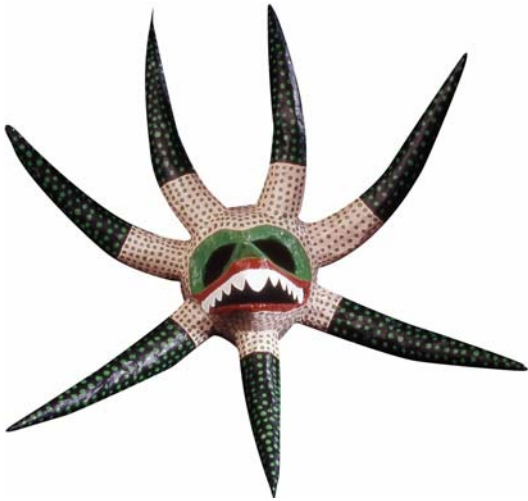


Teachers!

Please join us for class tours of our exhibition, *From Aguirre to Zuniga: The Figure in Latin-American Art* featuring a special installation of *vejigantes*, paper mâché carnival masks, by Cesar Romero; a carnival costume by Orlando Ortiz; and a series of unfinished masks by Lillian Mendez showing how *vejigante* masks are made.

On view January 28 – April 10, 2006

Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University



Cesar Romero, *Vejigante Mask*, 1993

Tours will include hands-on activities in the galleries including a paper mask-making activity; scavenger hunts to locate specific details in the artworks; and writing activities about artworks that can be completed during your visit or taken back to the classroom. There will also be a library of children's story books pertaining to Latin-American cultures, including a selection of bi-lingual books, available in the gallery. Teachers may request to have a story read during their visit.

To make your visit more exciting, here is a list of suggested pre-visit activities:

- (K-3) Read Delacre, Lulu, *Vejigante Masquerader* (New York: Scholastic, 1993). (Bilingual). (www.scholastic.com – for more about Lulu Delacre)
- (Gr. 4-6, Middle School) Read Delacre, Lulu, *Salsa Stories* (New York: Scholastic, 2000). (www.scholastic.com – for more about Lulu Delacre)
- (All grades) Discuss the significance of carnival in Latin American cultures, specifically carnival in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Describe the role of the *Vejigante* (bay-he-Gahn-tay), a major personality during carnival who masquerades in a colorful horned mask and broad-sleeved costume that produces a bat-like effect when the wearer raises his arms. For background information on the *Vejigante*, see below or visit www.exitstudio.com.
- (K-3) Make a mask from the activity provided in *Vejigante Masquerader*.
- (Gr. 3-4) **ELA and Visual Arts Standards #1 & #2.** Make a moveable puppet of a *Vejigante* character adapting the Crayola® Dream-Makers® lesson plan, “You’re Quite a Character” @ www.crayola.com/educators/dreammakers. (Also in De Long, Ron, *Dreaming Beyond the Book: Twelve Standards-Based Lessons for Classroom and Art Teachers K-6*. (Easton, PA: Binney & Smith, Inc., 2003).

- (Gr. 5 and up) Make a paper mâché mask in the spirit of the horned *Vejigante* character. Visit our website @ www.niagara.edu/cam for instructions.
- (Elementary – High School) The exhibition, *From Aguirre to Zuniga: The Figure in Latin-American Art*, covers a variety of artistic styles from Realism to Surrealism. Talk about these two artistic styles in general and show samples of artworks. Specifically, look at the realist work of Francisco Zuniga and the surrealist work of Wilfredo Lam and Roberto Matta, three of several artists featured in the show. **See the list below for books on Surrealism for young readers (some with activities) available through the NIOGA Library System:**

Bolton, Linda. *Surrealism*, New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 2000. (Gr. 4-5)

Raimondo, Joyce. *Imagine That: Activities and Adventures in Surrealism*, New York: Watson-Guptill Publications, 2004. (Gr. 1-5)

Ross, Michael Elsohn, *Salvador Dali and the Surrealists: Their Lives and Ideas: 21 activities*. Chicago, Illinois: Chicago Review Press, 2003. (Gr. 6 and up)

Background on *Vejigantes*:

