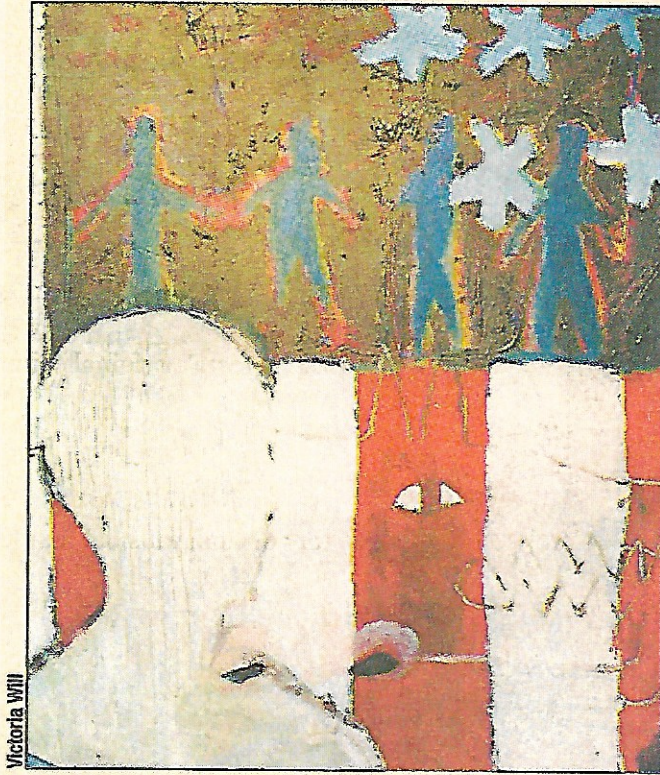


HOT PICKS



Victoria Wiff

THE ART OF PROTEST

"After the election, I started thinking I wanted to do a political show," says Ecuadorian-born, New York-raised artist Nicky Enright, 33, whose mixed-media pieces have graced the walls of Baltimore's Contemporary Museum and New York City venues, like RKL Gallery, Taller Boricua and 450 Broadway Gallery.

Frustrated by the state of affairs in the country, Enright decided to put together the current exhibition, "Patriotism and Red Flags," showing at Spanish Harlem's Carlito's Café y Galeria.

Most of the exhibition's pieces have been completed over the last decade and explore notions of freedom, patriotism, war and nationalism. The most outrage-laden, militant pieces are recent works, created in response to Bush's reelection. "I'm very upset and worried about what's going on in the country, and I feel like, as a New Yorker, my vote doesn't really count," confesses Enright. "But I'm an artist and there's a power in that, so I decided to use my art as my voice." Say it loud, hermano.

Through Jan. 1. Carlito's Café y Galeria, 1701 Lexington Ave., between 106th and 107th streets. (212) 348-7044.