

9-3-1995

Wilkinson Gallery Slater Mill Historic Site in
coordination with the Rhode Island Labor &
Ethnic Heritage Festival September 3, 1995 Slater
Mill Historic Site *Pawtucket, RI

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Recommended Citation

James, "Wilkinson Gallery Slater Mill Historic Site in coordination with the Rhode Island Labor & Ethnic Heritage Festival September 3, 1995 Slater Mill Historic Site *Pawtucket, RI" (1995). *AS220 Digital Archive*. 1881.
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Raphael Diaz has an abiding faith in the simplicity of things. His work as a teacher shows this faith.

Simple truths... words about family, respect, community, caring... pervade his interactions with his students. Even a casual conversation with Raphael reveals his commitment to reaching the simple, frequently unspoken truths that put meaning in life, these simple truths are crucial to his survival.

Raphael's work as an artist finds inspiration in this same simplicity. He paints the things that really matter to him. He paints the juxtaposition of land and water in the park where he loves to walk. He paints the children he has come to identify with so strongly. He paints his struggle to not be marginalized as an artist or as a person in our America. He loves to look at the same image from a variety of angles, and his images are often combined in ways that show how difficult life and its choices can be. Above all, Raphael's paintings say there is a place for him to live simply.

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