

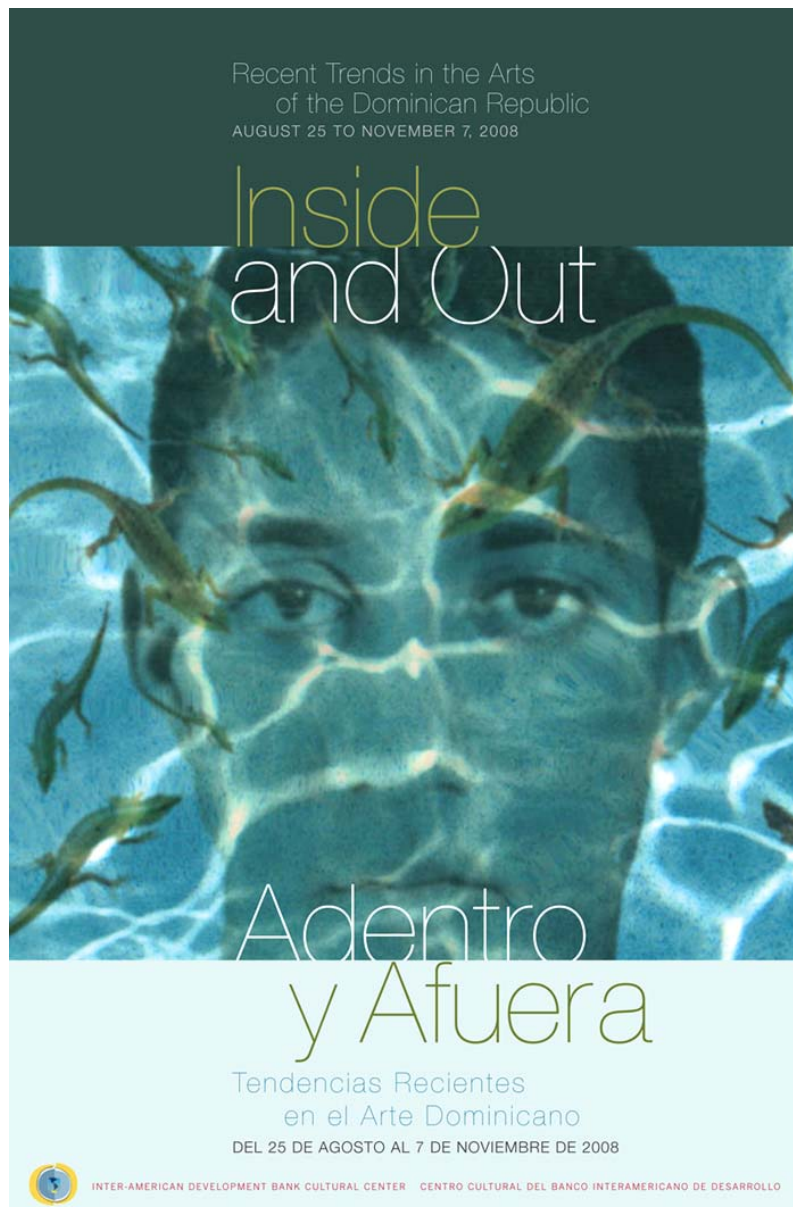


**IDB Cultural Center**  
Inter-American Development Bank  
1300 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D.C. 20577

**Information Bulletin No. 103**

# Inside and Out

Recent Trends in the Arts of the Dominican Republic



Open from August 25 to November 7, 2008

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

announces the opening of

**Inside and Out**  
Recent Trends in the Arts of the  
Dominican Republic

Open August 25 to November 7, 2008

Eight artists, four living in the Dominican Republic and the other four abroad, comprise the exhibition which addresses issues of originality, innovation, displacement, and identity, among others.

*Inside and Out* allows for a glance at recent developments in Dominican art, influenced by the synergy created by other artists living abroad, as well the references gleaned from the international art market.

The exhibition includes the following artists: Polibio Díaz, Gerard Ellis, Mónica Ferreras, Radhamés Mejía, Fausto Ortiz, Inés Tolentino, Julio Valdez, and Limber Vilorio

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Washington, D.C., August 13, 2008

"For many years the artistic movement in the Dominican Republic was a well-kept secret," says French-Dominican art critic Marianne de Tolentino, one of the most authoritative voices in the

Dominican art scene over the last 25 years and essay contributor to the catalogue of the new IDB Cultural Center exhibition, *Inside and Out, Recent Trends in the Arts of the Dominican Republic*, adding that Dominican artists do not emigrate much to other countries in the hemisphere save for the United States (New York and Puerto Rico), and even less to other Caribbean islands.

*Inside and Out*, the exhibit at the IDB Cultural Center gallery opening this Fall, addresses issues such as originality, innovation, displacement, and identity present in Dominican artists living inside their country and outside. Eight artists, four of them living in the Dominican Republic (Polibio Díaz, Gerard Ellis, Mónica Ferreras, and Fausto Ortiz), exhibit side by side with another four living in Paris, Madrid and New York (Radhamés Mejía, Inés Tolentino, Julio Valdez and Limber Vilorio).

