

alternate routes
the landscape atmosphere as a scene

e r i c k
s á n c h e z

alternate routes : the landscape atmosphere as a scene
erick sánchez

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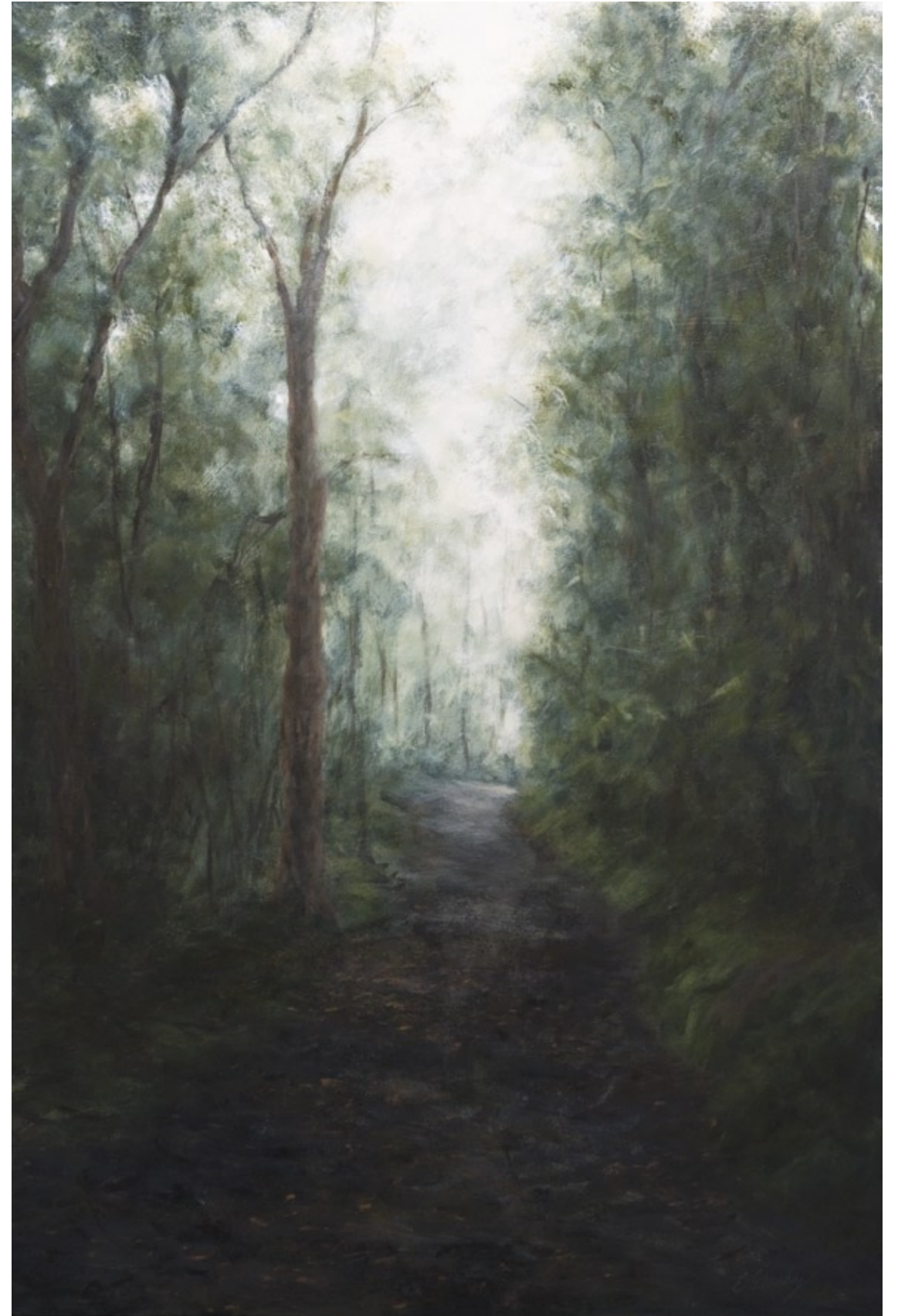
José Antonio Pérez Ruíz
Art critic, professor and historian / AICA