The *Vejigante* character first appeared in Puerto Rican carnivals in 1858 and is mentioned by Cervantes in his novel *Don Quixote* of 1605. He is an amalgamation of Taíno, Spanish, and African influences in Puerto Rican culture. Dressed in a colorful, broad-sleeved costume and wearing a horned mask, the *Vejigante* spreads his arms in a bat-like fashion. No *Vejigante* costume, however, no matter how colorful, ruffled and ornate, would be complete without the painted, balloon-like *vejiga* (cow bladder). It is usually tied to the end of a slender rod and used to playfully strike and scare passersby. In past times, a *Vejigante's* mask, traditionally painted a devilish red with yellow and black accents, could have been adorned with up to 100 horns. The *Vejigante* mimics his own language, frequently emitting howls and screams as he roams around the streets accompanied by groups of children and adults who serve as a chorus to his traditional chants. **See the following resources for teaching about Puerto Rican art and to learn more about the *Vejigante* character and Puerto Rican culture:**

- Fontáñez, Edwin, *The Vejigante and the Folk Festivals of Puerto Rico* (Washington, D.C.: Exit Studios, 1996). The bilingual activity book describes the colorful character of the *Vejigante* who appears at folk festivals in Ponce, Puerto Rico. More than 500 years old, this character has absorbed the influences of Spanish, African, and Caribbean culture and symbolizes the rich mixture that is Puerto Rico. (www.exitstudio.com)
- Fontanez, Edwin, *The Legend of the Vejigante* (Washington, D.C.: Exit Studios, 1996). (Video) Tells the history of the colorful *Vejigante* character while teaching you how to make the unusual mask it wears. Featuring footage of actual festivals in Puerto Rico.

To schedule a school tour, call Marian Granfield, Education Coordinator, Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University - (716) 286-8200.

Picture Books (most are bilingual):



Alarcón, Francisco X. Angels Ride Bikes and Other Fall Poems. CA: Children's Book Press Bilingual edition, 1999. In free verse and large vivid pictures, the poet celebrates a city that provided opportunities for his large family.

Anzaldúa, Gloria, Prietita and the Ghost Woman/Prietita y la llorona. CA: Children's Book Press, c1995. Prietita, a young Mexican-American girl, becomes lost in her search for an herb to cure her mother and is aided by the legendary ghost woman.

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. Shake It, Morena! And Other Folk Tales from Puerto Rico. Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2002. This collection of folk tales features games, songs and riddles from Puerto Rico.

Buchanan, Ken. This House is Made of Mud/Esta casa esta hecha de lodo. Rebound by Sagebrush, October, 1999. A child's voice lyrically describes a southwestern adobe house and the animals that live in and around it.

Corpi, Lucha. Where Fireflies Dance. CA: Children's Book Press, 1997. A girl and her brother spend their childhood in a small town on the Caribbean coast of Mexico.

De Souza, James. Brother Anansi and the Cattle Ranch. CA: Children's Book Press, c1989. A folktale in which Brother Anansi persuades Brother Tiger to go into the cattle-raising business.

Delacre, Lulu. Arroz con Leche: Popular Songs and Rhymes from Latin America. Rebound by Sagebrush, October, 1999. A collection of traditional Latin-American songs and rhymes with music included.

Delacre, Lulu. Salsa Stories. Scholastic Press; 1st ed edition, 2000. Explores Puerto Rican holidays, with rich descriptions of the culture and traditions of celebrations throughout the year. New York: Scholastic, 2000. (4-6, Middle School)

Delacre, Lulu. Vejigante Masquerader. Scholastic Press, 1993. Against all odds, a resourceful Puerto Rican boy manages to get a costume together for Carnival. A mask-making activity is included at the end of the book.

Dial, Jeannette Winter. Nino's Mask. New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, 2003.

Told that he is too young to wear a mask at the Fiesta, Niño make his own mask and surprises his family and the whole village. Includes a glossary of Spanish words and an author's note.

Ehlert, Lois, Cuckoo: A Mexican Folktale/Cucu: Un cuento tradicional Mexicano

San Diego: Harcourt Brace, c1997. A traditional Mayan tale that reveals how the cuckoo lost her beautiful feathers.

Gonzales, Rafka. My First Book of Proverbs/Mi primer libro de dichos. CA: Children's Book Press, Bilingual edition, 1995. Humorous contemporary illustrations of traditional Mexican American proverbs in both English and Spanish.

Gonzalez, Rigoberto, Rosa Ibarra (Illustrator) Soledad Sigh-Sighs/Soledad suspiros. CA: Children's Book Press, 2003. Eight-year-old Soledad dreads coming home to her lonely house. One solution might be to invent an imaginary sister to keep her company. But a much better answer emerges from the imagination of two good friends from the neighborhood. Prizewinning poet and writer Rigoberto Gonzalez has crafted a delicate and touching tale about Puerto Rican children in New York. Artist Rosa Ibarra's lovely, thoughtful illustrations explore the outside and inside realities of these characters as she depicts three little girls readers will never forget.

