



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

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THE AMERICAN DREAM

-Fields celebrates Immigrants' American Dream-

Manhattan Borough President **C. Virginia Fields** will host the art exhibition, *The American Dream*, celebrating the accomplishments of five artists from different cultures in honor of Hispanic and Italian Heritage and Cultural Month, October 2002. The opening reception is on Tuesday, October 8, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Borough President's gallery, 19th floor of the Municipal Building at One Centre Street. The exhibition will be on display from October 1 through November 29, 2002, and is open to the public from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Raúl Manzano is the curator of this exhibition.

"The American Dream is what many of us dream about: happiness, opportunities, security, peace, comfort, love, respect for one another. The American Dream is what drives immigrants from all corners of the world to the land of the opportunities in search for all of those good-will qualities that are bound to the human race. From the pilgrims and founding fathers of our country to the newly arrivals of the twenty-first century is what makes the United States of America the greatest country in the world, the place we call home. I invite and welcome you to share the work of these artists that have come from far lands in pursuit of their artistic dreams," said Borough President Fields.

Elena Av has been painting since she was five years old. Trained in the traditional school of painting at the Ermitage Art Academy in her native city of St. Petersburg, Russia, she found in expressionism her voice. Her large-scale paintings are colorful and bold yet they have a delicate touch and a poetic rhythm; they celebrate the beauty and simplicity of every aspect of life and nature. Due to religious persecution during the Russian Empire, her family left for Jerusalem, Israel, where she continued her art studies. Years later, she immigrated to New York to pursue her dream. She graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. This exhibition will mark Elena's artistic debut and what better way to celebrate than through this exhibit...The American Dream!

John Bologna - An Italian-American veteran of W. W. II and chef turned to painting full time at age 54. His painting career was an impossible dream as a son of an immigrant working-class family during the Great Depression. After retiring from the service, he went into the catering business. His wife encouraged him to follow his passion and later dedicated his life to painting having his first solo show at age 61. He studied at the New School for Social Research with Jacob Lawrence and Gregorio Prestopino. John's paintings have a subjective quality of spirituality and fantasy that invites the viewer to free his/her mind into a world of adventure and the unknown. His work is part of Pace University's permanent collection at the Schimmel Center for the Arts.

Raúl Manzano - A Colombian-American artist is passionately patriotic. He is fascinated by the way in which time influences our perception of icons such as the United States and Colombian flags and the Statue of Liberty. In transformative paintings, he intrigues the viewer to join him in an analytic process. Raúl received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City and most recently has been appointed In-Resident Director of the SVA's Summer Arts Abroad program "Painting in Barcelona" in Barcelona, Spain. He served as president of the West Side Arts Coalition in New York City from 1996 - 2001. The Major of Ashkelon, Israel, Benny Vaknin, awarded Raúl the medal of the city for his services to the arts.

Dora Riomayor - This American artist with Spanish roots has been working with collages for the past four years. She realistically creates landscapes and still-lives that, at first, are mistaken for photographs. Using magazine pages as her palette along with a pair of scissors and glue, she designs a world that is a spectrum of lights, shadows, and shapes. Though her works are small and intimate in scale, they invite the viewer to close examine this meticulous technique that gives the illusion of large-scale paintings. Her collages are reminiscent of Edward Hopper and Fairfield Porter's work. Graduated from the School of Visual Arts with a BFA degree in Fine Arts, she is currently the Director of International Studies and oversees the school's painting programs in Europe.

Joseph Silva - Perhaps being born in Salem, Massachusetts has something to do with it, but every time Joseph Silva picks up a camera, he performs witchcraft. This first generation American of Portuguese descendant has made Williamsburg, Brooklyn his home, but also the inspiration for much of his "Williamsburgh Project". This on-going series pays tribute to the ethnic and cultural diversity of this re-born Northern Brooklyn neighborhood. Joseph is a graduate of Rhode Island School of Photography and holds Associate Degrees in Business and Fine Arts from the Community College of Rhode Island. From 2000 - 2002, he served as Photography Chairman of the West Side Arts Coalition in New York City.

"The American dream means different things to different people. This exhibition of immigrant artists from around the world illustrates the colorful and creative expressions of what the American dream means to them," concluded Fields.

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