**Deseo Alcanzarte /
Wish to reach you**
Acrylic on canvas
72" x 48" - 2008





**Solo en tus brazos quiero estar /
Only in your arms I want to be**
Acrylic on canvas
24" x 18" - 2008



**Un nuevo día ha comenzado /
A new day has begun**
Acrylic on canvas
24" x 36" - 2008

Erick Sánchez: Landscapes

by José Antonio Pérez Ruíz

Art critic, professor and historian / AICA

In ancient times, human beings confined meditative traits to the heart. **The Bible**, the Homeric poems, and other writings from the first stages of historical development contain texts that help us corroborate this fact. A remnant of this belief is conserved in popular sayings when someone comes up with a good idea and defines it as coming “straight from the heart.” In Erick Sánchez’s landscapes, we encounter similar situations upon observing the selection process of those represented spaces. Many times he combines places of diverse origins in order to compose ideal landscapes. If we carefully contemplate his works we are struck by the impression that his lights and colors are filtered through psychological perspectives originating from those internal levels of the spirit. He is moved by the genuine desire to place himself in corners where the petty needs and suffering of everyday life have no effect.

The acrylic paintings of Sánchez are composed by textured strokes of various dimensions that sometimes follow unpredictable directions. We see how he contrasts and superimposes lines which permit one’s gaze to access those refuges of peacefulness. We find his work has touches that are reminiscent of Postimpressionism. Likewise, it leaps into view that he knows how to play with stains correctly in order to extract kindred structures to existent spontaneous formations in the frame. They are compositions that take part in the search for places where the coupling of man and nature continues to exist as done by the Romantics in the nineteenth century. In this respect, we notice that his “sfumatos” bring the observer to contemplative moods to incite the release of contained desires.

The artist possesses a peculiar mode of

putting into context his chromatic rhymes, because when he frees them in the various points, he seems to extract them from adjacent sensory registries of the cerebral levels. Another interesting aspect is that in his canvases, shadows are worked as changes in intensity. Thus, one’s gaze can flow over surfaces without encountering optical stumbling blocks. However, it is necessary to affirm that Erick acts pragmatically in offering to those who can appreciate paintings sites of encounter where one’s gaze settles on isolated parcels away from worldly noise.

In many of his paintings Erick creates misty images which function as refined perceptions whose purpose is somewhat peculiar. They act as transparent membranes that selectively retain and maintain light coming from various origins. Perhaps that is the reason why his landscapes can be interpreted as if they were halfway down the road that goes from reality to illusion. Therefore, this way he manages to express a temporal dimension which can not be measured by the usual instruments, for these landscapes already appear to evade ordinary encounters. This quality of his paintings functions on perceptive levels typical for states of suspension.

This way, Erick manages to reflect relaxing surroundings that spread along the visual radius where they are located. They become restful points where we can escape the turbulence of daily life, and appear to be revelations destined to awaken our perceptibility in order to overlook those exhausting concerns which overwhelm us. This ability to extract what is essential from the panorama uncovers the artist’s skill to beget the immanent qualities of the flora. A challenge for all landscape artists is to evoke a terrestrial mythical paradise; in the collection we are studying, that desire is



Ven y sueña conmigo / Come and dream with me
Acrylic on canvas
48" x 36" - 2007

developed subtly through the links that give coherence to each painting in a spontaneous way. An appropriate methodical dynamic originates in each painting that characterizes everything in its natural state. One aspect Erick attends to is the care given to subtleties created by the atmosphere in such a way that the observer can appreciate them at any moment.

These factors, which are not seen but felt, work together in a particular way, because a bond of co-expressiveness exists between the solid and the gaseous which come together in the lush grove. An entity which is always present in different intensities is the wind, captured for its elusive character and its motions that are many times capricious. When we view these acrylics, a melancholy mood is sensed, because it brings to mind the advances made by barbaric developers against those patches of virgin nature that have survived such appetites. In certain people, they provoke nostalgic tides which constantly reactivate a memory with visions of other times. This way an awareness arises of encounters that will never return. We should take warning that landscape paintings done by many contemporary artists will become visual memories if the massacre of our forests is not halted.

