



Oscar Luis Martínez

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Selected Exhibitions

2025

Publications & Parallel Projects (2025) Collector's Edition Art Catalog – *Between Memory and Metamorphosis* 60-page, 9 × 12 in. catalog produced in both hardcover and softcover, with foil-stamped edition. To be distributed to curators, collectors, and institutions throughout 2025. **Website Relaunch (oscarmartinez.com)** – New design in Dreamweaver, including portfolio filters (“Cultural Identity,” “Spiritual Connections,” “City Life,” etc.), scheduled to align with exhibition

2024

Hairpin Arts Center – Art Speaks (Logan Square, Chicago) – Group exhibition with interdisciplinary programming, pairing your paintings with live jazz and spoken word.

2024

“ECHOES: weaving Identity and Belonging celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month by OH Art Foundation at Zhou B Art Center in Chicago
Solo Exhibition at 2024 Gallery in Chicago

2014 Gallery in Ukraine Village, Chicago

Entre Horizontes: Art and Activism Between Chicago and Puerto Rico. Museum of Contemporary Art, artwork in history display

2022 Solo show at the Chicago Art District Gallery

2020

Spurlock Museum acquisition/Illini Union installation of paintings at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

2019

Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico Museum of Art), Santurce, Puerto Rico

33 Contemporary Gallery, exhibition at the Zhou B Art Cultural Center

2015

May: GE Capital Corporation, Chicago.

September: National Puerto Rican Museum of Art and Culture solo exhibition and Raices Award recipient. Exhibition is schedule to travel

2014

April: Ponce Historical Museum's Gallery solo exhibition: Ponce, Puerto Rico

September: Gallery OH, Red exhibition, Chicago

September: United Foundation of Art and Technology's Gallery, Chicago

2013

October: Bruno Casiano Gallery, Cleveland Ohio

Every 2nd Friday of the month: Oscar Luis Martinez Fine Art

2012

August-November: Dreams and Mirrors, Latin American Artists, Aurora Public Art Commission's Art Gallery, Aurora, IL.

Oscar Luis Martinez Fine Art, 2nd Friday's monthly exhibitions.

October: Open Studio Exhibitions at the Chicago Art District.

2011

October: CelebreARTE Zhou B Art Center, Chicago IL.

October: Symbols and Metaphors Art Gallery of Kishwaukee College Malta, IL.

September: Oscar Luis Martinez Fine Art, Chicago Group Show: Marcos Raya, Paul Sierra, Eladio Gonzalez, Martin Soto, Zulian Martinez, and Sergio Gomez (Pilsen east artists' open house)

September: University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana Vermette Gallery, Campbell Alumni Center

March: South Suburban College, Chicago

April: Illini Union Gallery, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

September: University of Wisconsin Parkside Kenosha, Wisconsin

September: Kankakee Community College Kankakee, Illinois

2010

September: Lubeznik Center for the Arts Michigan City, Indiana

February: March: University of Wisconsin Parkside Kenosha, Wisconsin

March: Illini Union Gallery

University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

2009

September –December: University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana Vermette Gallery, Campbell Alumni Center

September: South Suburban College, Chicago

2008

August: August 28th- September 25th, 2008 Illinois Wesleyan School of Art

May: 5 to June 8, 2008

University Club of Chicago.

October: Union League Club of Chicago, IL.

April: "Small Paintings", Pastiche Gallery, Chicago, IL.

March: "Focus on Chicago: Photo and Digital Exhibition"
33 Collective Gallery, Chicago, IL.

2005

January: "Journey" a solo exhibition at the Aurora Art Commission, Aurora IL.

October: Hewitt Associates, Exhibition and Presentation, IL.

2003

November: "International Group Invitational: The Me in Team," Bradley University
Hauser Art Center, Peoria, Illinois.

November: "Temple of Worship." La Casa Cultural Latina Gallery at the University of
Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

December: "Home a Celebration of the Spirit of the Giant of Roberto Clement." Art
Museum of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico

October: "Haciendo Patria", Collage Fine Arts Gallery, Chicago

"Remembrance", Oak Park Art League, Oak Park IL.

