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Press Release

**¡Dominicanazo!
The New Dominican Wave in Art
At Samson Projects**

Exhibition Dates:
Friday, January 21 – Sunday, February 27

The public is invited to an artist talk in the gallery on Saturday, January 22 – 2 PM



Location:
450 Harrison Avenue
Storefront 63
Boston, MA 02118

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday to Sunday: 12 to 6 PM and by appointment

Tel: 617 357 7177
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Email: kmilo@samsonprojects.com
Web site: www.samsonprojects.com

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Barbara Quiroga T. (617) 965 - 5141

Belkis Ramirez, *Untitled #20*
(de la serie "Equipaje de Mano"), 2004
Mixed media, Approximately 4 x 6 inches

¡Dominicanazo! – The New Dominican Wave in Art At Samson Projects

(Boston, MA) – **¡Dominicanazo!**, the long awaited show curated by Dominican gallerist, Camilo Alvarez, will open at SAMSON PROJECTS on Friday, January 21st, 2005. Almost a year in the planning, **¡Dominicanazo!**, brings to Boston the most exciting artists from Alvarez's native Dominican Republic.

Riding the dynamic art wave swelling throughout the Caribbean and Latin America, SAMSON PROJECTS presents the most provocative and stirring images from the current Dominican art scene. The artists include: **Elia Alba, Tony Capellán, José García**

Cordero, Nicolás Dumit Estévez, Mónica Ferreras, Iliana Emilia García, Scherezade García, Pascal Meccariello and Belkis Ramírez.

In the Dominican Republic, a country in which painting has always prevailed, sculpture is seldom attempted, and performance art is often misunderstood – this group show will include installation, sculpture, video and painting. What unifies this exhibit is the artists' questioning, reflection and ultimate rejection of local restrictions. Through their imagery, they expose their country's social problems - issues of poverty, tourism and "third world" politics. The exhibition decodes and debunks cultural stereotypes as the artists use diverse ways to translate their experiences in relation to their culture, gender and sexual positioning. The local flavor is re-contextualized for international consumption.

Pascal Meccariello dictates, "Art is a great delirium, an obsessive rebelliousness. It keeps us from being satisfied with the simple appearance of things. It imposes us the task of seeking its essence." **Mónica Ferreras** psychoanalytical mandala paintings attempt to capture the essence of

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Belkis Ramirez
Voy
2004
Approximately 36 x 15 inches



Garcia Cordero
La Isla en Grito
2004
Acrylic on canvas



Elia Alba
(Suits) If I were a...

thoughts. **Elia Alba's** body suits comment on the ephemeral nature of skin and its cultural labels.

The poignant sculpture by Tony **Capellán**, included in the Samson exhibit, uses found objects to invoke the hunger pains suffered by the country's children while **Belkis Ramírez**, an architect by trade, incorporates wire, fences and netting to depict the distressing position of women in this traditional machista culture. Ramírez, whose work evolved from printmaking, will exhibit sculptures.

Performance artist, **Nicolás Dumit Estévez**, recently received the Franklin Furnace Award and in 2002 was chosen to be part of the National Studio Program at P.S. 1/MOMA. **José García Cordero**, clearly the elder statesman among this group of contemporary artists, divides his time between studios in Santo Domingo and Paris. Cordero creates large-scale paintings that reflect both the duality of his personal experience and the historical clash between European and Caribbean culture.

Scherezade and Iliana Emilia García are sisters with unique voices. Scherezade questions paradise through a baroque sensibility. She is fascinated with the "duality of everything". Iliana Emilia's multimedia work is strongly experiential as the imagination and curiosity dictates one's encounter.

With the growing interest in Latin American and Caribbean art, two New England museums are also exploring contemporary art from the Caribbean. Coinciding with SAMSON PROJECTS' *¡Dominicanazo!*, which focuses solely on Dominican artists, the RISD Museum currently has an exhibition on new art from island nations and the Peabody Essex Museum will open an exhibit of contemporary art from the Caribbean in February.

The show opens January 21st, on Día de la Altagracia, a religious holiday in Dominican culture, closing on Sunday, February 27th - Dominican Independence Day. SAMSON PROJECTS will hold a grand fiesta in the gallery at 6 PM to celebrate Dominican Independence Day.

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2004
Mixed media
Dimensions variable



Pascal Meccariello
Un Toque de Angel
2000
Cibachrome print mounted
on plexiglass lightbox
36 x 24 inches



Nicolás Dumit Estévez
Untitled
2004
Embroidered cotton and
nylon
72 x 36 inches