**Adrian Viajero Roman**

**Adrian Roman**, also known as Viajero, was born in New York City of Puerto Rican descent. Throughout his travels to the Caribbean, Central America, Africa, and a number of cities across the United States, he has exposed himself to a variety of cultures that have influenced his work.

Viajero is an artist resident of the NARS Foundation in Brooklyn New York, and works closely with the Caribbean Cultural Center African Disapora Institute in New York City. In 2012, he exhibited at Museo de Arte de Caguas, Puerto Rico as part of the group show AFROLATINOS, which was awarded Best Exhibit 2012 by International Association of Art Critics. Viajero was most recently nominated for the Joan Mitchell Foundation grant for sculpture. He has exhibited in solo and group shows in the United States and Puerto Rico.

Artist Statement

My work is informed by issues of race, migration and identity while exploring both the personal and historical memory of the two disparate worlds that I inhabit: the tropical landscape of Puerto Rico and the overpopulated cityscape of New York.

My practice combines drawing, painting and sculpture within immersive installation environments composed of objects collected from different communities, from salvaged wood and window frames to historic artifacts and vintage photographs. The resulting environments can fill an entire wall or an entire room, and often incorporate sound and aromatics that draw upon the history and memory embedded in the objects. I’m interested in the continuity of time, and in how these interventions may bring these living histories forward to the present.

This altar, *Siempre* 2019, is a symbol to always acknowledge and never forget those activists, artists, and community leaders who helped pave the way for us.

Pictured from left to right are:

Pedro Pietri(1944-2004) Young Lord poet laureate

Julio Roldán (d.1970) Young Lord murdered in the Manhattan Detention Center a/k/a The Tombs prison on October 16, 1970 after being arrested for participating in YLO Garbage Offensives

Bimbo Rivas (1939-1992) Nuyorican Poet/community activist/teacher, whose poem “Loisaida,” (1974) extolled the unique bi-cultural community that Puerto Ricans created on the Lower East Side.

Luis Garden Acosta (1945-2019) Young Lord and co-founder of El Puente Academy for Peace and Justice in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Tato Laviera (1950-2013) Nuyorican poet/activist/teacher whose bi-lingual spoken word poetry celebrating Afro-Puerto Rican culture pre-figured hip hop and reggaeton.

Eddie Figueroa (d.1991) Young Lord/actor/playwright and co-founder of the New Rican Village and The Puerto Rican Embassy with Pedro Pietri.

Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002) LBGT rights pioneer, Young Lords ally and founder of S.T.A.R (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries).