not only do the immigrants have to find refuge in foreign lands, but often they are not welcome and feared by their host nation.

One way developed nations deal with these newly arrived people is to stereotype them and simplify their culture and traditions. The new immigrants go along with this as a way to survive and ultimately adapt to their new life. Italian, Mexican, and Chinese chain-restaurants are perfect examples of this cultural over-simplification.

Image Above: Peter Marin, *Recordando a Piero*, 2018, 56"x35", Acrylic on Canvas

Latinx Art in the United States is also a victim of this. For the most part, Latinx art in the United States is seen as just passionate and mystical rather than intellectual.

“Abstracto/Latino: Latin American with an Abstract Fusion” questions the preferred notion in the United States that Latinx Art is based on Magical Realism, Politics or Regionalism. This exhibition brings together 7 Latinx artists who are working in different styles of abstraction. These artists are exploring diverse art movements such as North American Abstract Expressionism, French Cubism, Russian Constructivism, and Japanese Shibui, without ever losing their Latin American roots.

The name of the exhibition *“Abstracto/Latino: Latin American with an Abstract Fusion”* is inspired by the Chino/Latino restaurants in New York City. These restaurants combine Chinese and Latin American dishes under one roof (Latin American cuisine is a product of African, European, Native American, Asian, and Middle Eastern influences). The Chino/Latino restaurants challenge what is culturally expected of immigrants, showing us that different influences can coexist together to create a successful experience. Like these restaurants, by juxtaposing multiple international influences and changing the narrative of how Latinx immigrants are supposed to behave, these 7 artists participating in this exhibition are challenging the expectations of what Latinx art in the United States can be.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Fabrizio Bianchi | [instagram.com/fabzart21/](https://www.instagram.com/fabzart21/)

Bianchi has been painting for over 35 years, and has exhibited his work at CAM, North Carolina Museum of Art, Durham Art Guild, and galleries nationwide. He received his bachelor's degree in Painting at East Carolina University, and his master's degree in Painting at the University of New Mexico. When he isn't working as a graphic designer, Fabrizio resides and works on different compositions in his abstract expressionist style in Durham, NC.

Lope Max Diaz | lopemaxdiaz.com

Lope Max Díaz is an artist and retired faculty member of the College of Design at NC State University. He exhibits his paintings throughout the southeast region of the country, as well as in Puerto Rico.

He has also served on art & design panels for the Raleigh Arts Commission, the North Carolina Arts Council, the McColl Center for Visual Art in Charlotte,

NC, the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC, and the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria, VA.

For his contributions as an artist, educator, and service to the community, he was awarded the 2003 Raleigh Medal of Arts and the 2003 Centennial Medal from the University of Puerto Rico.

Georges Le Chevallier | glcart.com

Le Chevallier studied painting at the prestigious “Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando” in Madrid, received a BFA degree from California State University and an MFA degree from Hunter College in New York City.

His mixed-media paintings have been exhibited nationally and internationally at venues such as: The North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh, El Museo del Barrio in New York City, El Museo de las Americas in San Juan, Yamanashi Museum in Japan, and Centro Cultural de Lavapies in Madrid. He has also created multiple public art installations throughout the USA, Mexico, Hungary, Guatemala, and Chile and is currently a faculty member at Nash Community College.

Peter Marin | petermarinartworks.com

Peter Marin was born and raised in Mexico City. He received a BA from UC Berkeley and an MFA from Hunter College. Marin has been painting for 30 years and exhibits both nationally and internationally. His work is part of public and private collections and foundations including Hunter College, United Way, Boys and Girls Club, The City of Raleigh and SAS.

Marin’s abstract painting references architecture, landscape, the handmade, sacred geometry, identity and uses the languages of color and abstract.

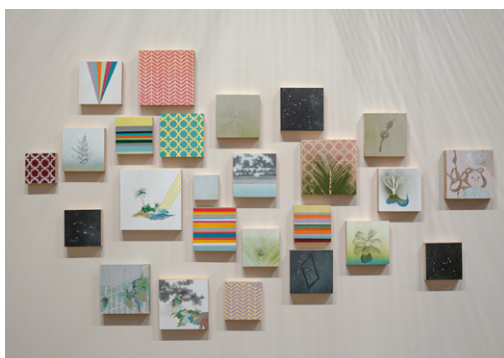


Image Left to Right: Mario Marzan, *Born on the Moon*, 2016, Installation of multiple paintings/drawings—Dimensions Variable (Roughly 6" x 6" each), Acrylic and Pencil on Wood Panels; Natacha Sochat, *Lily Pond I*, 2021, 36"x36", Acrylic on Canvas