Luis Alberto Moreno, President of the Inter-American Development Bank, introduces the catalogue of the exhibition indicating, "In today's globalized world, the challenges of development are causing fundamental changes in the personalities of the nations in our hemisphere. The region is not marginalized, and neither is it indifferent to such a perception.

"It is extremely important to establish an uninterrupted dialogue between citizens of the same nationality and their peers living elsewhere. All countries in Latin America and the Caribbean may benefit from such an exchange, which could be mutually enriching for their ongoing efforts to create a better future with the benefit of the lessons learned.

"With this exhibition, in which half of the artists live in the Dominican Republic, and the other half live somewhere else, the IDB encourages such a dialogue under the umbrella of its Cultural Center. It also celebrates Dominican artists for the distinguished position they have achieved for their country at the international level."

*Inside and Out* does not necessarily relate exclusively to the physical or geographical displacement. Sara Herman, former director of the Museum of Modern Art of Santo Domingo and currently Visual Arts Advisor for the Eduardo León Jimenes Cultural Center in the City of Santiago de los Caballeros, and essay contributor to the catalogue of the exhibit as well, states that the exhibition approaches these two ideas "from a variety of perspectives." Her essay is provocatively titled "Eight Ways of Seeing, Eight Ways of Entering and Leaving."

A total of 28 art works, including paintings, drawings, prints, photography and video are united in the exhibition, showing the dynamism experienced by Dominican art in recent years. Marianne de Tolentino does not hesitate to point out that the "Dominican Republic is, along with Cuba, Puerto Rico and Haiti, the most prolific country in regard to modern and contemporary artists," of all the islands of the Caribbean.

"In the 1980s," Mrs. Tolentino says about the Dominican Republic, "there was a boom in art shows, in prices, in private and institutional collections, in the people comprising the latest artistic generation. The decade was characterized by the demographic explosion of new names who were particularly distinguished by their creativity, their inquiries, and their experimental

temperament. Post-expressionists or postmodernists drew on familiar cultural legacies (Indo-American, African, European) while acknowledging American models.

"These artists brought anthropological, ethnic, and social signs and symbols into drawings, paintings, and installations (the most widespread type of artwork), and their combined categories. They are distinguished by their continual searching and avant-garde language. The artists on display in the Inter-American Development Bank Cultural Center gallery are from among these creators who emerged in the last two decades of the last century."

Sara Herman indicates that "By exploring how much there is or is not of what has been conventionally called or recognized as Dominican art, one is pointing precisely at that diversity. Challenging or, on the contrary, being reconciled to what has been inherited or imposed from the standpoint of expectations that people have regarding the art of the region situates the artists gathered by this show in a privileged position."

The curator of the exhibit is Félix Ángel, General Coordinator and Curator of the IDB Cultural Center who is extremely familiar with the art scene in the Dominican Republic, and has followed it for the last 25 years. He has organized two previous exhibitions for Washington D.C.: "Sign and Symbols of the Dominican Republic," for the Art Museum of the Americas at the OAS in 1986, and "Mystery and Mysticism in Dominican Art," for the IDB Cultural Center in 1997. The latter was voted the best Dominican Art Exhibition gone abroad that year by the Dominican Art Critics Association.

On this occasion, Mrs. Marianne de Tolentino, Ms. Sara Herman, and Mrs. Ada Hernández, the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, in Washington, acted as advisors in the exhibition committee.

## List of Works

1. *Sin título (Untitled)*, 2001-2004

by Polibio Díaz (b. 1952, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic- )

photograph on aluminum; 177 x 39 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

2.

*Pasiones interiores (Inner Passions)*, 2001-2004

by Polibio Díaz (b. 1952, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic- )

photograph on aluminum; 191 x 65 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

3.

*Después de la siesta (After the Nap)*, 2001-2004

by Polibio Díaz (b. 1952, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic- )

photograph on aluminum; 177 x 20 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

4.

*Cabezas llenas de plátanos*

(*Heads Full of Plantains*), 2008

by Radhamés Mejía (b. 1960, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic- )

mixed media on canvas; 71 x 71 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

5.

*Las boquitas o la pomme*

(*The Hors d'oeuvres or The Apple*), 2008

by Radhamés Mejía (b. 1960, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic- )

mixed media on canvas; 71 x 71 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

6.

*Posesión ritual (Ritual Possession)*, 2008

by Radhamés Mejía (b. 1960, Santo Domingo,

Dominican Republic-)  
mixed media on canvas; 51 x 38 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

7.

*Coseré mi corazón en el tuyo*  
(*I will sew My Heart to Yours*), 2008  
by Inés Tolentino (b. 1962, en Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic- )

acrylic and thread on canvas; 51 x 38 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

8.

*Tejiendo mi historia (Weaving My Story)*, 2008  
by Inés Tolentino (b. 1962, en Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic- )

acrylic and thread on canvas; 51 x 38 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

9.

*Hilos de vida (Threads of Life)*, 2008  
by Inés Tolentino (b. 1962, en Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic- )

acrylic and thread on canvas; 51 x 38 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

10.