September: "Images from the Soul," Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary's Gallery,
Evanston, IL.

2002

September: Bank One Pilsen Branch, Chicago

2000

June: Flat Iron Artist, ATC Gallery, Chicago.

1999

September: The Loggia Gallery, Fourth and Second Presbyterian Church, "With Many
Voices-A Celebration of Cultural Diversity,"

Chicago

Frick Center Founder Gallery, "Mirrors, Michele Tuohey and Oscar Martinez" Elmhurst
College, Elmhurst, Illinois

March: UCE Foyer Art Exhibits Gallery, Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois

1998

June: Earth Works Gallery, Group exhibition, Chicago

September: "Mirrors" Husband and Wife exhibition at Miami Dade Community College
North Campus' Gallery in Miami, Florida

1997

March: "Inner Journey", Group exhibition at the Northwestern University Settlement House Gallery, Chicago

January: "Addendum: More Chicago Artists", Northern Illinois University Art Museum Gallery in Chicago, curated by Peggy Doherty and Corey Postigione

1996

October: "Visual Fusion", Field Museum, Chicago
"Hot", R.H. Love Contemporary Art Gallery, Chicago

January: "Figures", Northern Illinois University Art Museum Gallery in Chicago

1995

October: "Dias de los Muertos" Juried show at NWAC Art Gallery, Chicago
September: "Latino Artist in Chicago and the Calumet Region", Jury Show, Northern Indiana Arts Association William J. Bachman Gallery in Indiana
"Dissolving the Figure", Boeger Fine Arts Gallery,
Triton College
National City Bank group show, Indiana

April: "Valiente", Jury show Puerto Rican artists exhibition: Northern Illinois University Gallery in DeKalb, NWAC Gallery and South Shore Cultural Center Gallery in Chicago
January: "Figurative Work" David Adler Cultural Center, Libertyville Illinois
"Archeology of the Mind" Columbia College Arts Gallery, Chicago
Brichell Business Center Group Show, Miami Florida

1994

September: Des Plaines Museum, Des Plaines

August: College of Lake County, Community Arts Gallery, Grayslake

May: ARC Gallery Midwest Regional Jury Exhibition, Beryl Wright, Juror, Associate Curator Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago

1993

October: Triton Arts Gallery, "Triad of Harmonic Complexity" three person exhibit, River Grove

June: Gallery of The America's, Milwaukee Wisconsin

1992

December: "1st Latin American Masters Exhibition of Miniatures" Gary Nader Fine Arts

Gallery, Florida

October: Noyes Gallery, Evanston

September: Hucking Gallery, Columbia College, Chicago

July: "Sun/Expressions" Group Exhibit, Prospectus Gallery, Chicago

June: Evanston Arts Center Vicinity Jury Exhibition: Roy Shale, President of the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Juror-Cash Prize

June: Botello Gallery Collective Exhibition, Puerto Rico

Gary Nader Fine Arts Gallery Collective Exhibition

February: "Face to Face, Self Portrait by Chicago Artists", Greg Knight-curator, Chicago Cultural Center

January: "Fragments of the Soul" Solo Exhibition -Prospectus Gallery, Chicago

Miami Art Exposition, Gary Nader Fine Arts Gallery**1991**

April: Solo Exhibition at the President's Gallery, Chicago State University

October: "Void of Divine Silence "Solo Exhibition at Venzor Gallery Chicago
Group Exhibition at Jan Cicero Gallery, Chicago

1989

State of Illinois Museum, Springfield Illinois

Cross Currents Gallery, Chicago

State of Illinois Gallery: "Contemporary Puerto Rican Artists," Traveling Exhibition Venzor Gallery, Collective Exhibition

Illini Union Gallery, "Versions of Reality" Solo Exhibition/ Champaign, Illinois

1988

"Latino Expressions" Illinois Bell, Chicago

Crane Gallery Solo Exhibition, Chicago

Illinois Bell Gallery, Collective Exhibition

Biannual Iberoamericana Jury Exhibition at Bellas Artes Mexico D.F.