ABOUT THE ARTISTS (CONTINUED)

Mario Marzan | mariomarzan.com

Marzán's work explores the shifting, changing and constantly evolving negotiation of geographical spaces in relation to individual and cultural identities and histories. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and has achieved numerous awards including a National Association of Latino Arts and Culture grant, a North Carolina Arts Council Emerging Artist Grant, and a postdoctoral fellowship at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work has been reviewed in Artforum and ArtPapers magazines, among other newspapers and publications. He received his BFA from Bowling Green State University and his MFA at Carnegie Mellon University. Mario was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico and is currently an Associate Professor of Studio Art at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Nora Phillips | noraphillipsart.com

Nora Phillips is a painter and fiber artist living in the Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina. She was born and grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 1995 she relocated to North Carolina to the Triangle area and establish her career in fiber design and quilting.

Her works have been exhibited at the North Carolina Museum of Art, the City of Raleigh Museum, and the Greenville Museum of Art, and at galleries in the Triangle Area (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and Cary) in NC. Her works are in several public and private collections.

Natacha Sochat | natachasochat.com

Natacha is the oldest child of Puerto Rican and Cuban parents. She was born in NYC, growing up in Cuba and NYC. She graduated Summa Cum Laude, Boston University (BA Biology with distinction, minor art history) and received her MD, Boston University School of Medicine. She received her MFA Studio Art Tufts University/School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Sochat has taught at School of the Museum of Fine Arts (painting), the New Hampshire Institute of Art (drawing and printmaking) and was Master Teacher in Studio Arts at the St. Paul's School Advanced Studies Program (Concord, NH). She has exhibited her work nationally, currently lives in Raleigh NC and is represented by 5 Points Gallery in Durham NC.



Georges Le Chevallier, *Chiles en Nogada (after Chef Angela Salamanca)* 2018, 48" x 36", Coffee, Acrylic and Aerosol Paint, Graphite, on Canvas



Nora Phillips, *Veintinueve*, 11"x 14", Mixed Media on Paper

BLOCK GALLERY

Connecting local artists to the community through ongoing exhibitions and public outreach, the Block Gallery was dedicated in 2006 to honor Miriam Preston Block, a former Raleigh City Council member, and community leader. Greeting all visitors to the Upchurch Government Complex, the gallery's marble walls, and elegant staircase provide an ideal setting for showcasing original artworks. Exhibits change every eight to 12 weeks.

OFFICE OF RALEIGH ARTS

The Office of Raleigh Arts, a part of the City of Raleigh's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department, fosters and promotes the arts in Raleigh by administering the programs of the Raleigh Arts Commission and the Public Art and Design Board and supporting the Pullen and Sertoma Arts Centers.

RALEIGH ARTS COMMISSIONERS

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Garcia | Billy Warden | Patty Williams

Cover Page: (1st Row, Left to Right) Fabrizio Bianchi, *Beyond the Nine Ravens*, 2021, 24" x 36" Acrylic on Board; Lope Max Diaz *Rendija na'ma V*, 2016, 24" x 16" x 3", Mixed Media; Natacha Sochat, *With the Bees Gone will Man Survive*, 2021, 30"x40", Acrylic on Wood Panel **(2nd Row, Left to Right)** Peter Marin, *La Piramide y el Tiempo*, 2021, 56"x34" Acrylic on Canvas; Nora Phillips *Cincuenta*, 11"x 14", Mixed Media on Paper; Mario Marzan, *Laguna no.1*, 2017, 48" x 60", Acrylic and Graphite on Wood Panel **(3rd Row, Left to Right)** Nora Phillips, *Cincuenta y cinco*, 11"x 14", Mixed Media on Paper; Fabrizio Bianchi, *Rico Rococo*, 2021, 24" x 30" Acrylic on Canvas; Mario Marzan, *Laguna no.2*, 2017, 48" x 60", Acrylic and Graphite on Wood Panel **(4th Row, Left to Right)** Lope Max Diaz, *Rendija na'ma VIII*, 2016, 24" x 16" x 3"; Georges Le Chevallier, *Black Cod with Miso (after Chef Nobu Matsuhisa)*, 2019, 48" x 36" Green Tea, Acrylic and Aerosol Paint, Graphite, on Canvas; Peter Marin, *Ese Paraíso de Ahí*, 2018, 52"x42", Acrylic on Canvas.



**Raleigh
Arts**

BLOCK GALLERY

222 West Hargett Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
www.raleighnc.gov
919-996-3610
M-F, 8:30am – 5:15pm



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