



Samuel Lind: Portales

The artist Samuel Lind was born and raised in Loíza, Puerto Rico. Loíza was settled in the 16th century by formerly enslaved members of the African Yoruba tribe. Lind's work is unique to Puerto Rican art, as he captures the Afro-Puerto Rican culture in a way many artists have not. In addition to reflecting his Afro-Puerto Rican heritage, Lind often uses his art to comment on social and political issues.

Click [here](#) to learn about Samuel Lind's art.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. What political issues does Lind call attention to in his work?
2. How did Lind's heritage make his art different from other Puerto Rican artists?
3. How does Lind's art capture the culture of Puerto Rico?

THE Nuyorican Poets Cafe

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe

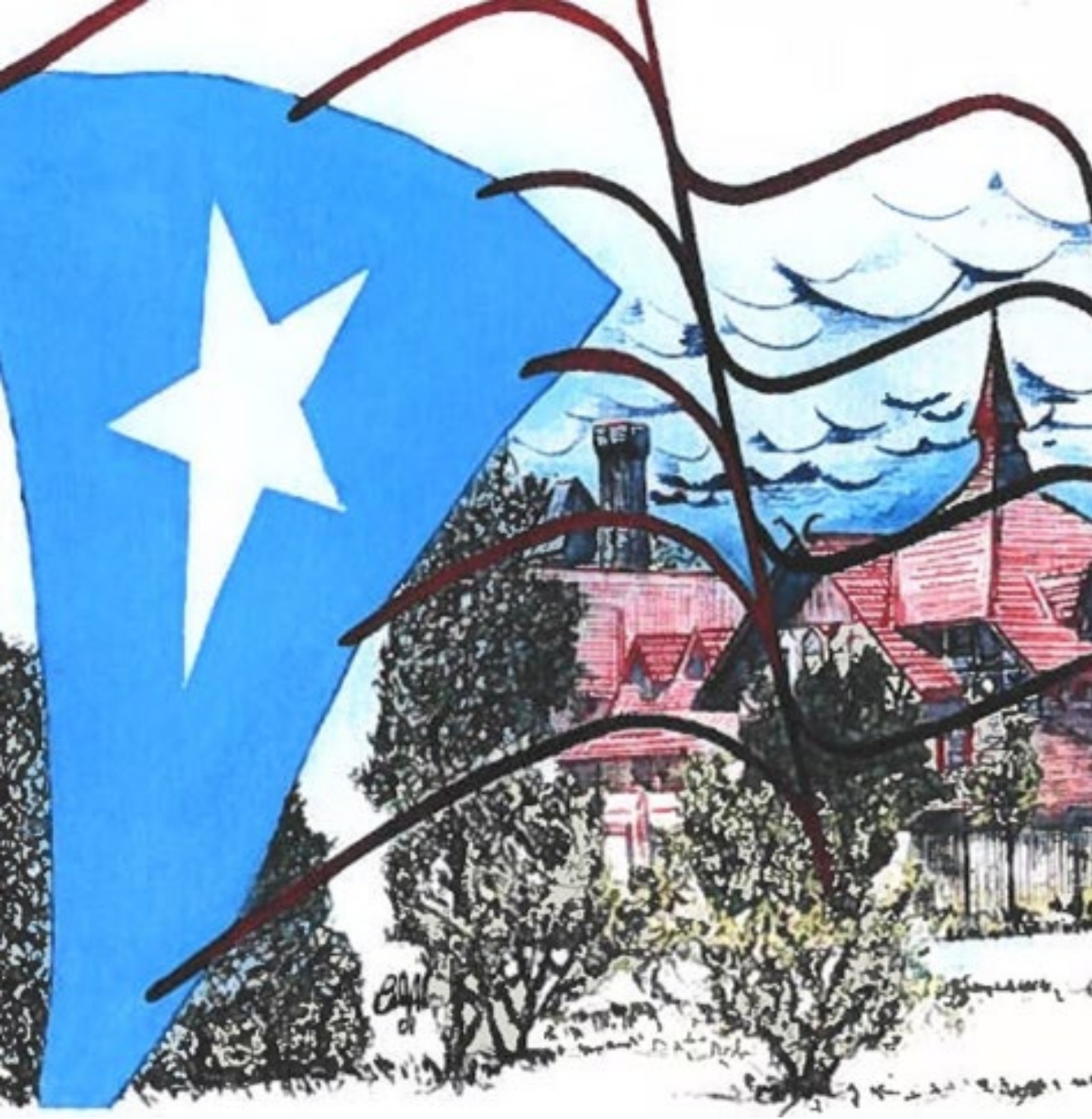
The term “Nuyorican” refers to people of Puerto Rican descent who live in New York City. Many Puerto Rican artists who came to New York in the 1960s and 1970s were not accepted in the mainstream art world, and so they formed their own group with other Latinos and people of color—writers, poets, artists, and musicians. This group eventually became the Nuyorican Poets Cafe.

Click [here](#) to learn about how the Nuyorican Poets Cafe allowed people of different backgrounds to express their heritage and culture through art.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. What has become the main attraction of the cafe?
2. How did the Nuyorican Poets Cafe become known as “the most integrated place on earth”?
3. Why is the Nuyorican Poets Cafe important to the New York community as a whole?

