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Nicolas Dumit Estevez’s “Baptism” as a Bronxite in the Bronx River

As part of *Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is born again as a Bronxite*

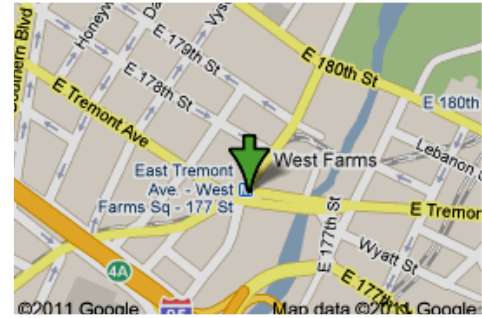
When: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 4:30pm

Where: Drew Gardens 1055 East Tremont Avenue in the West Farms section of the Bronx

Admission: Free

Directions to Drew Gardens:

Subway: #2 or #5 trains; **Bus:** Bx 9, 21, 9, 36, 40, 42, & Q44 to West Farms Square and East Tremont Avenue



The Baptism of Nicolas Dumit Estevez precedes that day’s Bronx Culture Trolley, a program of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), rolling along the South Bronx Cultural Corridor with an evening of free family activities: Art and photography exhibitions at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Pregones Theater, Gordon Parks Gallery, and BronxArtSpace; a musical/dance performance at the Hostos Repertory Theater; bronxArtworks Artisans Collective’s original and imaginative craft creations on sale in the Hostos lobby; and art and “Live Band” Karaoke at the Bruckner Bar & Grill. Admission to venues is free and all are welcome.

Estevez invites two Bronx natives, William Aguado and Susan Fleminger, to baptize him as a Bronxite in the waters of the Bronx River. Ceremony officiated by Martha Wilson. Flower girls Aisha Rose Howie and Aida Celeste Garcia Howie.

This baptism is a rite of passage that marks Estevez’s transition from Lebanese-Dominican to Dominican York (a Dominican who had settled permanently in New York City) and his birth/rebirth as a native son of the borough that, since his arrival in the US, has provided him with a steady income, his first solo exhibition and a place that he calls home. Estevez was born in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros in the Dominican Republic and lived for fourteen years in Manhattan. In 2004, he moved permanently to the US mainland, the Bronx. Estevez’s baptism will conclude with a public reception to which all are cordially invited.

Special Thanks to the Bronx River Alliance (www.bronxriver.org) and Phipps Community Development Corporation at Drew Gardens.

“**Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is born again as a Bronxite**” is a Bronx-wide social sculpture, dealing with the perceptions and misperceptions by locals and non-residents that have since the 1960s shaped the identity of the inhabitants of the borough. This project was conceived by Nicolas Dumit Estevez for Longwood Arts Gallery / Bronx Council on the Arts and presented with collaborating organizations, including Bronx River Alliance, El Museo del Barrio, Banana Kelly High School, Drew Gardens and Lehman College Art Gallery, among others.

All “Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is born again as a Bronxite” materials © 2007 Nicolas Dumit Estevez.

Upcoming: *Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is born again as a Bronxite and Eight Artists Respond to Born Again*

Curated by Nicolas Dumit Estevez

June 1- August 3, 2011

Longwood Arts Gallery / www.bronxarts.org/lag.asp

This exhibition will include: A documentation of the Estevez’ baptism, work created with the students of Banana Kelly High School as well as work generated by Michael Paul Britto, Nancy Hwang and wowe, Norene Leddy and Melissa Gira Grant, Ivan Monforte and Linda M. Montano with different Bronx communities. Mural by Kathleena Howie-Garcia (Lady k-Fever).