

**MARCOS DIMAS**



**A RETROSPECTIVE: 35 YEARS OF SELECTED WORKS**

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## A RETROSPECTIVE: 35 YEARS OF SELECTED WORKS

Marcos Dimas is a world-renowned contemporary artist whose work has set standards of innovative excellence. His work combines Pre-Columbian Taíno symbols with contemporary modes of abstraction and figureation to create a fusion between past and present ways of seeing. His poetic symbol laden paintings are based on transcriptions of common sights and sounds, popular music and dreams. As such, Dimas' work falls into the surrealist abstraction fostered by Wilfredo Lam.

-Yasmin Ramirez

Mr. Dimas earned his BFA degree from the School of Visual Arts in 1970. His work was featured in *Mixed Blessings: New Art in a Multi-cultural America*, written by Lucy L. Lipard. Dimas is the recipient of the 1995 and 1999 BRIO painting fellowship awards and was the winner of the 1977 CAPS film-making fellowship with the award winning film "Towards a Collective Expression." He is a recipient of the 2000-01 Longwood Art Center Cyber Gallery Residency. At the 13th Biennial of Caribbean and Latin American printmaking, he exhibited a selection of digital prints during 2000-01. In 2003 Dimas participated in the 9th Annual Seoul International Art Festival where he presented a lecture on Alternative and Environment Art. Mr. Dimas is one of the original founders of Taller Boricua/ The Puerto Rican Workshop. Established in 1970, as a non-profit arts organization, it has expanded into a multicultural institution by providing a variety of programs that stimulate the social, cultural and economic development of the East Harlem community. As Artistic Director, Marcos Dimas has been the curator of more than 240 exhibitions.





**Atabeira and the Apparition**  
Acrylic on canvas, 28" x 50" (1990)



**Los Otros / The Others**  
Oil on linen, 58" x 62" (1972)





**Manifested Into**

Oil on Linen, 48" x 52" (1977)





## MARCOS DIMAS: A Retrospective, 35 Years of Selected Works

“Marcos Dimas: A Retrospective, 35 Years of Selected Works” is a rare opportunity to experience a cross-section of his mastery in painting. A versatile painter, sculptor, printmaker and filmmaker, Dimas’ body of work touches deep into our unconscious to evoke a reverie of dreams and memories. Channeling the spirit of early tribal cultures and iconography, he is a contemporary Shaman unveiling the primordial, invisible forces and spirits that pervade us still. These non-objective and representational entities elicit visceral, psychological connections to them such as in *La Mancha / Spotted Moon* and *Los Otros / The Others*.

Through a vibrant palette and bold expressive brushstrokes, for example in *Manifested Into*, his canvasses are filled with potent magic, translating everyday items and abstract forms into visual talismans of esoteric thoughts and emotion. Assemblages of familiar objects such as an umbrella and feathers in *Portrait of a Fighting Cock* transform detritus into provocative, powerful symbols.

Allegorical and lyrical they take us on a journey that is at once familiar and unknown. His work expands across an eclectic period in art: primitivism, surrealism, fauvism and abstract expressionism allowing it a timelessness all its own. For example, with *Space in Time* a boat awaits on a grounded sea of color framed with thick strokes dense with free associations offering a direct passage into our collective psyche. In another piece, *Amertrinity*, Dimas pays tribute to the American Indians. Juxtaposing contemporary visual language with historical content conflates time and space while exploring the masks and personas we are confronted with in modern society.

Marcos Dimas’ painting retrospective also marks the occasion of being awarded the Community Works’ “Latin Roots: Living History Award for his contribution to East Harlem arts, activism and community.

