**Rafael Tufiño**

Rafael Tufiño was born in Brooklyn, New York, raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and trained as an artist in Mexico. Returning to Puerto Rico in the late 1940s, Tufiño employed his broad artistic background to foster an artistic renaissance on the island during the 1950’s that was akin was to Mexican renaissance in early twentieth century. A versatile modernist who worked in abstract and figurative modes, Tufiño was best known for his archetypical renderings of Puerto Rico’s folk culture which earned him the title of “El Pintor del Pueblo” (the People’s Painter). His influence on generations of artists in Puerto Rico and across the Puerto Rican diaspora has been vast and wide-ranging; examples of Tufiño’s posters of Puerto Rican folk culture could be seen in the Young Lords’ offices in East Harlem.Seen within the context of the Young Lords politically charged-window displays, Tufiño’s popular images of caramel-colored famers and black folk singers were re-coded as portraits of the island’s revolutionary proletariat. In 1970 he moved back to New York and co-founded Taller Boricua/The Puerto Rican Workshop in East Harlem. Located across the street from the Young Lords offices, he and other Taller members made many posters for political rallies and marches.

**Works in the Exhibition**:

*Las Cuatro Cruces de los Young Lords:*

*Norte, Sur, Este y Oeste,* 1974

4 Mixed Media Prints

Collection of Nitza Tufiño

*Albizu Campos*, 1970

Linotype

Collection of Rachel Breitman

*Uncle Sam en Culebra* (1970)

Linotype

Collection of Rachel Brietman

*Jayuya,* 1970

Silkscreen

Collection of Ken Taniguchi