

*“The most coherent narrative painting is “Veneration” by **Maria Mijares** from Plainfield...”*

**William Zimmer**  
**The New York Times**

*“**Maria Mijares** has a forceful yet subtle mind that is unafraid of paradoxes and multiple meanings.”*

**John Caldwell**  
**The New York Times**

*“Plainfield artist **Maria Mijares**’ two acrylics of the Pope meeting Fidel Castro, obviously done from TV images, have the largest presence in the show, provided by the electric colors and the wonderful blobby aura surrounding both figures.”*

**Dan Bischoff**  
**The Star-Ledger**

*“**Maria Mijares** is a supreme individualist living a life of art as she alone conceives it. When she appears in one of her own paintings, it is as a stark silhouette slouched and vulnerable against the wall...But when she works it is the straight-edged, cutting silhouette of her forceful mind which haunts her work and gives it shape and meaning.”*

**David J. Wilson**  
**Rutgers Alumni Magazine**

*“**Maria Mijares** shows two acrylics in which the figures are black silhouettes in magically surreal venues. Dazzlingly mysterious.”*

**ART Matters**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

*“Casting herself as an intimate observer who, in turn, is “observed in detail” the artist evokes Spain and its people in starkly realistic yet dreamlike images which contrast darkness and light, sadness and gaiety.”*

**The Equinox**  
**Fairleigh Dickinson University**

*“**Maria Mijares**, a New York native, lovingly bathes her “3 Women” in warm browns and reds as they kneel before the crucified Jesus dying high above them in a cathedral.”*

**Beth Kissinger**  
**Jersey Journal**

*“An acrylic by **Maria Mijares** of a meeting between “His Holiness and the President,” telecast on a video screen on a street corner, illustrates the way the media makes world events seem commonplace.”*

**Eileen Watkins**  
**The Star-Ledger**

*“She prides herself in being a realist, yet her paintings are softened and colored by tones and curves that give beauty to something as mundane as an auto dealership in Newark.”*

*“The location and participants are immediately recognizable and as real as a photograph, but are graced by a dimension deeper than film can offer.”*

**Bob Dylak**  
**Catholic Advocate**

*“I saw a rather interesting painting of the Archbishop and immediately knew it was your work. Wonderful!”*

*I am honored to find myself the subject of one of your paintings. Your work is truly spectacular.”*

The late **John Cardinal O’Connor**  
**Archbishop of New York**

*“I can’t wait to see the inspirations that the Lord has given you during that very memorable and historic occasion. I know that God has given you extraordinary talent. Whenever we have guests in the Cathedral, we always stop and talk about your beautiful painting which hangs right at the center of the grand stairway. Everyone marvels at the talent and the depth of feeling which it portrays.”*

**Theodore Cardinal McCarrick**  
**Archbishop of Washington DC**

*“A strong profound spirituality, marked aesthetically by a general darkening, a Baroque darkness within her hyper-realism.” (translated)*

**Salvador Carretero Rebés**  
**Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes, Santander, Spain**

*“**Maria Mijares** illustrates the best example of an “Hispanic-American artist, if we are obliged to use the term. Born in New York City and currently living in New Jersey, this granddaughter of Spanish immigrants paints with a desire to grasp reality in detail, as if this is the best way to define it and become a part of it.”*

**Felix Angel**  
**Expresiones Hispanas/ Coors National**

*“Her paintings are a photorealistic style, similar to Richard Estes, in the concern to depict all details. However, she differs in her conceptualization process in that she builds the main idea from several layered steps. She usually begins by developing a ‘living project,’ where she observes, investigates, interviews and becomes involved with the everyday life of a person or groups of people.”*

**Isabel Nazario**  
**The Visual Imaginary of Latina/os in New Jersey**

