



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **“Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is Born Again as a Bronxite” and “Eight Artists Respond to Born Again” opens at BCA’s Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos on June 1, 2011**

(May 6, 2011 — Bronx, NY) The Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, the contemporary art center of the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA), presents **“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.

The show is on view from June 1 through August 3, 2011 with an opening reception on Wednesday, June 1st, from 5:00-9:00pm, in conjunction with that evening’s Bronx Culture Trolley. Longwood is located on the campus of Hostos Community College at 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Following Estevez’s April 6th Bronx River Baptism as a Bronxite, he invited eight artists to engage Bronx residents -- by way of visits, discussions, hand-on workshops and artistic experiences -- to reflect on what it means to them to be a Bronxite. Their responses come to life in videos, photographs, digital art, logos, props and documents that highlight the day-to-day of the New York City and its defined persona.

“Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is born again as a Bronxite” focuses on Estevez’s time spent with groups and individuals in the Bronx and unearthing the perceptions and misperceptions that have shaped the identity of the borough since the 1960s. In “Eight Artists Respond to Born Again” the show’s artists play off Estevez’s quest for these perceptions by bringing Bronxites’ perspectives and voices on the subject to the gallery. Artists include: Michael Paul Britto, Kathleen Howie-García (Lady k-Fever), Nancy Hwang and wowe, Norene Leddy and Melissa Gira Grant, Ivan Monforte, and Linda Mary Montano.

This show was conceived by Nicolas Dumit Estevez for the Bronx Council on the Arts’ Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos and presented in collaboration with Bronx River Alliance, El Museo del Barrio, Banana Kelly High School, Lehman College Art Gallery, and two programs from Phipps Community Development Corporation: Drew Gardens and La Casa de Felicidad, among others. All “Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is Born Again as a Bronxite” materials © Nicolas Dumit Estevez. All “Eight Artists Respond to Born Again” materials © individual artists.

**About the Curator:** **Nicolas Dumit Estevez** is an interdisciplinary artist working mainly in performance art and art and life experiences. He has exhibited and performed extensively in the U.S. and internationally at Madrid Abierto/ARCO, The IX Havana Biennial, PERFORMA 05 and 07, IDENSITAT, Prague Quadrennial, The Pontevedra Biennial, The Queens Museum of Art, P.S.1/MoMA, The MacDowell Colony, El Museo del Barrio, The Center for Book Arts, Longwood Arts Project/BCA, Franklin Furnace, and Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. He teaches at the Transart Institute in Berlin, Germany, and his residencies include Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony. Born in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros, Dominican Republic, Estevez lives and works in the South Bronx.

**Longwood Arts Project**, celebrating it’s 30th anniversary, is the Bronx Council on the Arts’ contemporary art center with a mission to support artists and their work, especially emerging and under-represented artists and groups, and through events and exhibits at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, Digital Matrix Commissions Program, and public programs that provide free opportunities to foster and inspire and open cultural dialogue.

**Gallery Hours:** Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am-6:00pm. It is closed on Sundays and major holidays. **Directions to Hostos:** The Longwood Art Gallery is located on the campus of Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street in the Bronx. Transportation: IRT 4 & 5, Bx1, Bx19 to Grand Concourse and 149 Street. **Information:** 718-518-6728 or [www.bronxarts.org](http://www.bronxarts.org).

*This exhibition is made possible with funding from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts, Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Scherman Foundation, Pepsi-Cola Division of Marketing and Advertising, Bronx Empowerment Zone, Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, and Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College.*

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**Bronx Writers Center • Bronx Cultural Card • Longwood Art Gallery • BCA Development Corporation**

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The April 6th Bronx River Baptism of Nicolas Dumit Estevez (r.) sets the scene for his exhibition “Born Again: A Lebanese-Dominican Dominican York is Born Again as a Bronxite” and “Eight Artists Respond to Born Again” at the Longwood art Gallery @ Hostos, on view June 1st through August 3rd. Admission is free and all are welcome.

*Photo courtesy of Nicolas Dumit Estevez.*