Christine Licata





**Yuca Zemí – Feathers Bundle**  
Acrylic on canvas, 54” x 20” (1991)





**Mirá / Meter**

Acrylic on canvas, 44" x 52" (2000)



**La Mancha - Spotted Moon**  
Acrylic on canvas, 56" x 60" (1993)









MAR  
COS  
DIMAS



**In Marcos Dimas' works I noticed taino symbols dancing inside of the musical symbols in a dice game quivering and accompanying the calavera playing piano with the silent cowbell, never to be seen cowbell, suspended by itself. We the can hear the multiple taino symbols emerging from the caves of multi-color spasms, the universal trinity of life succumbed and injected through multicolored mezclas. Insane, then in-sane. Critical insanity immersed from this intellectual perspective, but how can death be colored into life and the so ons of this sun-all rainbow tragedy and guess what? I felt it all through the detail, the tale, tail of his sonorous detalles.**

**Tato Laviera**



**Sounds / = / Images**

Acrylic on canvas, 50" x 96" (2007)





**Amertrinity** (detail)  
Acrylic on canvas, 63" x 140" (1994)



**Amertrinity (detail)**  
Acrylic on canvas, 63" x 140" (1994)





**Amertrinity** (detail)  
Acrylic on canvas, 63" x 140" (1994)



**Amertrinity**

Acrylic on canvas, 63" x 140" (1994)







**Orishas in Love**

Mixed media on canvas, 50" x 44" (1986)





**Portrait of a Fighting Cock**

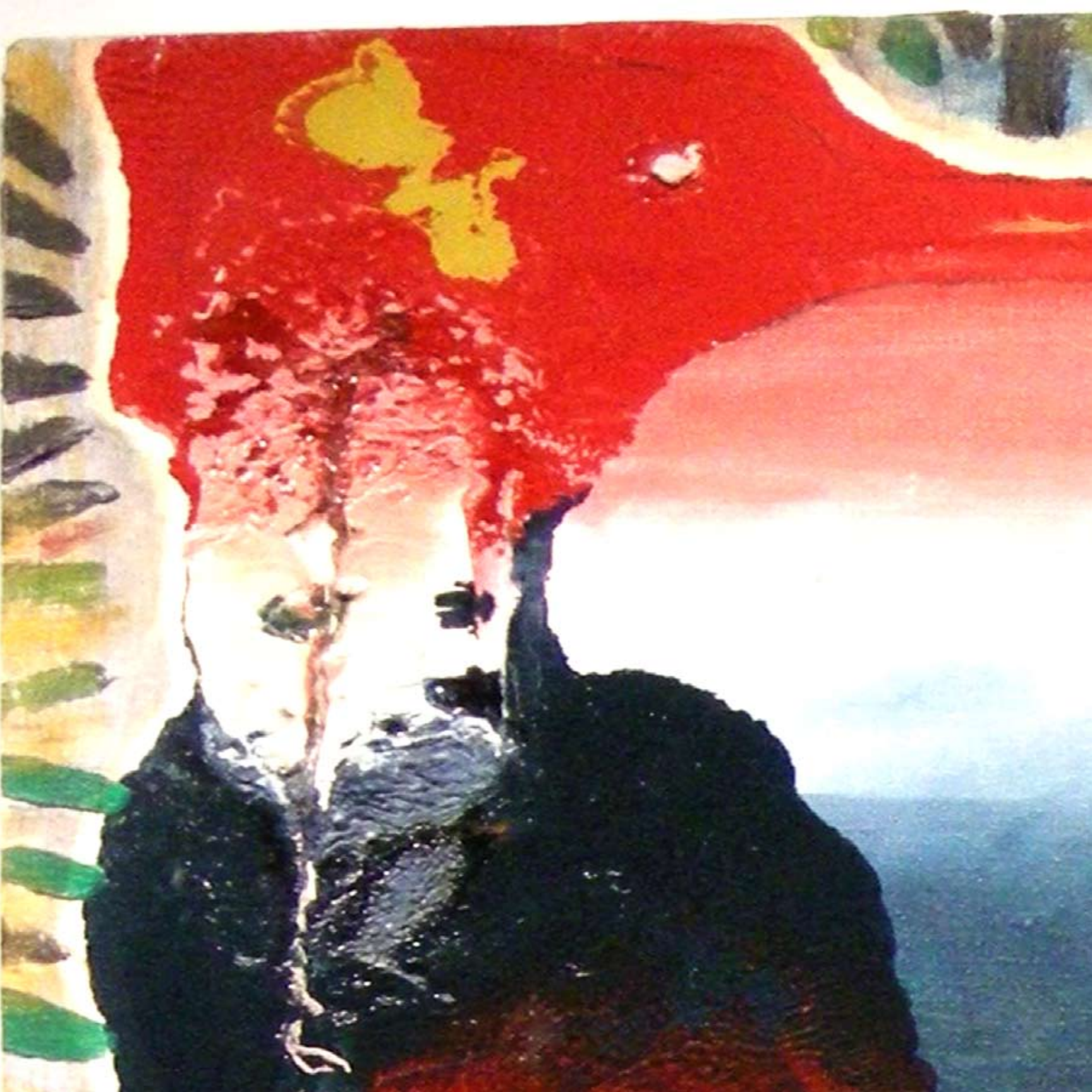
Acrylic Collage on Canvas, 48" x 48" 1986



