



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO EXPANDS COLLECTION,
ADDING 324 ARTWORKS IN FOUR YEARS**



L: José Adário Dos Santos, *Untitled*, 2020-2021. Iron, 24 1/4 x 19 3/4 x 5 1/8 in. Collection of El Museo del Barrio, New York. Gift of Almeida & Dale Galeria de Arte and Paulo Darzé Galeria. Photograph by Matthew Sherman/Courtesy of El Museo del Barrio, New York.

R: Glendalys Medina, *Atabey*, 2022-2023. Plywood, nails, thread, chalkboard paint, ink, oil paint, and wire, 70 x 50 x 3 in. Collection of El Museo del Barrio, New York. Museum purchase with support from the Advancing Latinx Art in Museums, an initiative of the Ford Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art. Photograph by On White Wall/Courtesy of El Museo del Barrio, New York.

NEW YORK, NY, December 12, 2024 — El Museo del Barrio is proud to announce a significant milestone in its continued commitment to celebrating Latinx and Latin American art: the addition of 324 artworks to the museum’s permanent collection in the past four years, now totaling over 8,800 objects. These acquisitions include important historical works as well as cutting-edge contemporary art from across the U.S., Caribbean, and Latin America.

Ranging from ancient American to modern and contemporary art, El Museo’s collection offers an in-depth perspective on Latino art and visual culture. The acquisitions of the last four years have been made possible thanks to the generosity of many supporters, including major funding from the Getty Foundation as part of “Advancing Latinx Art in Museums,” an initiative of the Ford Foundation, the Getty Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, and the Terra Foundation for American Art; members of El Museo’s Acquisitions Committee; and individual donors and artists.

“As the nation’s leading Latinx and Latin American cultural institution, El Museo del Barrio is committed to championing both young and established Latinx and Latin American artists and to bringing their work to our visitors from within El Barrio and beyond. Our acquisitions program plays a pivotal role in this mission, as it directly supports the practices of artists and invites their diverse voices into conversation with each other and with our visitors. By expanding and showcasing our collection in our galleries and online, we fulfill our responsibility to serve as a center of learning and a training ground for a growing number of artists, educators, art historians, and museum professionals,” says Patrick Charpenel, Executive Director, El Museo del Barrio.

“It’s been a privilege to help El Museo with developing important regions of its already unique permanent collection. I’m particularly excited to see how these new additions continue to bring geographic and generational range to the holdings, in relevant areas such as Indigenous contemporary art and historical Afro-Brazilian art,” states Rodrigo Moura, Chief Curator, El Museo del Barrio.

Spanning geographies and time periods, recent acquisitions include historical artworks by **Miguel Pou y Becerra** (1880, Ponce, Puerto Rico–1968, San Juan, Puerto Rico), **Francisco Domingos da Silva** (Chico da Silva) (1910, Cruzeiro do Sul, Brazil–1985, Fortaleza, Brazil), and **Juan José Sicre** (1898, Carlos Rojas, Cuba–1974, Cleveland, OH). Other additions to the collection demonstrate El Museo’s ongoing commitment to supporting and championing emerging Latinx artists working in “El Barrio” (also known as East Harlem in New York), Puerto Rico, and across the United States. These include works by artists such as **Danielle de Jesus** (1987, Brooklyn, NY; lives in Queens, NY), **Cielo Félix-Hernandez** (1988, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico; lives in Brooklyn, NY), **Jorge González** (1981, San Juan, Puerto Rico; lives in San Juan), and **Glendalys Medina** (1979, Ponce, Puerto Rico; lives in New York, NY).

El Museo’s Acquisitions Committee has also played a vital role in supporting the acquisition of works by emerging artists such as **Francis Almendárez** (1987, Los Angeles, CA; lives in Los Angeles), **Justin Favela** (1986, Las Vegas, NV; lives in Las Vegas), **Joel Gaitan** (1995, Miami, FL; lives in Miami), **Lucia Hierro** (1987, New York, NY; lives in New York), and **Yvette Mayorga** (1991, Moline, IL; lives in Chicago, IL).

In addition to individual artworks, El Museo del Barrio has received large-scale donations from prominent artists’ estates, including the estate of **Myrna Báez** (1931, Santurce, Puerto Rico–2018, Hato Ray, Puerto Rico). A key leader in redefining Puerto Rican art during the second half of the twentieth century, Báez celebrated her first retrospective at El Museo del Barrio in 1982. Her estate donated more than 20 prints and paintings by this important cultural activist and teacher. Similarly, through the **Jaime Davidovich Foundation**, 37 works spanning videos, paintings, and works on paper by Davidovich (1936, Buenos Aires, Argentina–2016, New York, NY) entered the collection. Davidovich was a member of New York City’s downtown art scene, and his experimental videos reflecting his commitment to public access TV as a venue for avant-garde performance were featured in El Museo’s Room 110 as part of the recent exhibition, *Something Beautiful: Reframing La Colección* (May 19, 2023–March 10, 2024).

In addition to these two artist-focused gifts, El Museo received a selection of 58 artworks donated by Connie Tilton **in memory of esteemed New York gallerist Jack Tilton**, which includes works by luminaries of contemporary art in Mexico and Brazil such as **Francis Alÿs** (1959, Antwerp, Belgium; lives in Mexico City, Mexico and London, England), **Abraham Cruzvillegas** (1968, Mexico City, Mexico; lives in Mexico City), and **Laura Lima** (1971, Governador Valadares, Brazil; lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

El Museo's acquisitions program also continues to address gaps in the collection, focusing on vital areas such as Chicana art (**Joey Terrill, Consuelo Jimenez Underwood**); queer and trans artists addressing gender and sexual identity (**Laura Aguilar, Luis Carle, assume vivid astro focus**); and Afro-Diasporic and Indigenous artists whose work connects with spirituality and alternate cosmologies (**Sidney Amaral, José Adário dos Santos, Manuel Chavajay, Daiara Tukano**).

At the same time, the museum has acquired artworks that build on existing strengths in the collection and areas in which El Museo del Barrio has led the conversation for many decades, including Nuyorican photographers (**Sophie Rivera, Máximo Colón, Hiram Maristany**). Furthermore, many new works in the collection have been developed in tandem with El Museo's exhibition program, reflected in acquisitions such as *Caballo contra colibrí* (1988) by **Juan Francisco Elso** (1956–1988, Havana, Cuba), featured in the artist's 2022–23 solo exhibition, and the monumentally titled *The Memorial...* (2019–2020) by El Museo founder **Raphael Montañez Ortiz**, acquired in anticipation of his 2022 retrospective.

Looking to El Museo's spring 2025 exhibitions, recent acquisitions like *Estoy Bien* (2017) by **Candida Alvarez** and *OPA OMO EDÁ* [Son of Nature's Scepter] (1960) by **Mestre Didi** will feature prominently in their respective solo presentations at the institution.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio is the nation's leading Latinx and Latin American cultural institution. The Museum welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of these communities through its extensive Permanent Collection, varied exhibitions and publications, bilingual public programs, educational activities, festivals, and special events. The Museum is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104th Street in New York City.

The Museum is open Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11:00am – 5:00pm. Pay what you wish. To connect with El Museo via social media, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#). For more information, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

PRESS CONTACTS

Alexxa Gotthardt, Sutton | T: 330.472.3775 | E: alexxa@suttoncomms.com
Pamela H. Hower, El Museo del Barrio | T: 212.660.7102 | E: press@elmuseo.org