1987

Montgomery Ward Gallery, "Figurative Abstractions: Latin American Paintings", Chicago

Prairie Avenue Gallery, Chicago

Nicole Gallery, Chicago

Artemisia Gallery, Chicago

Fantastic Color Exhibition, Chicago

Harris Bank Gallery, Chicago

Campanile Gallery, Chicago

College of Lake County Gallery, Grayslake Illinois

1986

Chicago International Art Exposition, Navy Pier Chicago National Museum of Mexico, Mexico D.F.

Noyes Gallery, Evanston Illinois

Harris Bank Gallery, Chicago

Curatorial Work

2003- "Symbols, Myth and Metaphors," a process exhibition of Latin American Artists. Artists: Javier Chavira, Alberto Gonzalez, Sergio Gomez, Jorge Felix, Alfredo Martinez Galvan, Montserrat Alsina, Eladio Gonzalez, Raul Ortiz, Michele Tuohey, Paul Sierra, Santiago Vaca, Columbia College, A+D 11th Street Gallery. Chicago

2002-Mind Abstractions, A Latin American Art Exhibition, including the artwork by Mario Castillo, Javier Chavira, Maria Enriquez de Allen, Jorge Felix, Alfredo Martinez, Eladio Gonzalez, Alberto Gonzalez, Raul Ortiz, Michele Tuohey and Paul Sierra, Bank One, Chicago

2001-Contemporary Puerto Rican in Chicago, including the works by Raul Ortiz, Sonia Baez, Jorge Felix, Martin Soto, Chicago.

2000- Images and Reflections, a Cuban Art Exhibition, including the works by Ricardo Diaz, Michele Tuohey, Paul Sierra, Baruj Salinas, Eladio Gonzalez, Humberto Calzada and Rafael Soriano, Chicago and in Springfield. **1994-Triton** College Exhibition, including the works by Mario Castillo and Michele Tuohey, Chicago

1987-Fantastic Color Exhibition, Including the works by Arnaldo Roche-Rabel, Paul Sierra, Eladio Gonzalez, and Nereida Feraz, Chicago.

1986-Harris Bank Hispanic Exhibition including the works of Alejandro Romero, Paul Sierra, Eladio Gonzales and Nerida Feraz, Chicago.

1986-Group 12 Exhibition, Fantastic Color Exhibition, including the art works of Paul Sierra, Eladio Gonzalez, Maria Martinez-Cana, Bibiana Suarez, Arnaldo Roche-Ravel, Marcos Raya, and Alejandro Romero, Chicago.

Bibliography

2011

Milwaukee Avenue Arts Festival Exhibition catalog/poster

7th Annual National Self Portrait Exhibition catalog/poster by Sergio Gomez, curator

2010

The News Dispatch article "Isolation of Being" at the Lubeznik Center, Michigan

The News Dispatch On the Go article Michigan City, Michigan

The Daily Journal Local News article KCC Art Show, Kankakee IL

The Herald's Country Market Newspaper, Article Metaphors and Symbolism Exhibition article/poster, Kankakee IL.

2020

Numerous articles on the paintings being exhibited at the Spurlock Museum and installation of two large works at the Illini Union at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

2009

Chicago Suntimes Newspaper video interview

2006

Included in a biographical books about Hispanic Americans for the Brown Reference Group in the U.K.

2005

Desde los Escondrijos de Satán: crónicas [entredichas] sobre el arte y la cultura en Puerto Rico by Egberto Almenas Ph.D. Published in San Juan, P.R., by ELF Creative Workshop, 2005

Daily Herald's Reflejos Newspaper, front-page article by Laura Davis, Painting Puerto Rico

Beacon News, Oscar Martinez "Journey" begins run in Aurora

Reflections of Puerto Rico, Lara Jackson, and Pioneer Press

2004

Puerto Rican Americans, Role Models by Nichol Bryan

2003

Together but Separate by Clare Howard, Journal Star Newspaper, Peoria

Catalog: Home, A Celebration of Roberto Clemente's Spirit and Passion, Art Museum of Puerto Rico

