

A NOTE ON THE ARTIST RAFAEL FERRER

Rafael Ferrer was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1933. Ferrer began his career as a drummer, a *timbalero*; in the early 1950s he played with Rafael Cortijo and Ismael Rivera. He participated in the life of the musicians and formed a friendship with Cortijo that ended only with Cortijo's death in 1982. Since the 1960s Ferrer has been an internationally acclaimed artist whose work has been included in major collections around the world. The paintings in the present book were composed on the occasion of Cortijo's funeral. They were generously donated by the artist for use in this publication.



PLATE I. *Rafael Cortijo* by Rafael Ferrer. 1983. Oil on linen.
18" x 24".



PLATE 2. *Elegía para un amigo* (Elegy for a friend) by Rafael Ferrer. 1982. Oil stick on paper. Photograph © Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.

CORTIJO'S WAKE

EL ENTIERRO DE CORTIJO

