

**AMBROSINO  
GALLERY**

cordially invites you  
to attend the opening reception  
to meet the artist

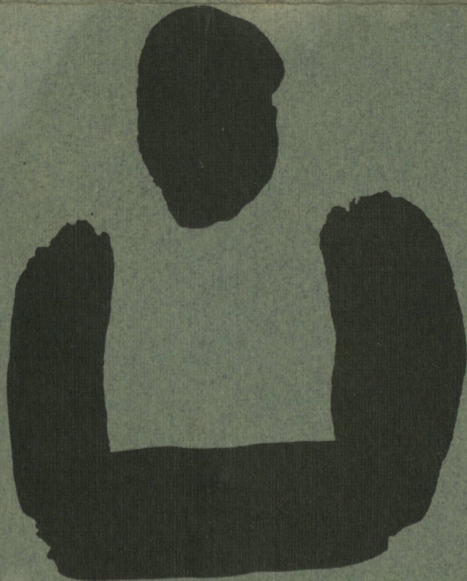
**LEONEL  
GONZALEZ**

Friday, December 1, 1995  
7pm-10pm

3155 PONCE DE LEON BOULEVARD  
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA 33134  
TEL: 305.445.2211  
FAX: 305.444.0101

The exhibition will continue  
through December 30  
Tue - Fri 10:00/6:30  
Sat 11:00/5:00

cocktails courtesy of Gorbatschow Wodka





## Colonizers Vs. Colonized

When I look at these canvases I see myself as a prototype of Latin American Identity, from a European perspective.

During my first trip to Europe at age nineteen, I learned that I belonged to the "Land of Vines", the "Land of Monkeys", the "Land of Bananas". After all, Christopher Columbus didn't arrive in the "New World" as it is proclaimed in history; he arrived to "The Indies".

These anonymous figures, dark and poor, tell me about myself; not about the child I knew, but about the young man who looked at himself in the European mirror, trying to see himself the same way he was being seen, and not the way he actually was.

## Colonizadores Vs. Colonizados

Quando yo veo estas telas me veo a mí mismo como prototipo de la identidad Latinoamericana desde una perspectiva Europea.

En mi primer viaje a Europa, a la edad de diecinueve años, aprendí que yo pertenecía a la "Tierra del Bejuco", a la "Tierra de los Monos", a la "Tierra del Banano".

Al fin y al cabo Cristóbal Colón siempre llegó a las "Indias" y no al "Nuevo Mundo" como se registra en la Historia.

Las Figuras anónimas, oscuras, pobres, me hablan de mí mismo, pero no del niño que yo conocí, sino del joven que se miró en un espejo Europeo tratando de verse como era visto, y no como se veía.

*Leonel Gonzalez*

## LEONEL GONZALEZ

Born in Heredia, Costa Rica in 1962

### Education

- 1980-82 *Architecture*, University of Costa Rica  
1983-85 *Academy of the Arts Zurich*, Moscow, Russia  
1989 *Triangle Artist's Workshop*, New York, USA

### One Man Shows

- 1995 *Colonizers Vs. Colonized*, Ambrosino Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA  
1992 Garces-Velazquez Gallery, Bogota, Columbia  
Camino Brent Gallery, Lima, Perú  
Elite Fine Art Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA  
1991 Jacob Karpio Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina

### Group Exhibitions

- 1995 Elite Fine Art Gallery, Coral Gables, Florida, USA  
1994 Ludwig Forum Museum, Aachen, Germany  
*V Havana Biennial*, National Museum, Cuba  
1992 "*Entre Trópicos*", Museum of Contemporary Art, Caracas, Venezuela  
*"Kunst Aus Costa Rica"*, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany  
1991 "*Bocaraca*", Museum of Contemporary Art, Panama  
Art Museum of the Americas, Washington DC, USA  
1989 *I Cuenca Biennial*, Cuenca, Ecuador

### Awards

- 1990 First Prize at the Lachner & Saenz Biennial, San Jose, Costa Rica