2002

A New publication: A Guide to Chicago Murals by Mary Lacjritz Gray published by the University of Chicago Press

2000

Urban art Chicago, a guide to community murals by Olivia Guide and Jeff Huebner, Ivan R. Dee-publisher, January 2000

University of Chicago Press, "Chicago Murals: An Historical Guide," by Mary L. Gray, University of Chicago Press

1999 Arena Cultural/La Raza Newspaper, article by Marcia E. Gawecki, Front Page, November, 1999

1998 UICNews, His art puts nature in its place: new McCormick Place Addition, by Patricia Troumpoucis, front page, May 27, 1998
UIC Neighbors newspaper, Aspects of life renewal the true nature of art, by Patricia Troumpoucis, front page, October 9, 1998
Reader Newspaper, Rogue Gallery, by Jeff Huebner, front page, October 9, 1998

1997 El Dia de las Americas Newspaper, September, 1997
Dutton Publisher, "Toward a Peoples Art," by Eva Cockcroft, John Weber and James Cockcroft
Nelson Hall Publisher, "Diversity and Unity," cover painting

1996 Claridad, review by Egberto Almenas, "A Historical Perspective", Puerto Rico
The New Art Examiner, review by Julee Pearson, Figures at Northern Illinois University Gallery

1995 Art Nexus, Ilana Vardy, critic, exhibition review
Encuentros, Northern Illinois University Center for Latino and Latin American Studies
Newsletter Cover article-Summer 1995 by Egberto Almenas-Rosa
Context Art Journal article by Edward Madonado
Latino Artist in Chicago and the Calumet Region Catalog essay
Catalog essay by Edward Maldonado, "Valiente," Associate Curator for the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Chicago
Chicago Press
"Dimensions of the Americas, Art and Social Change in Latin American and the United States" Shifra M. Goldman

Exito Newspaper, "Oscar Luis Martinez el cautivo de Maraguez," Saul Boscan Curiel
"Stairway to Oscar Luis Martinez", Catalog essay by E. Almenas-Rosa/Washington University

1994 La Raza Newspaper supplement of the Chicago Sun Times Newspaper,
"Arqueologia de la Mente, un Arte" by Leticia Espinosa

1993 Pioneer Press Newspaper, "Magic Realism bewitches Lake County" review by Michael Bonesteel, Assistant Editor

1992 Illinois Quarterly, "Painting Windows for the Mind" by Carla Beecher
Crain's Chicago Business, "Art: Editors Choice"
The Columbia College Chronicle
Chicago Artist' News, Cover

1991 Chicago Suntimes "Celebs" by Bob Herguth
At Chicago, "Illusion Versus Reality, Truth," by Gwen Osborne
Linea, University of Illinois at Champaign, "Versiones de la Realidad," by E.A.
Chicago State University Newspaper, "Puerto Rico: Theme of Martinez's Work"
Hector Perez Production, "Divine Revelations," Video narrated by Ray Suarez

1989 Chicago Tribune, "Gallery Scene" by David McCracken
Latin American Art Magazine, "Contemporary Puerto Rican Artists" by Mary Sherma
"Contemporary Puerto Rican Artist," Catalog essay by Ilana Vardy/Curator and Susana
Tudela-Leval

1988 Catalog, "Latino Expressions Exhibition", Illinois Bell, Chicago

Commissions

2004-University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, creation of a mural

1996- McCormick Convention Complex Art Collection, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition
Authority, Chicago: "Nature's Symphony", 75"x 100"

1997- City of Chicago, Department of Health-painting

1980- Nuestro Directorio-painting

1978,79- Puerto Rican Parade Committee-poster

1975- Puerto Rican Parade Committee-poster

1976- Chicago Mural Group-mural

1978- "Social Problems" by Kenneth Henry PhD, book back and front cover-painting

1975- City of Chicago, Department of Planning-painting

1976- University of Illinois at Champaign-mural

1975- Humboldt Park YMCA-mural

1974- Festival Boricua-painting

1974- Chicago Mural Group-mural

1973- Chicago Mural Group-mural

Awards/ Recognition's

2019 Aspira 50 of 50 recognition as a successful outstanding aspirante
2017 Puerto Rican Museum of Art and Culture Raices award for artistic excellence and contributions to Puerto Rican arts and culture
2018-University of Illinois at Chicago award for leadership and contributions to the Urban Health program
2003-University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana Alumni Contributions Award by the Latino Student Organization.

