

## New Works by Miguel Paredes

### “SALSEROS” collection

Miguel Paredes melds yet again disparate elements of urban and Latin culture. This time his most recent foray, as evidenced by the pieces in the series aptly entitled “Salseros”, takes him into the world of music. His characteristic abstract and rapid stroke laden style is as fluid as ever, inspired by the music of his childhood Miguel attempts to make music of his own and succeeds. He captures the vibrancy of Latin musical notes with color and accentuates the music’s energy through the vigor and fluidity of his paint strokes.

The subject of this new series is music, not just any music, but Salsa. Miguel pays homage to the genres icons, the likes of which include - Celia Cruz, Willy Colon and Sammy Figueroa. When asked about his having changed focus from urban culture and inner city themes to this one of Latin music, he proclaims, “Music, especially Latin music, was very much a part of that urban culture; it’s what we were exposed to, in the streets, the barrios and at home. It was inescapable man, it was great. Music and urban street life were inseparable and arguably still are.”

Even though then there is this apparent departure in regards to the chosen theme of the “Salseros” collection, one thing remains constant, the very element that makes his whole body of work cohesive, and that’s Miguel’s unmistakable style. Rather than diverging from his earlier stylistic explorations while venturing into new subject matter, he instead ties it all together. The Ultra abstract piece “La Voz”, which depicts Marc Anthony as the protagonist of the recent film ‘El Cantante’, uses the same fervent and frenetic line work that surfaced in the B-Boy and Burroughs collection. “El Gran” is yet another piece, this one featuring Sammy Figueroa, a personal friend of Miguel’s, which conjures up somehow elements of both Latin jazz and the grittiness of the ghetto. This painting also incorporates the vine and floral patterns that have appeared in previous works but as with “Lo Mato” and “La Voz” surface treatments similar to Frankenthaler’s pigments suspended in fluids are adding a dream like quality, a softer abstraction of colors blending and fading naturally, as naturally as the notes of the music inspiring this collection.

Miguel Paredes is a dynamic artist who combines the vibrancy of New York graffiti art with the technique and insight of a true fine artist. Not unlike the subjects of his paintings, Miguel Paredes is enticing an audience all his own.

## **Miguel Paredes**

Paredes' art is a powerful expression of the spirit and flavor of urban America, exploring the integration of Latin American culture into everyday city life. Miguel Paredes was born in New York City. He is the founder of the widely successful graphic design and printing company, PK Graphics. Miguel Paredes is happily married to his friend and partner, Joyce Paredes, they live together with their four beautiful children and a dog in Miami, Florida.