



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact: John MacElwee – jmacelwee@hostos.cuny.edu / 718-518-6539
Blanca Lasalle – blanca@creativelinkny.com / 212-684-6001
Phil Cardone – phil@bronxarts.org / 718-931-9500 x33

November 5th Panel Discussion at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos Remembering Jorge Soto Sánchez: Collaborators and Friends

(Bronx, NY — October 28, 2015) – The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture (HCAC) in partnership with the Bronx Council on the Arts (BCA) presents a panel discussion “**Remembering Jorge Soto Sánchez and Friends**” on Thursday, November 5th at 6:00pm at the Longwood Gallery @ Hostos on the campus of Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse at 149th Street, in the Bronx. Panelists include: Taller Boricua co-founders and artists **Marcos Dimas** and **Nitza Tufiño**; painter/printmaker/muralist **Manny Vega**; multi-disciplinary artist **Néstor Ortero**; **Pedro Pedraza**, a researcher with the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College; printmaker **Diógenes Ballester**; and **Gladys Peña-Acosta**, curator of the current exhibition *Homenaje: Jorge Soto Sánchez* which features nearly 40 works of the late Nuyorican artist. The panel will be moderated by the Hostos Center’s director **John A. MacElwee**. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Homenaje (“Homage”): *Jorge Soto Sánchez*, the first major exhibition of the Taller Boricua artist since his passing in 1987, runs until December 2nd. The exhibition features two versions of Soto’s best known work *El velorio de Oller en Nueva York*, after the iconic work of the Puerto Rican impressionist Francisco Oller (1833-1917). Another version of Soto’s *velorio* is in the Smithsonian. Other major works in the exhibition of Soto’s work include *Todo bien en America* (1960s) and *El Señor Gobernador* (1977). Regular hours at the Longwood Gallery @ Hostos are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

Jorge Soto Sánchez was born in East Harlem (El Barrio) in 1947 to Puerto Rican parents. His family moved to the South Bronx when he was five years old. His artistic talent was evident as early as his receiving a scholarship from Saks Fifth Avenue Department Stores to take drawing classes in composition and human anatomy. In 1961 he attended two years of high school before dropping out to enlist in the Army. He was discharged in 1965 and determined to become an artist, he worked menial jobs while devoting himself to art.

He became involved with Taller Boricua, the Puerto Rican artists’ collective based in El Barrio, in 1971, serving as director by the mid-70s. The collective’s mission was to use art as a tool for education and community by sponsoring of a wide range of exhibitions, literary readings, dances, festivals and free art classes. Soto’s quest to uncover his ancestral routes took him to Puerto Rico in 1972, where studied Taino artifacts and the canonical works of Puerto Rican artists Jose Campeche and Francisco Oller. He had his first major solo exhibit in Puerto Rico at Galería Tanama in Arecibo in 1973. In 1977, he had a solo exhibit at the Association of Hispanic Arts in New York. His last major exhibition was at El Museo de Barrio in 1979. It featured 60 of his pen and ink drawings. In the mid-1980s, Soto became ill and moved to Vermont to convalesce. He remained there until his death on December 13, 1987, leaving behind a large body of uncatalogued work. His passing created a great void among the Nuyorican artists and poets.

Gladys Peña-Acosta was born in Puerto Rico and now resides in Brooklyn. A graduate of Hunter College and New York University, Peña-Acosta served as Chief Curator of El Museo de Barrio, Executive Director of the New York City Public Art Commission and producer/director of Spanish cultural programs for the Hispanic Information Telecommunication Network. She currently works as a guest curator and public art consultant.

This exhibition is made possible by the Hostos Community College Foundation, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Bronx Council on the Arts | Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos receives support from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, NYS Council on the Arts, the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation, Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., the Bronx Delegation of the City Council, Bronx Tourism Council, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and BCA members.

Other Public Events

Wednesday, November 4 | 5:00 to 9:00pm | Reception & Trolley

Wednesday, December 2 | 5:00 to 9:00pm | Closing Reception & Trolley

Where: Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos

Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture, C-190, 450 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451

Gallery Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 12:00 to 5:00pm

Admission: Free

Phone: 718-518-6728

Website: www.hostoscenter.org

Subway/Bus: IRT Trains 2, 4, 5 and Buses BX1, BX2, BX19 to 149th Street & Grand Concourse.

About the Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture

The Hostos Center for the Arts & Culture consists of a museum-grade art gallery, a 367-seat Repertory Theater, and a 900-seat Main Theater, presenting artists of national and international renown. It is easily accessible from Manhattan, Queens and New Jersey and is a mere 15 minutes by subway from midtown Manhattan. Over the years, the Center has presented and exhibited such artists as Rubén Blades, Dizzy Gillespie, Eddie Palmieri, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Ballet de San Juan, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Ballet Hispánico, Jennifer Mueller, The Works, Antonio Martorell, Faith Ringold, Celia Cruz, Marc Anthony, Tito Puente and Lucecita Benítez.

About Hostos Community College

Eugenio María de Hostos Community College is an educational agent for change that has been transforming and improving the quality of life in the South Bronx and neighboring communities since 1968. It serves as a gateway to intellectual growth and socioeconomic mobility, as well as a point of departure for lifelong learning, success in professional careers, and transfer to advanced higher education programs. The College's unique "Student Success Coaching Unit" provides students with individualized guidance and exemplifies its emphasis on student support services.

Hostos offers 29 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that facilitate easy transfer to CUNY's four-year colleges or baccalaureate studies at other institutions. The College has an award-winning Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development that offers professional development courses and certificate-bearing workforce training programs. Hostos is part of The City University of New York (CUNY), the nation's leading urban public university which serves more than 480,000 students at 24 colleges.

###