

**IDB Cultural Center**

Inter-American Development Bank  
1300 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington DC 20577

*Our Voices, Our Images*  
A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

<p>Nicolás Shi</p> 	<p>Naomi Ayala</p> 	<p>Irene Clouthier</p> 
<p>C M Mayo</p> 	<p>Lisa Erdman</p> 	<p>Juan Bernal</p> 
<p>Enrique Avilés</p> 	<p>D. Samyn-Werbrouck</p> 	<p>Felisa Federman</p> 

Open August 18 to October 17, 2003

**The Cultural Center  
of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

announces the opening of the exhibition

*Our Voices,  
Our Images*

A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

open August 18 to October 17, 2003

The exhibition was organized by the IDB Cultural Center in cooperation with the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and the collaboration of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

---

Washington, D.C., July 29, 2003

*Our Voices, Our Images*, an exhibition that celebrates the Hispanic Heritage Month, brings together winners of an **art** and **literature** competition for artists who explores issues and events relevant to Hispanic Americans and the Hispanic experience in the United States. The show was organized in cooperation with the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, with collaboration from the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

An exhibition that celebrates and recognizes the abundance of extraordinary artistic talent in Washington, D.C. and its metropolitan area will open to the public on **August 18, 2003** at the Art Gallery of the Inter-American Development Bank's Cultural Center. The display will include selected paintings and poems.

The exhibition is a joint initiative of the IDB Cultural Center and the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. The Award Ceremony will take place on **September 16**,

**2003**, at 6:30 p.m., at the IDB Cultural Center Art Gallery. Enrique V. Iglesias, President of the IDB; the Honorable Anthony Williams, Mayor of the District of Columbia; and Dorothy McSweeney, the Chair of the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, are scheduled to attend the competition's awards ceremony. The selected visual artists will receive an IDB Cultural Center grant of US \$ 1,000 and poets will receive US \$ 500.

For more than 11 years, the Cultural Center has showcased outstanding cultural expressions from the IDB's 46 member countries. On this occasion, the Center joins the D.C. Commission on the Arts in a celebration of the **Hispanic Heritage Month**, exploring issues and events relevant to Hispanic Americans in the United States. Washington metropolitan area artists give voice and image to their artistic concerns regarding the Hispanic experience, within the wider context of U.S. culture.

Nearly 70 artists and writers of diverse cultural backgrounds, nationalities and ethnicities enthusiastically responded to the open call for participation. While the competition was open to all kinds of artistic media and literary techniques, most of the visual artists who participated were painters and most of the writers submitted poetry. The majority of the participants were of Hispanic and Caribbean descent, although the call was open to anyone who wanted to share an experience related to Latin American culture, regardless of their background.

The **Selection Committee** included Olivia Cadaval, Program Curator of the Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage of the Smithsonian Institution; Minister Ignacio Durán-Loera, Director of the Mexican Cultural Institute; and Félix Angel, General Coordinator and Curator of the IDB Cultural Center. They selected nine finalists for the exhibition: four painters, one photographer and four poets.

The IDB Cultural Center hopes to foster the debate on issues affecting the Hispanic population in the United States, with emphasis on Washington, D.C., during a panel discussion involving prominent Hispanic figures, in an event scheduled for **September 23**. The Center will also offer guided visits with the featured artists during the exhibition.

## *Artists Selected*

**Nicolás Shi** was born to Chinese parents in San Salvador, El Salvador, on July 18, 1958. He received a master's degree in architectural engineering from Oklahoma State University in 1986 and moved to Washington, D.C., where he has lived ever since. In 1997 he decided to leave his professional practice to dedicate himself full-time to painting. In 2000 he won an award from the Salvadoran Postal Service for the painting *Con la esperanza en mi canasto* (With Hope In My Basket). As a result of that award, a postage stamp reproducing the artwork was issued. In 2000 the Salvadoran Embassy awarded him a Medal of Honor in recognition of his work. Mr. Shi won the 2001 and 2002 poster competition for the Adams Morgan Arts and Community Festival. He has

participated in several group exhibitions in Washington, including the 1999 and 2000 Art-O-Matic.