1997- McCormick Place Purchase Award: McCormick Convention Complex Art Collection, Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, Chicago
1996-Pepsi Cola Community Leadership Award
1995-Department of Cultural Affairs Visual Arts Grant 1994-National Trust for Historic Preservation Scholarship recipient 1993-Who is Who in Hispanic America
1993-Illinois Arts Council Visual Arts Grant.

1992-Department of Cultural Affairs Visual Arts Grant
1992-Evanston Cultural Center Vicinity Award

1991-Department of Cultural Affairs Visual Arts Grant
1991-Chicago Jaycees Outstanding Citizen Award.

1991-Brightened Award for leadership and contributions to the City of Chicago.
1990-Who is Who in America
1989-Aspira Inc. of Illinois Leadership Award.

1988-Tribute to Oscar Martínez, Illinois Bell and Mayor Eugene Sawyer
1986-Leadership Greater Chicago Fellowship Award

1978 and 1979 Museum of Science and Industry Hispanic Art Exhibition-first place award

1973-University of Illinois MOM's Day Award for Academic Achievement
1972-1975- University of Illinois Dean's List for Academic Award and scholarship

Education

1975-77 University of Illinois at the Medical Center, Chicago

Bachelor of Science in Medical Art and Communications. Five Year Curriculum.
Trained to work in a variety of health sciences settings. Gained knowledge in translating and visually communicating information to other health care professionals, patients and the general public. Training included maxillofacial prosthetics, graphic design, illustration techniques, photography, 3-D model design and techniques, display and exhibit formats,

surgical illustration, audio visual media development and business practices.

1972-75 University of Illinois at Champaign

Art and Science Curriculum.

Pre-Medical Illustration curriculum in the areas of science and art including human physiology, anatomy, zoology, embryology, life drawing, graphic design, photography, sculpture, art, human anatomy, and art history.

1986-87 Leadership Greater Chicago

The goal of the program is to enhance the quality of leadership in the Chicago Metropolitan area. The program exposed participants to issues, communities, leaders, diverse perspectives and promoted a lifelong commitment of personal leadership to the future of the Chicago area.

Selected Associations

Current board member of Aspira of Illinois (charter schools) board member chair of the program committee

President and Founder of the Latin American Museum of Art

South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Board

Advisory Board member of Arts Education in Illinois, appointed by Governor Edgar 3rd

District Economic Development Group

President Emeritus of the Latino Institute, President

1989-92. Board Member

1979-95 Chicago Harold Washington Library's Art Collection Selection Committee

Appointed by Governor James Thompson to the Illinois Arts Council: Chairman of Media Arts and member to the Legislation Committee Board Member Sculpture Chicago

Chicago Artist Coalition Advisory Board Member

Appointed by the Mayor of Chicago to the Department of Cultural Affairs Advisory Board, Executive Committee

Assessor Iberoamericana Biennale of Bellas Artes, Mexico

State of Illinois Public Arts Advisory Committee

Juror: International Design/Build International Competition for the Chicago Public Library named the Harold Washington Library)

Advisory Committee: Cuba/USA Exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art

President of the Latino Chicago Theater,

1988-90

Illinois Arts Alliance Board,

1986-90

City of Chicago Sister Cities Committee, Executive Committee

Committee of Honor, "Visiones del Pueblo: The Folk Art of Latin America" at the Field Museum of Chicago-Ford Motor Company

Board Member of United Way of Chicago, Allocations Committee & Appeals Committee
Chicago

Percentage for the Arts Committee