All the present manifestations in this genre are reactions denouncing aggressions that have contributed to the destruction of wildlife. We hope that these plundering waves against



Tu presencia es evidente / Your presence is evident
Acrylic on canvas
48" x 36" - 2007

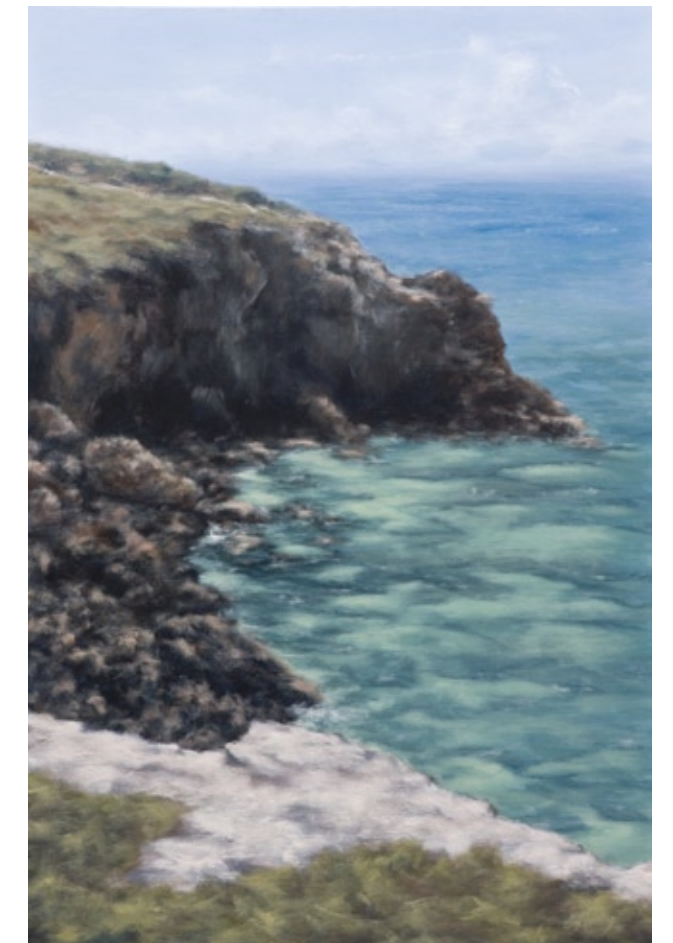
vegetable and animal species subsisting in their habitats will not force us to do what was done in the past to ethnic groups whose survival depended on being confined to reservations. On the other hand, when we confront this crossroad which excites the psycho-intellectual conflicts that afflict us today, voices emerge, each time more militant, to restrain the greed that leads to our self-destruction. Taking hold of our general conscience will force us to return to bucolic landscapes which will be held in esteem as promised lands. The urgency to create ecological lungs should be of first concern in the depth of our being, because then we can lay out plans to stop this insensitivity being committed against the equilibrium that maintains different life orders. The intensity of existing emotional expressions in the paintings examined is noted by the austere impressions in each one of them. This rigorous precision is a contribution of the desire to keep in place the protective fluctuation which will guarantee the renewal of vegetation.

Sánchez finds in those rural lands, each time rarer than before, and still in a pristine state, an osmotic integration that occurs between the internal and external elements that support each and every organism. He brings to public consideration the necessary circumstances for a permanent renovation of the foliage. If we delve into his visions, we feel that he makes us accomplices in this happening. In his works, we do not find sharp contrasts as everything comes together without visual high-pitched gaudiness. Even the pathways that proceed lovingly over his painted landscapes acquire the ductility of a flowing stream.

Upon confronting the rungs of a staircase in the midst of one of his panoramas, it is evident that those elements have left an imprint on an apparently impassive road. He takes advantage of these charged historical

surfaces to narrate an accumulative encounter that endures beyond successive generations.

Erick Sánchez's paintings bring to the island's artistic scene an original esthetic that provides him with theoretical bases to interpret the panorama of one's own landscapes. His works show personal touches that should be highly appraised by those who explore what appears to be commonly known.