Mr. Shi's work covers a variety of subjects. For this exhibition, however, pieces incorporating human types and cultural elements of his native country were selected. He composes his images following the same principles used in topographic mapping, something he learned during his academic years. The bold use of color endows his painting with a festive mood, reminiscent of the garments woven by the native peoples of El Salvador and other Central American countries. He also explores the similarities between textiles from cultures in the East and the West.



**Juan Bernal** was born in Medellín, Colombia on July 11, 1953. He studied architecture at Universidad Javeriana in Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia (1975-78), and also stained glass and textiles with private instructors in Colombia's capital city. He moved to Washington in 2000 and took courses in etching and lithography at the Art League in Alexandria, Virginia. He has exhibited individually and collectively since 1975 in Washington, D.C., New York, Coconut Grove, Coral Gables, Santafé de Bogotá and Quito. He participated in the 2002 Party Animal exhibition organized by the D.C. Commission for the Arts and Humanities with "Bamburrito" and is one of the artists selected for the art program of the newly inaugurated Washington, D.C. Convention Center. Mr. Bernal has received several awards in competitions held in Colombia, Virginia Beach and Alexandria, Virginia. His prints and paintings are in the collections of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Georgetown University, The National Museum of American History, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and The Library of Congress, all in Washington; as well as in the Portland Museum in Oregon. He is a member of the Maryland and Virginia Art Federations, the Washington, D.C. Watercolor Association, the Alexandria Art League, the International Center of Stained Glass in Chartres, France, and is a resident artist at The Torpedo Factory Art Center.

Mr. Bernal's current work explores the structural and pictorial components inherent to elements in the tropical flora. His compositions depart from the natural forms and are rearranged in fragments or details in order to achieve a new visual dimension through notions of scale, design, composition, texture and balance.



**Irene Clouthier Carrillo** was born in Sinaloa, Mexico on November 25, 1974. In 1998 she received a *cum laude* bachelor's degree from Monterrey University in Mexico (1998) and in 2002 a master's degree from George Mason University (VA), specializing in Visual Information Technologies and obtaining an Academic and Artistic Achievement Award. Ms. Clouthier also took courses at the Southern California Institute of Architecture, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, and the École d'Arts Plastiques of Paris. She has presented three individual exhibitions in Sinaloa and Houston (TX), and

has participated in more than forty collective exhibitions in the United States and Mexico. Her video “Plastic Dreams” was selected for the First Latin American and Caribbean Video Art Competition and Exhibition organized by the IDB Cultural Center in 2002, a show that is currently touring Italy and is scheduled to visit 15 Latin American and Caribbean countries during 2003.

The artificial nature of plastic and its capacity to mimic almost any material is, in Ms. Clouthier’s view, a metaphor for the aspirations of common folk. Their dreams result in distortions of what humans should expect from a life that is wrapped in the illusion of comfort as promised by consumerism and economic liberalism. Ms. Clouthier was born in one of the most violence-ravaged areas of Mexico, and remembers that when she was a child, plastic utensils and toys were such a novelty that local counterfeiters made cheap reproductions them to sell to people who saw these objects as symbols of their powerful northern neighbor.



**Felisa Federman** was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina on June 1, 1960. In 1985 she graduated in painting from the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes, and also studied weaving and handmade paper and fiber construction. She came to the United States in 1991, and has participated in a number of group exhibitions, including the 2002 Art-O-Matic, and solo exhibitions at the Artist’s Museum in Washington (2002) and the Argentine Embassy (2003).

Ms. Federman’s *Aquarium Series* addresses the issues of ecological damage, the resulting confinement experienced by both humans and nature (like fish in a glass bowl), and the eventual destruction of the environment. She prefers to work with figurative images because “abstraction is something that few people understand.” She uses simple, familiar images from the real world to engage us visually. She hopes to draw the viewer’s attention to the ideas that motivate her work through multiple levels, ranging from cerebral and conceptual to tangible and funny.



**Dominique Samyn-Werbrouck** was born in Kortrijk, Belgium on October 24, 1955. She studied ceramics between 1984-1986 at the Academy of Fine Arts in Tielt, Belgium. She moved to the United States in 1989 and between 1991 and 1996 attended the open course program at the Corcoran College of Fine Arts in Washington, D.C., receiving a certificate in painting and drawing. She has exhibited here since 1995, participating in a number of exhibitions in the Washington metropolitan area, and has presented six solo exhibits in Belgium, the United States and Peru, where she resided for three years (1998-2001), before returning to the United States.