**Based On A Myth**

Acrylic on canvas, 46" x 38" (1991)









**Space in Time**

Oil on linen, 46" x 54" (1978)









**Sun Storm**

Acrylic on canvas, 53"x36" (1995)









**Flaming Roses**

Mixed media on canvas, 58" x 54" (1986)





## MARCOS DIMAS: Curriculum Vitae Fine Arts Exhibitions

### Solo Exhibitions:

- 2008 "Marcos Dimas a Retrospective 35 Years Selected Works;" Taller Boricua Galleries, N.Y.C. *Selected Paintings*
- 2007-2008 "The Glorious Monster;" Taller Boricua Galleries, N.Y.C. *Constructions, Assemblages, Prints*
- 2007 "Paintings;" Global Link Gallery, N.Y.C.
- 2006 "The Art of Marcos Dimas;" Centro Gallery, Hunter College, N.Y.C. *Paintings*
- 2004 "The Last Paintings;" Philosophy Box Gallery, N.Y.C.
- 2001 "Sights and Sounds;" Bronx River Arts Center and Gallery, N.Y.C. *Multimedia collaboration with Jazz composer Papo Vasquez Music Composition and Visual Art.*
- 1986 "Recent Work;" Bronx Museum, N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings*
- 1981 "The Voyager and Other Works a Decade of Art;" Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Constructions, Assemblages, Paintings, Drawings, Installations*
- 1978-79 "Paintings and Drawings;" Cayman Gallery, Soho, N.Y.C.
- 1979 "The Imagist;" Association of Hispanic Arts, N.Y.C. *Drawings. Assemblages*
- 1973 "Marcos Dimas Ramirez, Soul Capture;" Galería Barrio, N.Y.C. *Paintings, Prints*
- 1971 "Solo;" Taller Boricua Galleries, N.Y.C. *Paintings*

### Selected Exhibitions:

- 2008 "Painterly Graphics;" Sidney Mishkin gallery at Baruch College, N.Y.C. *Silkaquatint Prints*
- 2007 "Remix;" Clemente Soto Velez, Cultural Center N.Y.C. *Design Concepts for a Parade*
- 2006 "CIRCA Puerto Rico 06;" S.J. First International ART *Digital Prints Fair*
- 2006 "Prints;" Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk Connecticut. *Silkaquatint Prints*
- 2006 "Nuestra Cultura Artística;" Lubeznick Center for the Arts. Michigan City, Indiana. *Prints*
- 2005 "Sculpture in Progress;" Bronx Art Now, Bronx River Art Center, N.Y.C. *Constructions, Assemblages*
- 2005 "12<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Art Festival," Chosunilbo Art Museum, Seoul, Korea. *Digital Prints*
- 2005 "Upside;" Taller Boricua Galleries, N.Y.C. *Selection of Combine Paintings*
- 2004 "Off the Main;" Contemporary African, Caribbean and Latin American Art, N.Y.C. *Prints*
- 2003 "National Exhibition of the Plastic Arts;" San Juan, P.R. *Paintings From Digital*



2003 "The 13<sup>th</sup> Seoul International Art Festival," Seoul, Korea *Alternative and Environmental Art. Prints*

2000-01 "9<sup>th</sup> San Juan Biennial of Latin American and Caribbean Printmakers," P.R. *Prints*

