



PRESS RELEASE

**Antonio Lopez  
drawings and photographs**

Curated by Anne Morin, Director of diChroma Photography, Madrid

In collaboration with

The Estate and Archive of Antonio Lopez and Juan Ramos, New York  
Associazione Culturale Anna Piaggi  
Fondazione Ottavio and Rosita Missoni

**Opening**

Saturday January 11th 2020  
From 3.00 pm to 8.00 pm

**On view**

12 January – 13 April 2020  
Every Day, 10.30 am – 7.30 pm  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10.30 am – 9.00 pm



The Fondazione Sozzani presents “**Antonio Lopez, drawings and photographs**”, curated by Anne Morin, director of diChroma Photography, Madrid, and in collaboration with The Estate and Archive of Antonio Lopez and Juan Ramos, New York, the Anna Piaggi Cultural Association, and the Ottavio and Rosita Missoni Foundation.

This exhibition will bring together over two hundred original drawings, Kodak Instamatics, photographic grids, collages, diaries and films, that develop distinct thematic sections and document Antonio’s creative process, his visionary attitude, and the historical period in which he lived.

“Fashion served him as a pretext to express beauty, sensuality, sexuality, life and time. His own time.” writes Anne Morin. An unbelievable talent of the 70s and 80s, he was an extraordinary illustrator whose life revealed an irreverent world made of moments, people, clothes, music, art, kitsch and visual culture.

Lopez’s work represented a cultural crossroads. At a nexus of high and low culture between New York, Milan and Paris, he created a deep aesthetic shift in the way the physical representation of the body was presented in the fashion world. With a complete ethnic and racial awareness, Lopez searched for a new beauty that was generous and full of energy.

Considered one of the 20th century’s greatest fashion illustrators, the multifaceted talent of Antonio Lopez, along with creative collaborator Juan Ramos, contributed throughout the 80s to the Italian magazine *Vanity* (January 1982 - October 1989), directed by Anna Piaggi, Alberto Nodolini and Luca Stoppini. In *Vanity* the image of fashion entered unknown, new, and daring territories that were never seen before.

This, along with his watercolors for Missoni, drawings of male bodies created for Versace, powerful portraits of Grace Jones, Patti LaBelle, Pat Cleveland, Maria Callas, Josephine Baker, Carmen Miranda, photography and videos, each testify to an era of extraordinary creative fertility. Adored by stylists, models and photographers from all over the world, Antonio occupies a place of honor in the history of fashion illustration and left a vital mark in his thirty years career.

“I am interested in getting to know the figure better by taking it apart,” said Lopez, referring to his often-fragmented bodies. “The more I break it, the more I can examine it, the more I can understand what I have to do. For me it is a method. I don’t know where it will bring me, but I’m curious and I want to go until the end.”

Lopez put glamor, creativity and fun at the center of everything. His days began late, and ended later, often listening to the best disco music of that time.

On view now at the Fondazione Sozzani the film “Antonio Lopez 1970: Sex, Fashion & Disco”, directed by James Crump, documents this world with interviews from Pat Cleveland, Jessica Lange, Grace Jones, Jerry Hall, among many others. Presented at the London Film Festival in 2017, it was awarded “Best Fashion Feature Film” at the CinéFashion Film Awards in Los Angeles.



Antonio Lopez was born in Utuado, Puerto Rico on February 11th, 1943. In 1950 his family relocated to New York City where Lopez attended P.S. 77 and was later encouraged by his art teacher to attend the High School of Arts and Design, an incubator for teenagers who demonstrated exceptional artistic talent.

In 1962 Lopez enrolled at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York City, where he met and began his life-long creative collaboration with Juan Ramos (b. 1942 in Caguas, Puerto Rico). During his studies, Lopez was offered a job as the in-house illustrator at Women's Wear Daily Magazine and later grew his client list to include the New York Times, Vogue, Elle and Harper's Bazaar.

In 1969, Lopez and Ramos moved to Paris where they remained until 1975 and worked for all the major fashion magazines and created campaigns for fashion houses and department stores such as Yves Saint Laurent and Galeries Lafayette. Travelling extensively throughout Europe and Japan, the artists befriended a host of new women who would become their models and muses, including Jerry Hall, Paloma Picasso, Grace Jones, Jessica Lange, and Tina Chow. The photos and drawings of that period are immortalized in the 1975 Spring Paris issue of *Interview Magazine*.

Returning to New York City in 1975, Antonio and Juan settled into a large studio on Broadway and 18th street and continued their work as the preeminent fashion illustrators of the time.

In 1980 Anna Piaggi invited Antonio and Juan to work with her in Milan on the creative direction of *Vanity Magazine*, an avant garde publication that merged art, fashion, design, and culture. Working closely with Piaggi and her team, the duo contributed to every issue between 1981-1984, creating some of the most best concept work of their carriers, in collaboration with Albini, Armani, Capucci, Missoni and Versace among others.

Antonio Lopez and Juan Ramos died from complications related to AIDS in 1987 and 1995, respectively.

Their work has been show in countless exhibitions, including, LAFORET Museum, Tokyo (1987); The Museum at FIT, New York (1988); Musée des Arts Decoratifs Palais du Louvre, Paris (1994); Modemuseum, Munich (1995); MUDAC, Lausanne (1996); Royal College of Art, London (1997); Design Museum, London (2010); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2011); The Society of Illustrators, New York (2011); Savannah College of Arts and Design Museum, Georgia (2013); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2014); Museum fur Kunst und Gewerbe, Hamburg (1996 - 2014); and more recently at El Museo del Barrio, New York (2016); The Getty Center, Los Angeles (2018); Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona (2019), Centro Cultural de Cascais, Portugal (2019); Fondazione Sozzani, Milan (2020).

Publications include: Antonio's Girls (Congreve, 1982), Antonio's Tales from the Thousand and One Nights (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1985), Antonio, 60, 70, 80: Three Decades in Style (Schirmer / Mosel, 1995), Antonio's People (Thames & Hudson 2004), Antonio Lopez: Instamatics (Twin Palms, 2012).

**Film** "Antonio Lopez 1970: Sex, Fashion & Disco" by James Crump (95 min), English text.  
Screenings: 11.00 am - 01.00 pm - 3.00pm - 5.00pm. Wednesdays and Thursdays: 7.30 pm

### **Fondazione Sozzani**

The Fondazione Sozzani was established in 2016 by Carla Sozzani and is dedicated to the promotion of culture through photography, fashion, the fine arts, and applied arts. The Foundation has assumed the patronage of Galleria Carla Sozzani and continues all relevant public functions that the Galleria has supported for the past 30 years.