

Gamaliel Ramirez
Chicago IL

BIOGRAPHY

Born to Immigrant parents in 1949 in South Bronx, New York, Ramirez's family moved to Chicago in 1955. Struggling with an undiagnosed case of dyslexic, Ramirez did not do well in school and was forced out of grammar school at the age of 16, which was when he decided to begin to teach himself how to paint. He began his education at The Art Institute of Chicago, which he frequently visited to study the paintings of European masters and eventually he began to study the American and Latin American Masters. Ramirez is one of the pioneers of Chicago based Latino Art and he has exhibited paintings nationally and internationally. For over thirty years he has worked in numerous communities throughout Chicago, in cultural arts organizations programs such as curator of exhibitions, newsletters, festivals, and facilitating workshops in silk-screen printing, drawing and painting and murals. In his work, he projects images of Puerto Rican and of other minorities in urban environment. Ramirez's subject matter, as well as his media explores the irony of his different worlds. His themes often combine urban landscape with primitive figures or of an Afro-centric nature, creating a cultural cosmology, which relate to us the roots of his Caribbean culture.

STATEMENT

Like many Puerto Rican artists who were born and raised in the United States, European and North American influences were my first sources of inspiration. Searching for my past and the present, I began to explore the world of arts beyond the borders of my pervious influences. I started by exploring my own roots, which stems from three different continents, Africa, Europe and America. My exploration had led me through many paths that questioned and changed my beliefs and philosophy towards the arts. For the last 30 years I have been working and committed to the studies of the local and national contemporary art movements. These movements, the Rican, Chicano, Black, Women's and others, involve groups of master artists creating in all mediums and in a multicultural and gender environments. Presently, I am a master painter using this universal medium as a voice that enables me artistically, aesthetically and with integrity to express myself through my specific cultural experiences, realities and feelings. My goals are to continue contributing and to validate this post-modern avant-garde art movement.