

# ANTONIO



## ANTONIO'S WORLD

SEPTEMBER 7-OCTOBER 20, 2012

The Suzanne Geiss Company, 76 Grand Street, New York, NY 10013

*Antonio's World*, a survey of the work of Antonio Lopez (1943-1987), will open at The Suzanne Geiss Company on September 7, 2012. The exhibition will showcase three decades of the artist's polymathic creative output, including never before seen drawings, photographs, and ephemera. Lopez's seminal works, which adorned the pages of *Vogue*, *The New York Times*, *Women's Wear Daily*, and *Interview* throughout the 1970's and 1980's, remain a powerful source of inspiration, galvanizing contemporary visual culture through a variety of disciplines including fine art, digital media, and fashion.

Beginning in the 1960's, Lopez redefined fashion imagery with his portrayal of the "Antonio Girls," comprised most notably of Pat Cleveland, Jane Forth, Jerry Hall, Grace Jones, and Jessica Lange. His

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infectiously charismatic persona and Pygmalion's eye for raw beauty led Antonio, and the equally magnetic art director, Juan Ramos, to discover and transform these aspiring models into paragons of glamour.

Inspired by his muses, contemporary culture, and a diverse range of historical and artistic movements, Lopez forged a diverse body of work rendered in pencil, ink, charcoal, watercolor, and film. His ability to convey the human form - and the couture that ornamented it - with flourish and mastery inspired the creation of drawings, ranging from classical, surrealistic, abstract, pop, and urban. Lopez's distinctive method, which synthesized dedicated study and intrinsic virtuosity, established him as one of the most influential tastemakers of the age.

Antonio's multifaceted approach to his art notoriously seeped into the nightlife persona he cultivated while working with Karl Lagerfeld in Paris from 1969 to the mid 1970's. The celebrity coterie that surrounded him during his Paris years became the subjects of his drawings and photographs. The iconic Instamatics and Polaroids of Divine, Paloma Picasso, Yves Saint Laurent, among many others remain powerful works of photography and important cultural records of a time of exuberant creative productivity and consumption. By the time Lopez returned to New York City in the late 1970's, he was a celebrated name inspiring designers such as Norma Kamali and Anna Sui. By the 1980's, he led commercial campaigns for prestigious brands such as YSL, Valentino, Missoni, and Versace.

*Antonio's World*, the first comprehensive exhibition of Lopez's work in New York since 2001, will present a selection of Antonio's most iconic pieces created from the 1960's through his death in 1987. The work will be displayed in an immersive installation conceptualized by Rafael de Cárdenas, founder of the progressive design firm Architecture at Large. Before opening his firm, Cárdenas spent three years working as a men's collection designer at Calvin Klein and, in 2011, he was appointed to Baccarat's inaugural Board of Advisors. His fashion background remains an influence in his approach to design.

The first complete Antonio Lopez monograph, *Antonio Lopez: Fashion, Art, Sex, and Disco*, will be released by Rizzoli New York in conjunction with the exhibition. Written by Roger Padilha and Mauricio Padilha, with a forward by André Leon Talley and epilogue by Anna Sui, the monograph will showcase Lopez's iconic works, including never before seen Instamatic photos, Polaroids, letters, and ephemera. Likewise, Twin Palms Publishers has recently released *Instamatics: Antonio Lopez*, a survey of Lopez's Polaroids, co-edited by Paul Caranicas and Jack Woody.

## ABOUT ANTONIO LOPEZ

Antonio Lopez was born in Utuado, Puerto Rico in 1943. He moved to New York City as a small child and studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology before dropping out to pursue an internship at Women's Wear Daily, launching a flourishing career in the art and fashion industries. His work has been exhibited at The Fashion Institute of Technology (1988), The Louvre (1994), Royal College of Art, London (1997), the Smithsonian Institute (2001), Design Museum London (2010), Society of Illustrators in association with the Leslie Lohman Gay Art Foundation (2011), and recently at the Musée des Arts Decoratifs Palais du Louvre and the Victoria & Albert Museum (2011-2012). Previous publications include, *Antonio's Girls* (Thames & Hudson 1982), *Antonio's Tales from the Thousand & One Nights* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1985), *Antonio, 60, 70, 80: Three Decades in Style* by Juan Ramos (Schirmer/Mosel 1995), *Antonio Lopez: Instamatics* (Arena Editions 2002), and *Antonio's People* by Paul Caranicas (Thames & Hudson 2004).

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### Hours Open

Tuesday-Saturday 12-6pm

To receive additional information please contact: [info@suzannegeiss.com](mailto:info@suzannegeiss.com)