**Hoy todo será posible /
Everything will be possible today**
Acrylic on canvas
36" x 24" - 2007



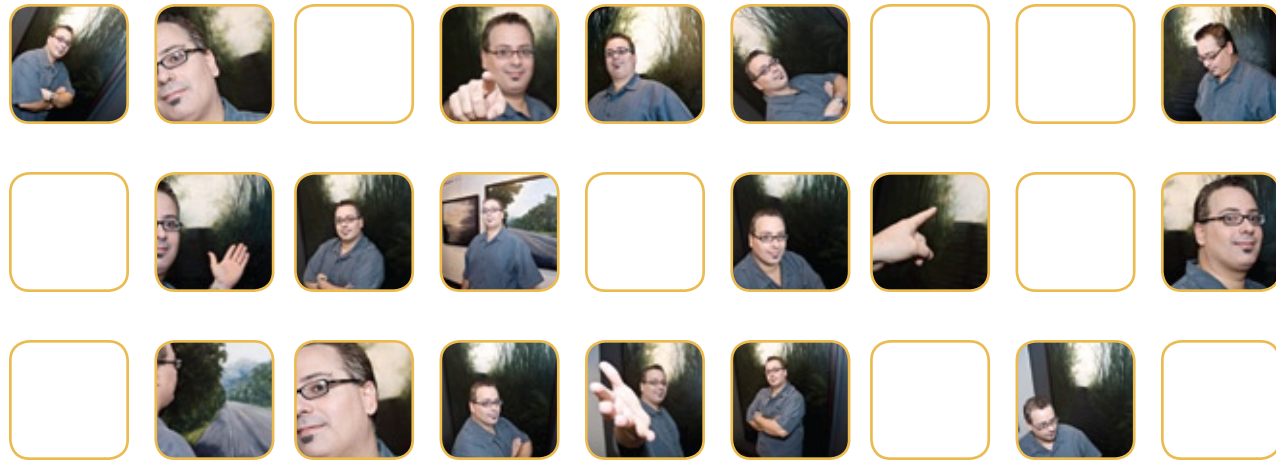
**Hoy voy a descubrirte /
Today I'll discover you**
Acrylic on canvas
36" x 24" - 2007



**Por tí, voy por tí /
To you, I'm going to you**
Acrylic on canvas
60" x 48" - 2007



**Al final volveremos
a encontrarnos /
At the end
will meet again**
Acrylic on canvas
48" x 36" - 2007



Erick Sánchez

The painter and photographer was born in May, 1973 in the city of Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Beginning in 1996, Erick began to express his feelings through the medium of paint. Later, he started to develop his formation in the American Academy of the New York Art Students League and the San Juan Art Students League. At the same time, he continued traveling and taking additional workshops in the United States to further enrich his work and broaden his experience. And today, after many long hours of hard work and dedication, success and recognition have been realized.

At this time in his life, Erick presents to us a series of paintings founded in the great outdoors. His work transports us to an ideal place that is full of peace and harmony. These new works are composites in forms intended to communicate to us something much deeper than originally believed. Sánchez allows us to travel to and connect us with his most recent work by exploring the limitless bounds of nature through his experimentation and expression.

The atmosphere found on the natural surroundings of the island on which he lives are most important to the artist, and have now become the basis for his new work. The various elements of the tropical environment, the innumerable tangible and intangible, as they are seen through the infinite variations in sunlight, are reflected in his latest works. The viewer is transported to the outside world of Puerto Rico to see what the artist sees, and experience the same sensations as the artist as he experiments and works in the countryside. His work is an expression of his innermost self...his feelings, the manner in which he thinks, his deep spirituality, and his love of God the Creator.

With his skills, Sánchez compels us to reflect what is truly natural and beautiful, by awakening in us what may have been forgotten or overlooked, or by instilling in us something new and surprising as we confront nature as seen by the artist.

