

## Walsh Library Gallery

### Voces y Visiones

#### Highlights from El Museo del Barrio's Permanent Collection

##### ***A nationally-traveling exhibition sponsored by MetLife Foundation***

We are very pleased to present *Voces y Visiones: Highlights from El Museo del Barrio's Permanent Collection*, an exhibition by the country's premier museum of Puerto Rican, Caribbean and Latin American art and culture. *Voces y Visiones* spans a variety of media and cultures, from pre-Columbian artifacts to contemporary Latino art. Highlighted in the show are marvelous Taino objects, prints from famed Puerto Rican graphics studios, Mexican masks and textiles and devotional objects from various countries, and recent painting and photography.

El Museo del Barrio was founded in 1969 in Manhattan's Upper East Side neighborhood known as El Barrio (or, Neighborhood, in Spanish). Having evolved from a small, vibrant cultural center for the Puerto Rican residents of East Harlem, El Museo today is dedicated to preserving, exhibiting and interpreting the art and culture of Puerto Ricans and all Latin Americans in the United States.

*Voces y Visiones* is organized to offer visual enjoyment as well as insight into cultural traditions and history. Each section of the exhibition highlights areas of strength in El Museo's collection. Among them are *The Taínos and Their Legacy*, which includes 500-800-year-old ceramic vessels and stone tools from this pan-Caribbean culture that flourished in pre-Columbian times. *Santos and Devotional Art* explores the rich religious and artistic traditions embodied in *santos*, carved and painted wooden figures of saints used for worship in the home. Similarly, *Vodun and Orisha Worship* explores the convergence of Christian and African symbolisms presented in Haitian banners and prints from Brazil devoted to various *orishas* (deities). *Day of the Dead* artifacts focus on the centuries-old Mexican tradition of honoring lost relatives and friends on November 1 and 2 by constructing an altar with devotional objects that include sugar skulls, flowers, favorite foods and photographs. We celebrate this tradition with devotional objects from El Museo's collection.

Several sections explore themes and motifs common to many peoples. *Politics and Art* focuses on the graphic traditions that have helped shape the cultural identity and depict the ongoing political and civil struggles of Puerto Rican, Mexican, Chicano (Mexican-American) and Nuyorican (people of Puerto Rican ancestry born in New York). *Abstraction and Process* is a selection of utopian, non-objective trends of abstract art that have developed throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *Patterning and Worldviews* includes textiles, pottery and other contemporary art as wide-ranging as a Peruvian Shipibo vessel and embroidered *molos* from the Kuna of Panama, each featuring labyrinths and other rhythmic forms that convey cosmic cultural views.

**Gallery Hours**

*It is recommended that all off-campus guests call to confirm Gallery Hours.*

Walsh Library Gallery  
400 South Orange Avenue  
South Orange, N.J. 07079

Mon.-Fri. 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Information / group tours  
973-275-2033

**Visit our website at**

<http://library.shu.edu/gallery>