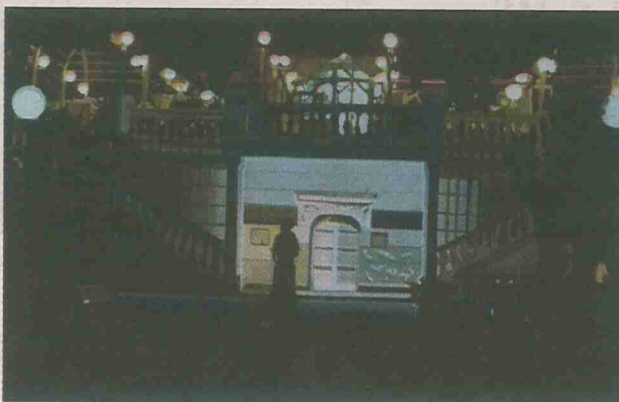
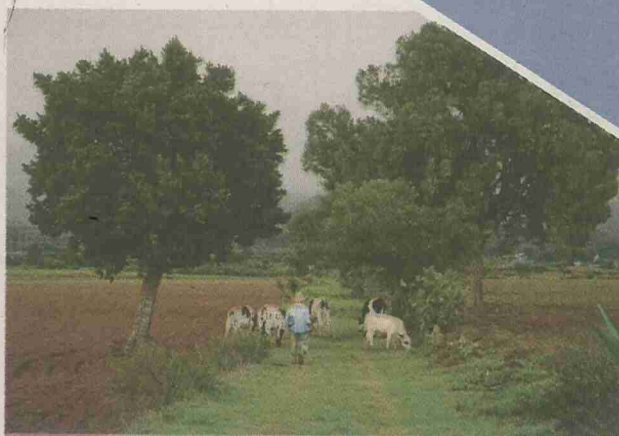


"El Jaleo," 2007 oil on linen by Ismael Checo.



Top: "Oaxacan Farmer," a 2008 photograph by George Velasco.
Bottom: "Casino Nocturne IV," a 1986 acrylic painting by Maria Mijares.



"Ivomne," a 2005 pastel on paper by Miguel Tio.

GE celebrates the richness of Hispanic culture

By **Georgette Gouveia**
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Among the most intimate relationships between the arts and business is the one explored in the corporate art collection.

GE in Fairfield and UBS in Stamford are notable examples, with The UBS Art Collection among the largest corporate collections of contemporary art in the world.

Both are also clients of Picture That L.L.C., an 8-year-old fine-art consulting firm in Stamford that curates public exhibits on multicultural themes at the companies' headquarters.

Through Oct. 29 at GE, you can see "Private Lives: Public Faces," the company's fourth annual exploration of Hispanic Heritage Month with Picture That. What's wonderful about the show is that it allows you to glimpse the joyous dignity in the lives of Spanish-speaking people at a time when there is much talk about (and let's face

it, fear of) Hispanic immigrants. These are people who do the masonry work at your homes, mow the lawns and cook the meals. But they also sing salsa, create witty commentaries on some of the world's greatest artworks and enliven their native cultures. The exhibit celebrates the diversity of their contributions in works by Mexican-born George Velasco, now a Connecticut resident; New Yorkers Ismael Checo and Miguel Tio, both of the Dominican Republic; and New Jersey artist Carlos Bautista from Colombia and Maria Mijares from Spain.

Among the most striking images in the exhibit belong to Ismael Checo, who plays with cultural references in his paintings. His "El Jaleo," a 2007 oil on linen, is also the title of a work by the 19th-century American portraitist and landscape painter John Singer Sargent – he of the sensual canvases. Here Checo cheekily places a flamenco guitarist before his reproduced image of Sargent's flamenco dancer. So the painting isn't only about flamenco. It's a comment on painting itself.

Velasco captures the flavor of his Mexican homeland in works such as the Arcadian photograph "Oaxacan Farmer" (2008). Contrast this with the beckoning nightlife in Maria Mijares' almost photographic acrylic painting "Casino Nocturne IV" (1986).

Rounding out the exhibit are self-possessed portraits by Carlos Bautista and Miguel Tio, including Tio's 2005 pastel on paper, "Ivomne."

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. GE is at 3135 Easton Turnpike.

Can't get to the gallery? You can view the work online at <http://picture-that.com/gegallery/hispanic/gallery-2010.html>.

UBS' show, "Explosion of Color," also runs through Oct. 29. And you can see it at <http://picture-that.com/ubsgallery/hispanic/gallery-2010.html> and see the UBS collection at <http://www.ubs.com/4/artcollection/index.html>.

For more on all of this, contact Picture That at 977-8203.