

ARO HEAD: IMPRINT OF CHAMPIONS
Museo Arte de Puerto Rico

Written and directed by Papo Colo
Performed by the Puerto Rican Olympic Basketball Team

Curator Laura Roulet
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The Puerto Rican Olympic Basketball Team converges with art to create a conceptplus installation. See how your favorite players created images of their best moves and created a collective visual portrait of themselves, an installation of Puerto Rican art.

The action took place in the legendary Escuela Superior Central, located two blocks from the museum. Two canvases, 20 x 12 ft, were spread out along the floor. The basketball team then simulated their practice warm up and as they played on top of the canvases their sneakers and basketballs which were dipped into 3 colors of paint (green, blue and red) left imprints of their moves on the canvas. A stamp pattern began to form and the final product transformed the performance into a neo impressionistic painting (in reference to the first Puerto Rican painter Francisco Oller).

This painting was then hung on the wall of the Museum with the basketball hoop in its center, creating a kind of sculptural collage. On the floor, opposite the wall, an installation of cast hands in the throwing position completed the experience of the performance.

With this performance event and its following installation, Papo Colo gave these extraordinary athletes an opportunity to create something outside of the sports world. Colo, as their coach, became an interpreter of their feelings, training the players to create in another area of cultural expression, acting as cultural producer.

The purpose of this performance: to bridge the arts with other areas of popular culture - sports are an art form, to create new mythologies, new heroes and new readings of what influences society, to promote extraordinary dedication and teamwork, to introduce a new public to art, by way of sports, to give national heroes a permanent place in the museum and to invite artists and curators to use the conceptplus method.

ARO HEAD is a novel approach to understanding the intelligence of sports and to reading culture through art.

The artist would like to thank:

The Players and Coaches: Rick Jason Apodaca, Alex Falcón, "Guayacán," Bobby Joe Hatton, Rolando Hourruitinet, Salvador Vilella, Flor Meléndez, Julio Toro Díaz, Víctor Vargas and Manolo Cintrón.

Museum Staff: Carmen T. Ruiz de Fischler, Myrna López Mena, Dalina Sumner, Alene Saap, Carlos Faure Maurás, Miguel Torres and Maria Magriña.

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