To learn about the art performed and displayed at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe, click [here](#).



The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture: Anniversary

For over a century, Chicago has been a major destination for immigrants from all over the world. This has been especially true for Puerto Ricans settling in the contiguous United States. Today, over 100,000 people of Puerto Rican descent live in the Chicago area. The Puerto Rican community in Chicago is so strong that in 1995, organizers in the Latino community formed the Paseo Boricua, or Puerto Rican Promenade. The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture is located on the Paseo Boricua and celebrates the rich heritage of Chicago's Puerto Rican community.

Click [here](#) to learn about the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. What is unique about the Paseo Boricua and the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture?
2. How are the *banderas* on Paseo Boricua related to the museum?
3. Why was the creation of the museum important to preserving the heritage of Puerto Ricans living in the contiguous United States?

Quiz

Read the questions and write your answer in your notebook or on a piece of paper.

1. How did the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico develop the art in the Puerto Rico Plural exhibition?
2. What themes are present in the artwork in the Puerto Rico Plural exhibition?
3. What spiritual elements does Samuel Lind capture in his artwork?
4. How did Lind incorporate Loíza culture into his artwork?
5. How did the Nuyorican Poets Cafe begin?
6. In what way did slam poetry allow for collaboration among artists of different cultures?
7. Why was the establishment of the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture significant to Puerto Ricans living in Chicago?
8. Why was the day on which the *banderas* were installed significant to the Puerto Rican community?

Explore Further

This lesson has given you some vocabulary to talk about Latino cultures in the United States. It has also introduced you to some basic ideas that are relevant to this topic. To learn more about Latino cultures in the US, click [here](#).



It's Your Turn!

In this lesson, you learned about how Puerto Rican heritage is expressed and preserved through art and institutions. Now it's your turn to do something. Here are some ideas for projects that you can do at home or in the classroom.

- ❖ Do some research about an artist from Puerto Rico. You can choose an artist mentioned in this lesson or another artist you are aware of. Write an essay about the artist that answers these questions: How is his or her experience different from that of Samuel Lind's? How is a different heritage reflected in his or her artwork?
- ❖ Look up a Puerto Rican holiday, and make a poster advertising a celebration for the holiday. Use styles and elements from the artwork you saw in this lesson to reflect Puerto Rican culture.
- ❖ Explore the online exhibits at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture. What else can you learn about Puerto Rican heritage from the artwork you see? Create a slide show presentation of works of art by Puerto Rican Artists. Introduce your audience to each artist and say something about their work.

Answers

Puerto Rican Plural

1. People in Puerto Rico began to feel a national identity after being taken over by the United States following the Spanish-American War.
2. Due to globalization, styles of art from other cultures, such as expressionism and abstract art, have influenced Puerto Rican artists, but they still incorporate their own personal styles and values into their work.
3. Many Puerto Rican artists saw how unfairly the poor were treated and how badly the cities were managed as more people migrated to them. They made art to depict and spread awareness about these problems.

Samuel Lind: Portales

1. Lind used his work to call attention to the issues of gentrification, preserving the environment, and racial inequity.
2. In his art, Lind tried to express his Afro-Puerto Rican heritage. He depicted themes prevalent in both Puerto Rican and African cultures.
3. Lind's art focuses a great deal on the natural beauty of Puerto Rico, traditional Puerto Rican customs, and on the social, political, and environmental problems facing his country.

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe

1. Slam poetry has become the main attraction of the cafe.
2. The Nuyorican Poets Cafe was not only open to people of Puerto Rican or Latino descent, but also to artists of every ethnicity who could not find a place in the mainstream. The cafe would also present free concerts and events, which allowed more people to be part of the experience.
3. The Nuyorican Poets Cafe encourages artists to experiment and bring new forms of art to the New York community.

The National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture: Anniversary

1. The Paseo Boricua is the only recognized Puerto Rican neighborhood in the US, and the museum is the only one focused on Puerto Rican arts and culture.
2. The *banderas* were installed 5 years prior to the establishment of the museum and were a key part in paving the way to the establishment of the only museum of its kind.
3. The museum is the only place in the contiguous United States where people can see and learn about Puerto Rican arts and culture, so it is an important institution for keeping Puerto Rican heritage alive.

Answers

Quiz

1. The museum conducted focus groups with diverse populations in Puerto Rico and created art based on what they had to say.
2. Themes include migration and coming and going, machismo, fighting oppression, and the beauty of landscapes.
3. Lind created statues of African gods who could act as healers as well as fertility goddesses, showing his connection with African culture.
4. Bomba music and dance are key traditions specific to Loíza, and Lind depicts music and dance in many of his paintings.
5. When artists of Puerto Rican heritage had nowhere else to present their work, they joined together to share their artwork.
6. Slam poetry sometimes requires poets, writers, and musicians to work together, using elements from their own cultures.
7. The establishment of the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture was an acknowledgement of the importance and prominence of the Puerto Rican community in Chicago.
8. The *banderas* were installed on Día de Los Reyes, which is an important holiday in Latino culture.



[900-50-80, Olga Albizu 1978](#), Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico