

KCHO

Kcho is one of the defining Cuban artists to emerge on the international scene in the 1990s. Born Alexis Leyva Machado in Nueva Gerona, Isla de la Juventud, in 1970, he developed a visual language built around boats, islands, ladders, rafts, and precarious architectures, images that transform the lived condition of insularity, migration, memory, and survival into a sculptural vocabulary of unusual clarity and force.

Working across drawing, sculpture, painting, installation, and public projects, Kcho has sustained a practice in which found materials and hand-built forms carry both political and emotional charge. His work entered major institutional collections early in his career and has remained central to exhibitions on contemporary Cuban art, while later projects expanded his practice into civic and community-based initiatives in Havana through Kcho Estudio Romerillo and the Museo Orgánico de Romerillo.

This career CV follows the artist chronology and incorporates selected solo exhibitions, group exhibitions, biennials, awards, collections, and publications verified through artist, museum, biennial, and bibliographic records.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Un nuevo mundo, Palazzo della Cancelleria, Vatican City / Rome, Italy
- 2021 Kcho: Rowing Against the Current, Pan American Art Projects, Miami, FL
- 2020 En ningún lugar como en casa, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba
- 2019 Manifiesto, XIII Bienal de La Habana, Havana, Cuba
- 2018 Resurrección, Palazzo della Cancelleria, Vatican City / Rome, Italy
Una puerta entreabierto, Cine de Sagua la Grande, Villa Clara, Cuba
- 2017 Kcho y Diago. Early Works, Pan American Art Projects, Miami, FL
The Power of Perception, PAAP Annex, Miami, FL
Siguiendo tus pasos, Casa-taller Antonia Eiriz, Havana, Cuba
- 2016 Anclados por un sueño, Cienfuegos, Cuba
Todos los caminos, Louis Carré Gallery, Paris, France
- 2015 Museo Orgánico de Romerillo (MOR), 12 Bienal de La Habana, Havana, Cuba
- 2014 Via Crucis, Palazzo della Cancelleria, Vatican City / Rome, Italy
- 2013 Final Monument, Tega Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2012 Cuba, mucho gusto, National Museum of Brazil, Brasília, Brazil
- 2011 Anclado por un sueño, Cuartel Moncada, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba
- 2009 KCHO, Pan American Art Projects, Miami, FL
- 2008 Kcho: Links to Family Reunification, Marlborough Chelsea, New York, NY
- 2007 Kcho, dibujos y obra gráfica, Galería Lucía de la Puente, Lima, Peru
- 2006 Paso de los Vientos, Galería Joan Prats, Barcelona, Spain
Vive y deja vivir, 9th Havana Biennial, Plaza Vieja, Havana, Cuba
- 2005 Otras palabras, Arte y Naturaleza, Madrid, Spain
Kcho - Casa 5 - Las Playas Infinitas, Kunsthalle Attersee, Attersee, Austria
Kcho, viajero inmóvil, Louis Carré et Cie, Paris, France
Every Man is an Island, New World Museum, Houston, TX
- 2004 Pocas palabras, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo del Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela
Capacidad de asombro, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
Núcleos del tiempo, Galería Villa Manuela, Havana, Cuba
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DF COLLECTION

- 2003 Archipiélago, VIII Bienal de La Habana, Havana, Cuba
- 2002 La Jungla, Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin, Italy
El Huracán, Museu Brasileiro da Escultura, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2000 La columna infinita, Palacio de Cristal, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2024	Daniel & Florence Guerlain Collection, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
2022	Terra Ignota (proposals for a New World), Cuban Pavilion, 59th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
2017	Adiós Utopia: Dreams and Deceptions in Cuban Art Since 1950, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
2009	NeoHooDoo: Art for a Forgotten Faith, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, NY
1999	Encounter: Bruce Nauman & Kcho, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL
1997	No Place (Like Home), Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
	Trade Routes: History and Geography, 2nd Johannesburg Biennale, Johannesburg, South Africa
1994	Cocido y Crudo, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

SELECTED BIENNIALS

2022	59th Venice Biennale, Cuba Pavilion, Venice, Italy.
2019	XIII Bienal de La Habana, Havana, Cuba.
2015	12th Bienal de La Habana, Havana, Cuba.
2006	9th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba.
1995	1st Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea.
1994	22nd Bienal Internacional de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. 5th Bienal de La Habana, Havana, Cuba.

AWARDS

2022	Represented Cuba at the Official Cuban Pavilion, 59th Venice Biennale.
1995	Grand Prize, 1st Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea. UNESCO Prize for the Promotion of the Arts.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France.
- Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY, USA.

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- Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain.
- Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA.
- Arizona State University Art Museum, Tempe, AZ, USA.
- Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró, Mallorca, Spain.
- Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
- Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, Turin, Italy.
- Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Kcho: la columna infinita. Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía / El Museo, Madrid, 2000.
- La Jungla. Galleria Civica d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea / Hopefulmonster, Turin, 2002.
- Archipiélago. Havana, 2003.
- Kcho: otras palabras: instalación, dibujos y obra gráfica. Arte y Naturaleza, Madrid, 2005.
- Kcho: Cadena de reunificación familiar = Links to Family Reunification. Marlborough Chelsea, New York, 2007.
- El pensador : Kcho. Kcho Estudio, 2013.