



Smithsonian
National Portrait Gallery

**PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST
ARMANDO DEJESUS DOMINGUEZ**

“I have learned to use art, not only as a means of expression, but also as an exercise for meditation and prayer by using patience and observation to acquire my goals,” says Armando DeJesus Dominguez, an entrant in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006. Dominguez is the ninth artist in a series of contemporary artists to be featured on the National Portrait Gallery’s innovative “Portrait of an Artist” Web site, an innovative feature of the competition that allows viewers into the lives of the artists behind the entries. “Painting has always been my passion, and only through passion am I able to understand life.”

Signing his work “DeJesus,” Dominguez’ competition entry is an enthralling portrait of his sons’ tutor, “Mr. Williams.” “I painted this portrait out of gratitude for the many years that Mr. Williams dedicated to tutoring my twin sons in algebra and geometry,” says Dominguez. “One of his dreams was to have a painting reflecting his African heritage, so I began to research and learn more about his culture. This portrait was a labor of patience. I recreated every single detail to capture the amazing tonalities reflected on his skin tone as well as the different textures and bone structure that form the facial features that capture his giving spirit.”

Dominguez was born in Havana, Cuba and now lives in Miami, with his wife and three sons. From an early age, he showed a strong interest in and passion for the arts, and was supported and encouraged by his family. It was in Miami, at the age of 12, that he began studying classical painting under Emilio Estevez, alumnus of the San Alejandro Art School in Cuba, who taught him the basic foundations of painting. Now a graphic designer for Univision Broadcasting Network, DeJesus says he has a versatile approach and uses different styles to communicate or portray a particular idea.

“Knowing that everything is possible when you’re consistent, I approach the journey of life with a humble attitude and determination. I find that nature is a constant reminder of God’s presence in our daily lives and I want to recreate that in my paintings.”

Dominguez is a self-taught musician who finds passion and inspiration from music, and has passed down this love to his children, who play the violin and bass. He also finds time to visit local schools and does presentations to expose children to the arts. “My passion for painting and my commitment for self-improvement have taught me to learn from others,” Dominguez says.

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Media: For more information or to schedule an interview with Armando DeJesus Dominguez, please contact Vicki Moeser at (202) 357-2627 Ext. 111 or Cheryl Davis at (202) 974-5033 or davisc@ruderfinn.com. For more information on the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006, please visit www.portraitcompetition.si.edu.