Lomas Garza, Carmen. In My Family/En mi familia. CA: Children's Book Press/Libros Para Ni~nos; Bilingual edition, March, 2000. Mexican-American traditions and customs are reflected in words and pictures of a family's life in a town near Mexico.

Lowell, Susan. Los Tres Pequeños Jabalies: The Three Little Javelinas. Rising Moon Books; Bilingual edition, 2004. In this southwestern retelling of the Three Little Pigs, three javelinas try to outsmart a hungry coyote.

Mohr, Nicholasa, Martorell Antonio. The Song of the Coqui. New York: Viking, 1995. A lyrical and dramatic retelling of three animal stories that come from the rich heritage of Puerto Rican folklore. (K-3)

Mora, Pat. Listen to the Desert/Oye al Desierto. Clarion Books; Reprint edition, 2001. A brightly illustrated book that introduces the reader to some of the sounds of nature in a desert.

Perl, Lila. Pinatas and Paper Flowers: Holidays of the Americas/Piñatas y Flores de Papel. Clarion Books, 1983. A good introduction to the holidays children celebrate throughout America as well as those unique to the Hispanic culture.

Pitcher, Caroline, Mariana and the Merchild: A Folk Tale from Chile. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2000. Old Mariana longs for friendship but is feared by the village children and fearful of hungry sea-wolves that hide in sea-caves near her hut. Then, one day she finds a merchild inside a crab shell whom she loves at once. Mariana wants to keep the child, and her wish is granted when the infant's mother, a Sea Spirit, asks the old woman to look after her "until the seas lie calm" and it is safe to take her home

Rohmer, Harriet. Uncle Nacho's Hat/El Sombrero del Tio Nacho. CA: Children's Book Press Rprnt/Blgl edition, 1993. A tale of a man who can't figure out how to change his life until his niece shows him how.

Saenz, Benjamin Alire. A Gift from Papa Diego/Un Regalo de Papa Diego. Cinco Puntos Press, 1998. When little Diego gets a Superman outfit for his birthday, he hopes to fly to Mexico to be with Grandfather.

San Vicente, Luis. The Festival of the Bones/El festival de las Calaveras. Cinco Puntos Press: Bilingual edition, 2002. Vicente lets children join the celebration as they watch the skeletons rock, rattle, and roll those long old bones.

Tabor, Nancy. El Gusto del Mercado Mexicano/A Taste of the Mexican market. Charlesbridge Publishing, 1996. Let's visit a Mexican market! Along the way you can compare, weigh, count, and learn about culture and customs. From bunches of hanging bananas and braids of garlic to pyramids of melons and baskets of sweet cheese, this Mexican market is full of fun and surprises.

Paper Mache Carnival Masks!



Cesar Romero, *Vejigante Mask*, Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University

Paper mâché carnival masks in the spirit of the horned *Vejigante* character.

Choose your favorite paste recipe or select from the following:

- Flour and water (mix 2 parts flour to 1 part water - add 1 tbs. salt to avoid mold)
- Flour and water (bring 4 cups of water to a boil - slowly add above mixture - bring to a boil again, turn down and simmer 2-3 minutes.)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ part white glue to 1 part water
- Wallpaper paste (follow directions on box)

Materials:

Medium balloons (head size)

Scissors

Materials continued:

Newspaper (cut into 1" strips of various lengths)

Masking tape

Paper

Bowls (large bowls or buckets for mixing paste, medium bowls to hold balloons while working)

Acrylic paint

Brushes

Water

Ribbon, string or elastic for ties.

Hole punch

Directions:

Mix paste. Blow up balloons and place in bowls. Dip newspaper strips into paste and begin applying in layers over balloons. After two - three layers, let dry. Pop balloon and cut out eyes (mouths optional). Mold noses and mouths with crumpled paper, paper egg cartons, chip board etc. and tape onto face with masking tape. Roll long cones out of paper for horns and tape onto mask with masking tape. Roll small cones and tape along mouth for teeth. Cover horns and masks with two - three more layers of pasted strips (cut smaller strips for teeth). Let dry. Paint masks with bright colors. Add contrasting dots. Let dry. Punch holes on each side and add ties.

Resources (some with additional lesson plans):

www.exitstudio.com – Exit Studio (information on Puerto Rican culture)

www.elmuseo.org - Museo del Barrio (specializing in Puerto Rican Arts)

www.scholastic.com

www.luludelacre.com/works.htm (includes information to order Lulu Delacre's books)

www.crayola.com. – Dream-Makers® lesson plans.