

## **Recommendation for Miguel Martinez**

We (Richard Timperio and Elspeth Leacock, a painter and map editor respectively) have known Miguel Martinez since 1992 both as a friend and an employee, and we have been familiar with his work since that time.

Unlike the work of most young painters fresh out of art school, Martinez's work as far back as 1992, was identifiably his own. He developed his own language of color and shape, drawing on his cultural heritage, but in no way limited or constrained by it.

As we look back over the paintings chronologically, his early works retain their freshness and vitality, the influence of abstract expressionist masters is evident but the work is never imitative. The viewer is immersed in a world wholly of Martinez's making, his own organic, intricately woven landscapes.

The later work reveals his passionate and fearless effort to refine what he sees and does. The ambitiousness of the work is enabled by his intelligence, dedication and the trait that everyone who knows Miguel must marvel at, his energy.

Miguel Martinez was a valuable addition to the small team of painters that worked for/with Richard Timperio at the Apollo designing and building sets for Showtime at the Apollo. What made Miguel unique was he not only brought to the job his intelligence, keen vision, power of concentration, energy and fortitude enabling the sets to always improve, change, surprise and excite; he also brought flexibility, humor, generosity, and the wisdom and willingness to help other artists achieve their own artistic goals. He was a major reason the team performed small miracles under extreme pressure and difficult working conditions.

I am sure that if you enable Miguel Martinez to participate, he will be a credit to your graduate program.

Sincerely,

Elspeth Leacock

Richard Timperio