2000 "Pedro Albizu Campos;" Taller Boricua Gallery, N.Y.C. *Mixed Media Works on Paper*

1999 "Pressing the Point;" Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Movement Graphic Arts*

1998 "Invested Vision;" The National Arts Club, N.Y.C. *The Celestial Warrior*

1998 "Printmaking from Puerto Rico to East Harlem;" Rutgers University, N.J. *Prints From 1970 & 1980*

1998 "12<sup>th</sup> San Juan Biennial of Latin American and Caribbean Printmakers," P.R. *Broadway Boogie Woogie con SALSA*

1995 "Reaffirming Spirituality;" Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Spirit Traps*

1994 "Yslas / Art In Transit;" Hostos College, N.Y.C. *Amertrinity Paintings*

1994 "El Puerto Rican Embassy;" Kenkeleba Gallery, N.Y.C. *La Mancha Paintings*

1994 "Reclaiming History: 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition;" Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Assemblages*

1993/94 "El Tema del Indio En El Arte Puertorriqueno;" Museo De Las Americas, San Juan, P.R. *Taino Inspired Paintings*

1993 "Carnaval Mitos, Magia y Tradiciones;" Galeria Normandie, San Juan, P.R. *Arawanily Painting*

1993 "500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition at the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture / Muestra de Arte Puertorriqueno Quinto Centenario;" Instituto de Cultura, San Juan, P.R. *Paintings*

1993 "Home Away from Home;" Latin American Artists, The Art Museum at Stony Brook, N.Y. *Paintings*

1992 "Crossection;" Arts and Events at the World Financial Center, N.Y.C. *Constructions*

1991 "A New Season;" Taller Boricua at the Museum of the City of New York, N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings*

1990 "P.S. 39 and the Longwood Community," N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings*

1989 / 90 "Taller Alma Boricua;" 20 Years Exhibit at El Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Mixed Media Work*

1988 "Huellas;" la Galeria El Bohio, N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings*

1988 "Homage: Duet for Huelsenbek;" Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Participant in piano destruction performance with Rafael Montañez Ortiz*

1986 "Segunda Bienal de la Habana / Second Biennial;" Havana, Cuba. *Acrylic Paintings*

1986 "Transculture Transmedia;" Exit Art, N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings*

1986 "South Bronx Show;" Bronx Council on the Arts, N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings*

1986 "Caribbean Art / African Currents;" Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Arts, N.Y.C. *Assemblages – Combines*

1986 "Democracy at Work;" Longwood Arts Project, N.Y.C. *Movement Graphics*

1985 "Art Works in City Spaces;" The Tweed Courthouse Gallery, N.Y.C. *Paintings*

1985 "Hispanic Art Tour" (traveled till 1987), N.Y.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Denver, Houston, Miami. *Paintings*

1985 "Surplus Art;" Exit Art, N.Y.C. *Assemblages - Combines*

1984 "Cuarteto;" Hostos Community College, N.Y.C. *Combine Paintings with Photography*

1983 "Roots;" Ollantay Gallery, N.Y.C. *Assemblage Drawings*

1983 "The Other America (Das Andere Amerika);" Berlin West Germany. *Movement Graphics*

1982 "Made in NY;" City Gallery, N.Y.C. *Paintings*

1982 "Octopus;" collaborative project with Papo Colo, Museo del Barrio, N.Y.C. *Echo Has Its Own House*

1981 "Hispanic Artists in New York City;" City Gallery, N.Y.C. *The Voyager. Construction*

1981 "Taller Boricua at Rutgers University;" N.J. *Prints and Paintings*

1981 "Events;" The New Museum of Contemporary Art, N.Y.C. *Constructions and Paintings*

1981 "Strangers;" Collective Ambience, Taller Boricua, N.Y.C. *Installation*

1980 Housotonic University Museum, N.Y.C. *Paintings and Graphics*

1979 "Artists 79;" United Nations, N.Y.C. *Assemblage Drawings*

1979 "Private Icon;" Bronx Museum, N.Y.C. *Constructions, Assemblages*

1978 "Bridge Between Islands;" traveled to the Museo Del Barrio, Bronx Museum, and Henry Street Settlement, N.Y.C. *Paintings and Prints*

