



*No More
Drama*
THE SAGA CONTINUES

THE CENTER FOR BOOK ARTS

28 W. 27th St. 3rd Floor
New York, New York 10001

MISSION

The Center for Book Arts is dedicated to the preservation of the traditional artistic practices of bookmaking, as well as encouraging contemporary interpretations of the book as an art object.

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No More Drama
THE SAGA CONTINUES

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Ethan Shoshan
Luis Sierra & Gary Camp
Boris Torres
Megan Whitmarsh & Caroline Rankin

ON VIEW FROM APRIL 21 THROUGH JUNE 24, 2006

NO MORE DRAMA: THE SAGA CONTINUES

We can exist in figurative realms of *in medias res*, in the middle of things – amidst the sometimes forgotten arenas of colonialism and love; and contemporary artists have made works that provide compelling modes to visualize melodrama and to politicize the melodramatic.

Moments of high drama define cliffhangers; while melodrama suggests the importance of emotional scenarios and plot over character development. This exhibition *No More Drama: The Saga Continues* may be considered an experiment in high moments of high melodrama, where contradictions can provide for languages of belonging and for allegories and narrative excursions in desire. Assembled here are works of art that respond to and/or appropriate and rework familiar media-based culture formats including telenovelas, fotonovelas, soap operas, films, romance novels, graphic novels, and comic books.

This exhibition is an expanded, re-curated version of the exhibition *No More Drama: New Projects after Novelas* that was installed at Longwood Art Gallery @ Hostos in early 2003 and focused on Latino and Latin American artists who explored the influences of telenovelas and fotonovelas in their cultural production.

For a broader dialogue, this new exhibition is installed like a comic book store environment at The Center for Book Arts and

presents local and national artists whose works are books, collages, collaborations, clothing, drawings, ephemera, mixed media, music, paintings, performance, photographs, prints, sculptures, and videos. The all-over feel of popular comic book stores provides an accessible way to present these works. For this reason, there is a great amount installed here for the visitors' experience.

Unlike many commercial book stores that typically decorate their environs with large-scale images of action heroes or fantastic illustrative promotional posters for mass-produced items, *No More Drama: The Saga Continues* presents original two-dimensional works and page spreads with sculptural folios and moving images. Immediacy is present in all of these works from the instant experiences of quick reads and fast-paced narratives to tangible products. What remains salient is the artists' commitment to social, personal, and political content that address a wide array of concerns including war, racism, immigration, globalization, self-love, abuse, dependency, and the commodification of culture.

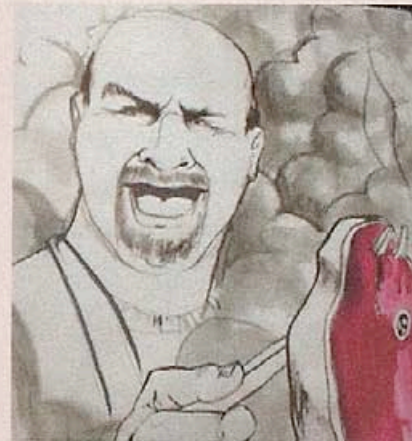
Edwin Ramoran
Director & Curator
Longwood Arts Project
Contemporary Art Center | Bronx Council on the Arts



◆ CARLO QUISPE-SALGADO
MMIV, 2004 (detail)
11" x 14"; black marker on paper
Courtesy of Alexander Campos



◆ CARLO QUISPE-SALGADO
Smok, 2004 (detail)
4¼" x 6¼"; ink on glossy paper,
perfect binding
Courtesy the artist



◆ WANDA RAIMUNDI-ORTÍZ
Soy Latina, 2005 (detail)
20" x 30" x 10"; ink and watercolor
on paper, mixed media
Courtesy the artist

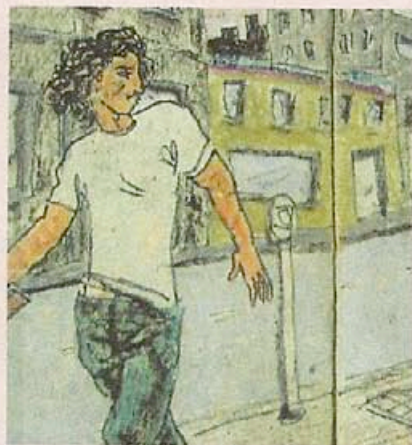


◆ WANDA RAIMUNDI-ORTÍZ
I'm Still Wanda from the Block, 2006
(video still)
video, color, sound, 4 minutes
Courtesy the artist

