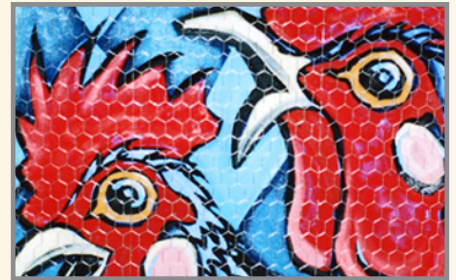


GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER

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Detail from *Cockpit* (30 x 56 in, oil & mixed media on canvas)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GALLERY SPACE AT WAGNER / FALL-WINTER 2010

The Gallery Space at Wagner, in partnership with New York University's Latino Studies Program and the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies (CLACS), is pleased to announce the opening of *FolkloRican: The Art of Pepe Villegas*, our second exhibition of the 2010-2011 season. Curated by NYU Wagner's Frankie Crescioni-Santoni, this collaborative project is staged in commemoration of Latino Heritage Month at NYU and is co-presented by the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education & Human Development, with promotional sponsorship by the Alliance of Latino & Latin American Students (ALAS), the Stonewall Policy Alliance (SPA), and the Student Network Exploring Arts & Culture (SNEAC).

With *FolkloRican*, renowned multi-media artist Pepe Villegas presents us with a ten-piece collection of oil paintings that delve into an intriguing archive of personal and cultural memories referencing his Puerto Rican upbringing. Ranging from striking representational and semi-representational portraiture to abstract and symbolism-rich canvases, this highly evocative *criollista* sampling is deeply rooted in cultural pride, introspective contemplation, and national nostalgia. The exhibition title, a playful portmanteau of the adjectives "folkloric" and "Puerto Rican," aptly and cleverly captures the autochthonous and celebratory spirit of the artist and his artwork.

An opening reception is scheduled for Wednesday, **November 17, from 5:30 to 7:30pm**, and will feature live Afro-Caribbean and Latin music by percussionist and NYU Steinhardt masters candidate Carson Moody.



Pepe Villegas is a painter, photographer, muralist, and video artist. He received a Bachelors of Architecture from the Pratt Institute in 1989 and worked at the offices of renowned architects I.M. Pei and the late Bruce Kelly shortly after. His artwork has been part of numerous solo and group exhibitions, including: *The Will of an Epoch* at the Charles Cowles Gallery, in New York City (2008); *Gallos* at Casa Adela, New York City (2007); *Conboca* at Galeria Candela, in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico (2007); *Modern Photographs: The Machine, The Body and The City* at the Parish Art Museum, in Southampton (2004); and *POP @ O.P.ART* at Museo de las Americas, in San Juan, Puerto Rico (1999). His work has also been featured in leading national and international publications such as *Artforum*, *The New Yorker*, and London's *The Artist*. A member of the non-for-profit Organization of Puerto Rican Artists (OP-Art), Villegas has been the recipient of multiple awards and commissions, most notably the Heineken Art Crawl & Murals Art Series (2009)—currently on view on 149th St. and 3rd Ave., in the Bronx—and the Verizon Vireless-sponsored El Orgullo de Nuestra Herencia Mural Contest (2010, Takoma Park, Maryland). Further samples of his work may be viewed at pepevillegas.com.

FolkloRican: The Art of Pepe Villegas runs from November 17, 2010 through January 31, 2011. The Gallery Space at Wagner is located on the 2nd floor of the Puck Building, at 295 Lafayette Street, corner of Houston Street (B/D/F/M trains to Broadway Lafayette, 6 train to Bleecker, or N/R/W trains to Prince Street). Viewing hours are Monday-Thursday 9:00am-9:00pm, Fridays 9:00am-7:00pm, and Saturdays 9:30am-6:00pm (closed on Sundays). The Gallery is closed from December 24 through January 3, inclusively. For more information, including adjusted holiday hours, please contact Frankie Crescioni-Santoni at 212.998.7400.

GALLERY
SPACE
AT WAGNER



Illuminado (24 x 36 in, oil on canvas)

For information on purchasing artwork, please contact the artist directly at
pepearte@aol.com

NYUWagner

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