1977 "Confrontracion: Ambiente y Espacio;" Museo del Barro Installations, N.Y.C. *Installation. Mixed Media*

1977 "Soho - Whitney Counterweight;" Cayman Gallery, N.Y.C. *Prints*

1976 "NAM;" Brooklyn Museum, N.Y.C. *Drawings and Paintings*

1976 "Spirit of Independence;" Cayman Gallery, N.Y.C. *Prints*

1976 "IMAN;" Center for Inter American Relations, N.Y.C. traveled to the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, and The Ponce Museum, P.R. *Assemblage Drawings*

1974 "Paintings and Assemblages;" Forum's Gallery, N.Y.C.

1973 "First Festival of Third World Arts;" Hunter College, N.Y.C. *Paintings*

1971 Taller Boricua at Automation House, N.Y.C. *Logo Print*

1970 "New York Artists;" Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, P.R. *Paintings*

1969 "Contemporary Puerto Rican Artists;" Brooklyn Museum, N.Y.C. *Paintings and Assemblage*



## **Bibliography:**

Julie Ault, "Alternative Art N.Y.. 1965-1985," 2002  
Marcos Dimas, "30<sup>th</sup> Year Exhibition Catalogue; Taller Alma Boricua," 2001  
Javier Martinez de Pizon, "Una Pintura que Ahonda en las Raices," Medico Interamerican, 1999  
Veerle Poupeye, "Caribbean Art." 1998  
Susana Torruella Leval "Identity and Freedom" A Challenge for the Nineties Decade, 1990  
Lucy R. Lippard "Mixed Blessings" New Art in a Multicultural America, 1990  
Marcos Dimas "Taller Boricua," 1989  
Carlos Carrillo "Marcos Dimas' Exhibit at the Bronx Museum" El Diario, Oct. 1986  
Lucy R. Lippard "Out of Sight Out of Mind" Asian and Hispanic Artists, UP Front, 1984  
Catalina Parra "El Museo Del Barrio un Museo Hispano en la Quinta Avenida" Cartellera #6. 1982  
Grace Gluek, New York Times, February 5, 1982  
Juan Bujan, La Voz Hispana, March 17, 1982  
Ruben Rosario, Daily News, December 6, 1981  
David Hershkovitz, Village Voice, February 1978  
New York Reviews, Arts News, October 1978  
"Art in the Barrio" New York Magazine, August 7, 1972  
"Taller Boricua Art and Fraternity" El Diario, July 4, 1972  
"New York Artists at the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture" El Nuevo Dia, July 7, 1970  
Olivia Delgado "Una Fecunda Veta de Artistas Desconocidos;" LIFE, May 19, 1969

## **Education:**

1976 WNET Film and Television School, graduate  
1973 Post Graduate Studies at the School of Visual Arts  
1970 School of Visual Arts, graduate

**Grants and Awards:**

2008 Community Works Latin Roots Living History Award

2005 21<sup>st</sup> Century International Creative Artists. 12<sup>th</sup> International Art Festival – Invited Artist.

2003 21<sup>st</sup> Century International Creative Artists, 9<sup>th</sup> International Art Festival – Invented Artist.

2000-01 Longwood Art Center's Cyber Gallery Residency and Exhibition Program

2001 BRAC Artist Space Program Fellowship

1999 BRIO Painting Fellowship

1995 BRIO Painting Fellowship

1986 Artist in Residence Fellowship-Bronx Council on the Arts. P.S. 39 Longwood Arts Project

1977 C.A.P.S. NYFA Filmmaking Fellowship

**Organizations:**

1969 to present – Artist-Founder/Director of the Puerto Rican Workshop, Inc. (A.K.A. Taller Boricua)





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**This document commemorates the exhibition “Marcos Dimas: A Retrospective of 35 years of Selected Works” at the Taller Boricua Galleries. It also marks the occasion of being bestowed the distinct honor of receiving Community Works’ “Latin Roots Living History Award” in New York City on September 19, 2008.**

**Writing Credits:**

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