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Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002
Opening Reception: June 3, 5:00-9:00pm | BCA's Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos

(May 15, 2015 — Bronx, NY) Longwood Arts Project, the visual arts program of the Bronx Council on the Arts, presents **Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002**, a solo exhibition featuring paintings, drawings and mixed media works between 1970 and 2002, created by the Dominican-born, New York-based artist. The show is curated by Rocio Aranda-Alvarado.

Meet the artist and the curator at the opening reception on Wednesday, June 3, from 5:00-9:00pm, in conjunction with the Bronx Trolley First Wednesday Arts & Culture Tour, at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos, room C-190, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street. The exhibition is on view through August 5, 2015. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Freddy Rodríguez: My Geometries 1970-2002 is the first exhibition to chart the artist's expansive and unique approach to geometric abstraction since his formative training during the apogee of Minimalism. While Rodríguez's early work drew inspiration from Piet Mondrian, Frank Stella and Mark Rothko—whose paintings he encountered at MoMA—his work soon came to reference historical, emotional and political subjects often deemed antithetical to pure formalism. First comes the physical: the hard-edged abstraction of the 70s joins content in the form of human figures; sensual references to music, dancing and culture emerge. In the 80s, crisp geometric lines co-exist with fluid, loose brushstrokes. Sensuality again breaks through. The 90s see the historical and political take center stage: color and form combine with sugar, dirt, ground glass and peppercorns to evoke the European "Encounter" with the New World. Priestly vestments and slashed canvases reference the sexual abuse scandals in the Catholic Church. With the new millennium again comes the political: references to NY Magazine's "Best Doctors" question the supposed expertise of the art establishment. This is not your average geometry.



Freddy Rodríguez, *Untitled*, 1971.
Acrylic on canvas, 66"x 54";
Photographed by Jamaal Levine.

Born in 1945 in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros, Dominican Republic, Rodríguez moved to New York in 1963 in the midst of the political unrest following the assassination of the Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. He studied painting at the Art Students League and the New School for Social Research with painters Carmen Cicero and John Dobbs. Rodríguez studied textile design at Fashion Institute of Technology where he created some of his earliest geometric abstractions. His work is in the collections of Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Newark Museum, the Queens Museum of Art and the Bronx Museum of the Arts, among others. Rodríguez is the subject of a forthcoming *A Ver Revisioning Art History* monograph written by Smithsonian American Art Museum curator E. Carmen Ramos and published by the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center.

Rocio Aranda-Alvarado's curatorial practice primarily focuses on Latin American, Caribbean, and Puerto Rican art at El Museo del Barrio where she's been the curator since 2009.

Public Events at the Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos:

Wed, June 3, 5:00-9:00pm: Opening Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley.

Wed, July 1, 5:00-9:00pm: Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley.

Wed, July 29, 6:30-8:30pm: Panel Discussion: *Geometrically Speaking*. Panelists: Alejandro Anreus, E. Carmen Ramos, Freddy Rodríguez. Moderator: Rocio Aranda-Alvarado.

Wed, August 5, 5:00-9:00pm: Closing Reception + First Wednesday Bronx Trolley.

Directions to Hostos Community College: Subway: 2, 4 & 5 trains; Bus: BX1, BX2 & BX19; all destinations to 149th Street/Grand Concourse.

Learn more about Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos and its exhibitions, as well as other programs and activities of the Bronx Council on the Arts at www.bronxarts.org.

This exhibition is made possible with funding from National Endowment for the Arts, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Lambent Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, Bronx Tourism Council, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., NYC Council Members Andrew Cohen, Andy King, Melissa Mark-Viverito and James Vacca and the Bronx Delegation of the City Council.

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Bronx Writers Center • BCA @ 2700 • Longwood Art Gallery

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