Ms. Samyn-Werbrouck’s uninhibited expression finds its inspiration in the COBRA movement (Karel Appel, Pierre Alechinsky and Asger Jorn) from the end of the 1940s. The themes of her most recent work are strongly influenced by the Peruvian Andes, the

Amazon rain forest, the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador and the Brazilian city of Bahia. Her painting focuses on three elements: color, energy and spontaneity.

## Writers

**Catherine Mansell Mayo** (CM Mayo) was born in El Paso, Texas on March 22, 1961. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Chicago in 1982 and 1985, respectively. She is the author of *Miraculous Air: Journey of a Thousand Miles through Baja California, The Other Mexico* and *Sky Over El Nido*, which won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction and will be published this year as *El Cielo de El Nido* by Grupo Planeta México. Her work has been widely published and she is the founding editor of *Tameme* ([www.tameme.org](http://www.tameme.org)), a bilingual journal of new writing from North America (Canada, the United States and Mexico). She has lived in Washington, D.C. since 1999 and teaches at The Writers Center. Ms. Mayo has been selected with two poems, *The Sea Is Cortés* and *NAFTA*.



**Lisa Erdman** was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 9, 1972. She received a B.S. degree in Dance, Interarts and Technology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1994, and in 1997 a master's of Fine Arts in Electronic Arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), in Troy, New York. In 1995 The Gorgon Literary Magazine of RPI published *Listen To Your Walls*, and in 2000 her poems *Café Con Leche: The Second Cup* and *Soñando en el Rodeo* were published in "Dyed In The Wool: A Hudson River Poetry Anthology," by Vivisphere Publishing of Poughkeepsie, New York. She has also created several videos and performance pieces. She has lived for the last two years in Frostburg, Maryland, where she is currently an assistant professor of Multimedia Graphic Design at Frostburg State University. Ms. Erdman has been selected with the poem *Café Con Leche: The First Cup*.



**Naomi Ayala** was born to Puerto Rican parents in New Haven, Connecticut, on July 8, 1964, and from age 2 to 15, she lived in Puerto Rico. Ms. Ayala has published *Molinos: Los Primeros Poemas* (Advent Press, 1986) and *Wild Animals on the Moon* (Curbstone Press, 1997) which was selected by the New York City Public Library as one of the 1999 Books for the Teen Age. Her poetry has appeared in *The Caribbean Writer, Callaloo, The Village Voice, The Massachusetts Review, Moving Out, Kalliope*, and *Hanging Loose*. Ms. Ayala is the recipient of the 2001 Larry Neal Writers Award for Poetry conferred by the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and has received a number of recognitions for her community service and social work, such as the 2000 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy of Environmental Justice Award. She has conducted workshops on creative writing at the Cooperative Arts and Humanities High School, and at the Center for Theatre Techniques in Education, in New Haven, Connecticut (1987/1994).

Currently she works as a freelance teacher and workshop leader. Ms. Ayala has been selected with her poem *I Remember*.



**Enrique Avilés** was born in El Carmen, Cuzcatlán, El Salvador on April 15, 1965. He moved to the United States in 1980 and attended the Duke Ellington High School for the Performing Arts, graduating in 1984. The following year he founded and directed the LatiNegro Theater Collective, an ensemble of young Afro-American and Latino artists that brought its work to the Washington community. In 1999 he co-founded Sol & Soul, an organization dedicated to using the arts to transform individuals, create community and build a more just society. Since 1992 Mr. Avilés has performed solo in Santa Fe, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C, writing his own material and developing characters that are challenging in their complexity and backgrounds. His most recent work, *Caminata*, a piece that explored the issue of immigration, premiered in March 2002 at the D.C. Arts Center. He has received a number of grants from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities and in 1991 he was distinguished with the Outstanding Emerging Artist Mayor's Arts Award. Mr. Avilés has developed a bold and frank writing style to deal with subjects such as race, identity and the plight of the poor. Mr. Avilés has been selected with his poem *My Tongue Is Divided In Two*.