Some of the recognition and awards the artist has received in the recent, among others, are 2007 100 Contemporary International Artists from the European Communities Artists Library, Spain, Group Show Winner of the Viridian Artists 16th National Juried Exhibition, Encounters Juried Exhibition Honorable Mention in the Museum of the Americas, Miami, Florida. Artist of the Commemorative Painting of the Ponce Carnival, 2005, San Juan Man of Distinction for his dedication and work in the field of National Arts, Honorable Mention in the Photography Biennial Show of the ICP and third place in the UNESCO 2005 Photography Competition.

Education

- The Art Students League of New York, NY
- The Art Students League of San Juan, P.R.

Awards & recognitions

- 2007 100 Contemporary International Artists European Communities Artists Library, Spain
- 2005 Juried Exhibition Winner of the Viridian Artists 16th National Juried Exhibition / New York, NY
- 2005 Quién es Quién / Delray Beach, FL
- 2005 3er Premio Gran Certamen de Fotografía UNESCO / P.R.
- 2005 Artista de la obra Conmemorativa del Carnaval Ponceño 2005 / Municipio Autónomo de Ponce
- 2004 Mención Honorable Exposición Encuentros / MOA, Miami FL
- 2004 Hombre Distinguido de San Juan Por contribución artística / San Juan, PR
- 2003 Proclama del Alcalde de Ponce Rafael Cordero Por trayectoria artística / Ponce, PR
- 2002 Mención Honorable / 3ra. Biental Internacional de Fotografía / San Juan, PR
- 2008 "Premio Francisco de Goya" / Sala Barna Grupo Global Present Art / Barcelona, Spain
- 2005 "Viridian Artists 16th National Juried Exhibition" New York, NY
- 2005 "Presencia Boricua" / MOA / Miami FL
- 2005 "Homenaje al 4to. Centenario de Don Quijote" Crisolart Gallery / Barcelona, Spain
- 2004 "Herencia Hispana" / MOA / Miami, FL
- 2004 "Arte Latinoamericano 7" Broward University / Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 2004 "Encuentros" / MOA / Miami, FL
- 2003 "Ready to War? Art Contest" University of Philadelphia, PA
- 2002 "Haciendo Patria" University of Chicago, IL
- 2002 "Auto Retrato " Sesto Senso / Bologna, Italy

Selected Solo Shows

- 2008 "Alternate Routes: the lanscape atmosphere as a scene" / Galería Sánchez / Old San Juan, P.R.
- 2006 "ESENCIA" / Museo de San Juan Galería San Juan Bautista / P.R.
- 2006 "CONTACTO" Galería Senatorial / Capitolio de Puerto Rico
- 2005 "Días Extraños Sin Tí" / Museo Casa Escuté Municipio Autónomo de Carolina
- 2004 "Otras Dimensiones" CBA Luis A. Ferré / San Juan, P.R.
- 2003 "Fragmentos" Museo de la Historia de Ponce / Ponce, P.R.
- 2003 "Frutos" Galería de Telemundo / Hato Rey, P.R.

Selected Group Shows

- 2007 "Román – Sánchez: Espacios Paralelos" Galería Sánchez / Old San Juan, P.R.
- 2006 "Colectiva de Verano" Galerías Prinardi / San Juan, P.R.
- 2006 "Noche de Galería" / Sala de Exposiciones UNITEC / Aguadilla, P.R.
- 2005 "Gran Certámen de Fotografía de la UNESCO" Centro de Estudios Avanzados, San Juan, P.R.
- 2004 "Subasta de Arte en el MAC" Museo de Arte Contemporáneo / San Juan, P.R.
- 2004 "Pequeños Tesoros" Galería Sánchez / San Juan, P.R.
- 2004 "Colectiva de Pequeño Formato" Museo del Barrio / San Juan, P.R.
- 2004 "Certamen de Puertas y Ventanas" Liga Estudiantes de Arte / San Juan, P.R.
- 2003 "Muestra Nacional de Artes Plásticas" Arsenal de la Marina / San Juan, P.R.
- 2003 "4ta. Subasta de Arte" Museo de Arte de Ponce
- 2002 "3ra Biental Internacional de Fotografía" Arsenal de la Puntilla, San Juan P.R.

