



CONSULADO GENERAL DE COLOMBIA

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PRESS RELEASE

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RAÚL MANZANO

HOME SWEET HOME * HOGAR DULCE HOGAR

The Consulate General of Colombia in New York is pleased to announce the art exhibition, *HOME SWEET HOME * HOGAR DULCE HOGAR*, by **Raúl Manzano**. The exhibition celebrates the spirit of progress and freedom of the two oldest democracies in America and their brotherhood, cultures that have been for the past forty-three years not only a source of inspiration for the artist but the two places he calls home. The opening reception is Thursday, June 26, from 5:30 PM to 8 PM at the Consulate General of Colombia located at 10 East 46th Street. The show will be on display from June 26 through July 25, 2003, Monday - Friday from 9 AM – 1:30 PM.

“Raúl Manzano opens up a platform for dialogue with his consciousness raising paintings depicting historical and contemporary events. His works are social and cultural commentaries, which challenge the viewer and encourage awareness in our lives. Raúl, a fellow countryman who immigrated to the United States in search of his artistic dreams, found his voice in patriotic symbols such as the Colombian and United States flags and the Statue of Liberty, icons that have become the trademark of his work,” said the General Consul Jaime Buenahora.

In his paintings, Mr. Manzano expresses concern for human tolerance, respect, compassion, and hope. War, disease, and pollution are not necessarily accidents; they represent circumstances that are bound to a complex global, socio-economic and political spectrum. “*Home Sweet Home * Hogar Dulce Hogar*” pays homage to Raul’s native and adopted homelands. On the occasion of his solo debut in New York City, the artist created the painting *Viva Colombia!* in celebration of his native country’s Independence Day on July 20th. *Viva Colombia!* will be exhibited in conjunction with his painting *Viva America!* in honor and gratitude to the country that opened its doors to him.

Raúl received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City and most recently has been appointed In-Resident Director of the SVA’s Summer Arts Abroad program “*Painting in Barcelona*” in Barcelona, Spain. He served as President of the West Side Arts Coalition (WSAC) in New York City from 1996 to 2001. During this period, Manzano organized art exhibitions for the WSAC including the first international exhibition of this group at the Khan Museum in the City of Ashkelon, Israel. Benny Vaknin, Mayor of this city, awarded Raúl the medal of the city for his services to the arts. He has been a guest curator for the exhibits hosted by Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month. Currently Raúl is pursuing his Master of Arts in Liberal Studies at SUNY Empire State College in New York City.

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