---

The exhibition of paintings and poetry will run from August 18 through October 17, 2003. A free, full-color and bilingual (English and Spanish) brochure will be available to the public as of September 12. Photographs of the artwork on exhibit are available upon request. For photographs, please call (202) 623-1213.

The IDB Cultural Center Art Gallery is located at 1300 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. and is open from Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge. The closest Metro station is Metro Center (13th Street exit).

For guided tours of groups of 10 or more (in English or Spanish) and for additional information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, please call (202) 623-3774.

The Cultural Center home page is located at: [www.iadb.org/cultural/](http://www.iadb.org/cultural/)

E-mail address: [IDBCC@iadb.org](mailto:IDBCC@iadb.org)

**IDB Cultural Center contacts:**

- Félix Angel, General Coordinator and Curator (202) 623-3325
- Soledad Guerra, Assistant General Coordinator (202) 623-1213
- Anne Vena, Concerts and Lectures Coordinator (202) 623-3558
- Elba Agusti, Cultural Development in the Field  
Program and Administrative Assistant (202) 623-3774
- Susannah Rodee, IDB Art Collection  
Managing and Conservation Assistant (202) 623-3278

**Contact in the D.C. Commission on the Arts  
and Humanities:**

- José Domínguez, Program Manager for Latino Initiatives (202) 724-5614



IDB Cultural Center



DC Commission on the Arts  
and Humanities

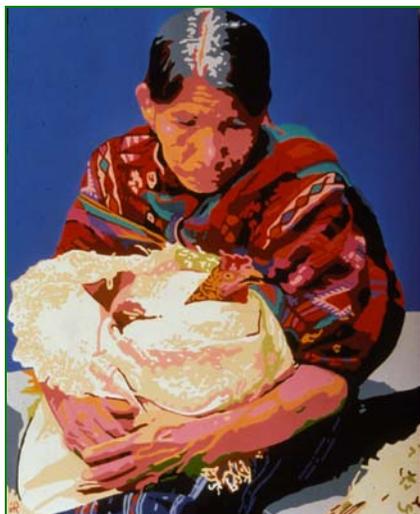


Virginia Commission for the Arts

# *Our Voices, Our Images*

## A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

Selection of works in the exhibition



***Mayan Blue (Tristeza Maya)***, 1999

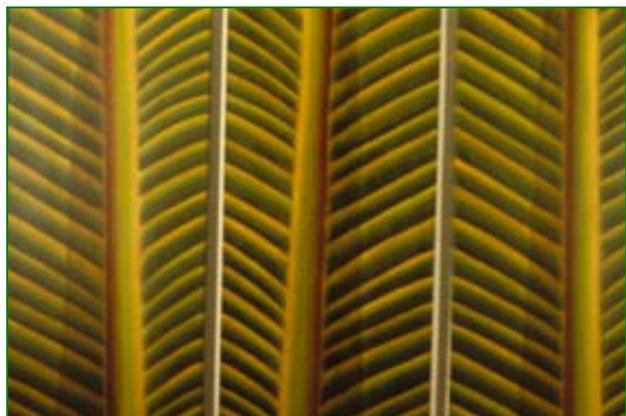
By Nicolás Shi

Acrylic on canvas, 60"x48"

Collection of the artist

Photo: courtesy of the artist

---



***Fragments of Nature (Fragmentos de Naturaleza)***, 2002

By Juan Bernal

Oil on canvas, 48" x 77"

Collection of the artist

Photo: courtesy of the artist

### ***Café Con Leche: The First Cup***

(1998)

Sometimes it's nice being half and half –  
a female café con leche  
brewed from the beans of a Dominican mother  
and the milk of an American father.

A steaming cup of cultural amalgamation  
whose identity is blurry at best,  
except on college applications,  
where you get to choose from things like  
Caucasian, Hispanic, or Other.

Sometimes I forget that I  
hablo español,  
that half my family lives on an island  
across the Caribbean waters.

But for now  
I'll enjoy my swirled identity –  
like a scoop of marbled ice cream  
floating in a warm cup  
of café con leche.

Poem by Lisa Erdman

---



***Oliendo Flores, de la serie paisajes de plástico (Smelling Flowers, from the Series Plastic Landscape)***, 2002

By Irene Clouthier Carrillo

Digital print and plexiglas, 12" X 16"

Collection of the artist

Photo: courtesy of the artist