*Reeducando a Mónica I (Reeducating Monica I)*, 2008  
by Mónica Ferreras (b. 1965, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

acrylic on canvas; 30 x 40 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

11.

*Reeducando a Mónica II (Reeducating Monica II)*, 2008  
by Mónica Ferreras (b. 1965, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

acrylic on canvas; 30 x 40 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

12.

*Reeducando a Mónica III (Reeducating Monica III)*,  
2008

by Mónica Ferreras (b. 1965, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

acrylic on canvas; 30 x 40 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

13.

*Reeducando a Mónica V (Reeducating Monica V)*, 2008  
by Mónica Ferreras (b. 1965, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

acrylic on canvas; 30 x 40 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

14.

*C.A.E. Cuerpo, alma y espíritu*  
(*Body, Soul and Spirit*), 2005

by Mónica Ferreras (b. 1965, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

Video: DVCam

6:30 minutes

6 stills from the video

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

15.

*Brother and Plátanos (Hermano y plátanos)*, 2005  
by Julio Valdez (b. 1969, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

archival pigment print on paper; 22 x 30 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

16.

*Aquiles: el corazón cayó al mar (Achilles: The Heart*  
*Fell into the Sea)*, 2007

by Julio Valdez (b. 1969, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

archival pigment print with hand coloring, on  
nylon reinforced paper, mounted on styrene and  
wood panel; 40 x 44 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

17.

*La maldita circunstancia*  
(*Accursed Circumstance*), 2007

by Julio Valdez (b. 1969, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

acrylic and oil on wood panel; 96 x 114 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

18.

*Fragmentos de paz (Peace Fragments)*, 2008  
From the Series *City of Shadows*

by Fausto Ortiz (b. 1970, Santiago de los  
Caballeros, Dominican Republic-)

digital photography

place: Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic  
24 x 62 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

19.

*Aproximación (Approximation)*, 2006  
From the Series *City of Shadows*

by Fausto Ortiz (b. 1970, Santiago de los  
Caballeros, Dominican Republic-)

digital photography

place: Santiago, Dominican Republic  
24 x 51 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

20.

*Sombras pasajeras (Passing Shadows)*, 2005  
From the Series *City of Shadows*

by Fausto Ortiz (b. 1970, Santiago de los

Caballeros, Dominican Republic-)  
digital photography  
place: Santiago, Dominican Republic  
24 x 66 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

21.

*Descendiente (Descendant)*, 2003

From the Series *City of Shadows*

by Fausto Ortiz (b. 1970, Santiago de los  
Caballeros, Dominican Republic-)

Black and white Photo

place: Santiago de los Caballeros, Dominican  
Republic

16 x 22 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

22.

*A la deriva (Adrift)*, 2006

by Limber Vilorio (b. 1972, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on paper; 19.7 x 23.6 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

23.

*Bajo las aguas (Under Water)*, 2006

by Limber Vilorio (b. 1972, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on paper; 30 x 27 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

24.

*Ahogado en su gasolina*

(*Drowned in Its Own Gasoline*), 2004

by Limber Vilorio (b. 1972, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on paper; 24 x 30 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

25.

*Vértigo (Vertigo)*, 2004

by Limber Vilorio (b. 1972, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on paper; 24 x 29 inches

Photo: Courtesy of the artist

26.

*Good Companion*, 2007

by Gerard Ellis (b. 1976, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on canvas; 40 x 40 inches

Photo: Courtesy of Lyle O. Reitzel Gallery, Miami/Santo  
Domingo

27.

*Winter Wonderland*, 2008

by Gerard Ellis (b. 1976, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on canvas; 44 x 92 inches

Photo: Courtesy of Lyle O. Reitzel Gallery, Miami/Santo  
Domingo

28.

*Mar bravo (Rough Sea)*, 2008

by Gerard Ellis (b. 1976, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)

mixed media on canvas; 50 x 80 inches

Photo: Courtesy of Lyle O. Reitzel Gallery,  
Miami/Santo Domingo



## Selection of works in the exhibition



***Después de la siesta (After the Nap)***, 2001-2004  
by Polibio Díaz (b. 1952, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic- )  
photograph on aluminum; 177 x 20 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist



***C.A.E. Cuerpo, alma y espíritu (Body, Soul and Spirit)***, 2005  
by Mónica Ferreras (b. 1965, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)  
Video: DVCam; 6:30 minutes  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist



***Vértigo (Vertigo)***, 2004  
by Limber Vilorio (b. 1972, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)  
mixed media on paper; 23.6 x 29 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist



***Cabezas llenas de plátanos (Heads Full of Plantains)***, 2008  
by Radhamés Mejía (b. 1960, Santo Domingo,  
Dominican Republic-)  
mixed media on canvas; 70.9 x 70.9 inches  
Photo: Courtesy of the artist

## Exhibition

The exhibition will run from August 25 to November 7, 2008. A full-color catalogue in English and Spanish will be available to the public. Photographs of the artworks on exhibit are available upon request. For photographs, please call (202) 623-1213.

The Art Gallery is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge.

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

**The IDB Cultural Center** is located at 1300 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The nearest Metro station is Metro Center (13th Street exit). All the events are free of charge.

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)

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