

# GALLERY AFERRO

## *Two Spirits*

Luis Carle & Gerardo Castro, Curated by Jo-El Lopez



Gerardo Castro, *Ice Pop* (detail), oil, crystal rhinestones, wallpaper, transfers on oil paper, 24x72, 2017

**April 7 - May 26, 2018**  
**Eleta J. Caldwell & Rodney M. Gilbert**  
**Memorial Gallery**  
**73 Market Street, Newark**

### **OPENING RECEPTION**

April 7th, 2018  
7pm - 10pm

### **GALLERY HOURS**

Wednesday - Saturday  
12pm - 6pm  
and by appointment

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Gallery Aferro and Newark Arts are honoring the lives of two powerful and much-beloved Newark culture workers: Rodney Gilbert (July 27, 1967- November 8, 2017) and Eleta J. Caldwell (June 13, 1945 – December 13, 2017). Ms. Caldwell was Mr. Gilbert's teacher, and both were working artists passionately committed to cultural leadership in Newark, and to mentorship of the artistically inclined youth of the community. The new Memorial Gallery, located within Gallery Aferro's downtown location at 73 Market Street, is an intimate space appropriate for visual arts exhibits, poetry readings, screenings, and other sorts of gatherings where people connect with ideas and each other. The gallery is a place to linger, and a place for remembering.

[www.aferro.org](http://www.aferro.org) | [www.aferrostudios.org](http://www.aferrostudios.org) | [www.activatemarketstreet.org](http://www.activatemarketstreet.org)  
73 Market Street, Newark, NJ | 973.353.9533  
Wed - Sat 12-6

## Visit

73 Market Street, Newark, NJ  
Wednesday - Saturday 12-6  
and by appointment.  
aferro.org  
aferrostudios.org  
activatemarketstreet.org

## Contact

973 353 9533  
info@aferro.org

Gallery Aferro  
Ironbound Station  
PO Box 5668  
Newark, NJ 07105  
USA

## Mission

The mission of Gallery Aferro is to bring cultural education and aesthetic engagement with contemporary issues to all people equally, and to create an environment where artists can gather and share physical and intellectual resources. We are working towards an arts community that is available to everyone, without sacrificing standards or quality of experience.

## Accessing The Gallery

Gallery hours are listed above, come by for a visit! Gallery Aferro is a street level storefront gallery and is wheelchair accessible. If you need special assistance, requests, or desire additional information about accessibility, please email our ADA Coordinator, Evonne Davis, at edavis@aferro.org. We believe art is absolutely for everyone and are very happy to accommodate anyone's needs but please give us 1 week notice for any arrangements that will need to be made at the gallery. If you require large print press materials please let us know 48 hours ahead of time.

## Sponsors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders, sponsors and the individual donors who make our programs possible. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and RBH Group.



Luis Carle, *Crowbar, East Village, NYC (detail)*, photography on metal, 8x10, 1994

Though in Western tradition, gender is understood as male and female, many world cultures, especially Native American culture, do not have such a precise division. Instead there is provision for, movement back and forth between genders. "Two Spirits" refers not just to the two artists exhibiting, but also evokes a body simultaneously housing both a masculine and a feminine spirit. This exhibit is also inspired by the interplay between spirituality, activism, and queerness, as seen in the longing felt by many people of indigenous descent to connect to this earlier, lost heritage.

Borinquen artists Geraldo Castro and Luis Carle's works evidence how the radical influences pop culture, including ongoing pushback and questioning of gender roles. Castro painting of visually masculine nude men adorned in feminine trappings juxtaposes roles and notions of traditional beauty. Photographer Luis Carle's nostalgic imagery recorded gay life and activism in New York City in the early eighties, and revisiting this work now reminds us of the necessity of more activism, as we see what has changed and what has not.

These Two Spirits, and other men like them, take on an important role in the art community; they are healers, visionaries and valued for their balanced perception of existence and a way of being.

[www.luiscarle.com](http://www.luiscarle.com)

[www.gerardocastroart.com](http://www.gerardocastroart.com)

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