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◆ CARLO QUISPE-SALGADO
& ETHAN SHOSHAN
Heaven's Coast, 2005 (detail)
4" x 5" x 1½"; ink, mixed media on
handmade paper, perfect binding
Courtesy the artists



◆ ETHAN SHOSHAN &
CARLO QUISPE-SALGADO
Lost in Destré, 2005 (detail)
5" x 7" x 1¼"; drawing, mixed media in a
bound book using handmade paper from
romance novels; Courtesy the artist

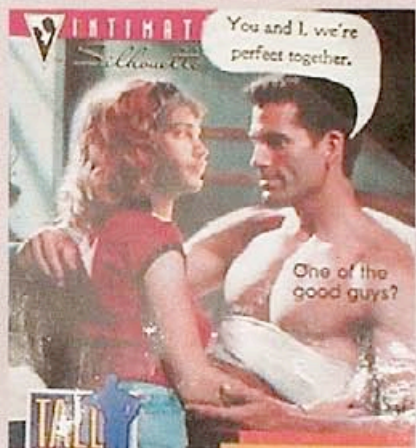
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◆ JACQUELINE SALLOUM
Arabs A-Go-Go, 2003, 2 min. (video still)
video, color, sound
Courtesy the artist



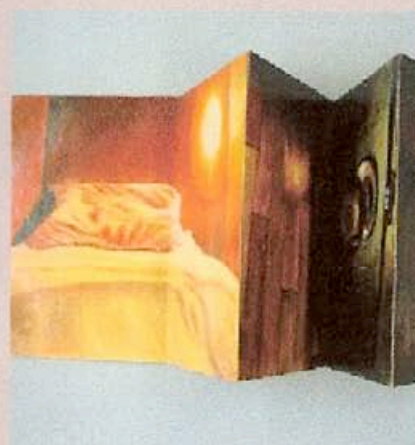
◆ JACQUELINE SALLOUM
Comics by B.Deutsch
Take One It's Free, 2005
Dimensions variable; mixed media
Courtesy the artist



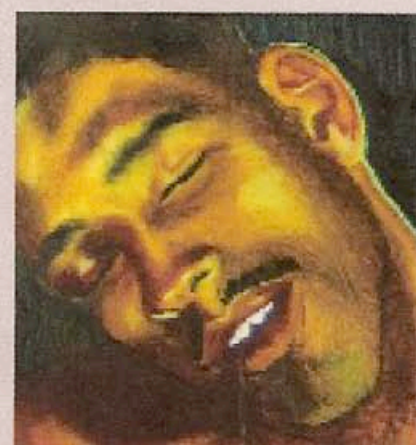
◆ **ETHAN SHOSHAN**
Identity Unknown, 2002 (detail)
 4 1/2" x 7" each
 letterpress collage
 on romance novel covers
 Courtesy the artist



◆ **ETHAN SHOSHAN**
Syndicated Love: Requiem for Love, 2002
 (detail) 7" x 10" x 5"
 8 books, letterpress-printed on used
 romance novels, red ribbon
 Courtesy the artist



◆ **BORISTORRES**
Suits, 2006 (detail)
 9" x 6" closed; oil pastel and pencil on
 paper, accordion binding
 Courtesy the artist



◆ **BORISTORRES**
Portraits, 2006 (detail)
 9" x 6" closed; oil pastel and pencil on
 paper, accordion binding
 Courtesy the artist



◆ **LUIS SIERRA & GARY CAMP**
Mala Noche, 2006 (cover)
 6" x 10 1/4"
 31 page comic book
 Courtesy the artist



◆ **LUIS SIERRA**
Mala Noche, 2006 (detail)
 11" x 17"; 3 pencil and ink on paper
 Courtesy the artist



◆ **MEGAN WHITMARSH & CAROLINE RANKIN**
Tiny Unicorn, 2006 (cover), 200/1000
 5 1/4" x 8"; zine printed on newsprint
 Courtesy the artists



◆ **MEGAN WHITMARSH & CAROLINE RANKIN**
Tiny Unicorn, 2006 (detail)
 4" x 6" each; 24 ink on bristol board
 drawings; Courtesy the artists