**Juan Sánchez**

**Juan Sánchez** earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Cooper Union School of Art in 1977, and in 1980, a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Mason Gross School of the Arts of Rutgers University. His mixed medium paintings, prints, photographs and video installations have been exhibited throughout the United States, Europe, Egypt and Latin America. Sánchez has had solo exhibitions at EXIT ART, P.S.1/MoMA Contemporary Art Center, El Museo del Barrio, the 1994 5th Havana Bienale, Bronx Museum of the Arts and El Museo de Historia, Antropologia y Arte, Universidad de Puerto Rico. His work is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, The Smithsonian American Art Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, El Museo del Barrio, El Instituto de Cultura Puertorriquena in Rio Piedras, PR and El Centro Wilfredo Lam in Havana, Cuba, among others.

Artist Statement

The people of Puerto Rico are United States citizens, and

yet they are still facing extremely disastrous conditions and

neglect from the devastation of hurricane María. The

economy is bankrupt and the United States has complete

control over the people. This speaks very clearly to their

second-class citizenship since 1917 and their colonized

existence since 1898.

*Tres Banderas,* 1998 and *Once We Were Warriors*, 1999 are viscerally rich, layered mixed-media prints that is most appropriate at this moment. They speak to the culture, pride, history and contributions of the Young Lords Party. The photograph I took of a Puerto Rican flag tattoo on the arm of a young U.S. marine in the 1970’s, and a famous portrait of Young Lords Felipe Luciano, Iris Morales and Juan Gonzalez by photographer Michael Abramson juxtaposed with Taino and African symbols and torn collage edges of the urban environment, express the Young Lord’s impact on the Puerto Rican Diaspora, their advocacy for self-determination, civil and human rights and social justice for all oppressed people.