

YASIEL ELIZAGARAY

Yasiel Elizagaray is a Cuban painter of raw expressionist force whose portraiture uses the human face as a reflective catalyst for the anxieties of an era. Working in oil and mixed media, he builds his figures out of impasto, scumble, and near liquid passages of gouache within a single canvas, deploying a dramatic chiaroscuro that seems to interrogate its subjects rather than describe them. His clowns, candidates, brides, penitents, and ladies of his neighborhood are less characters than states of being, the frayed and ceremonious stares of a Cuban everyman caught between public masquerade and interior collapse.

The muscular handling and confessional pressure of the paint carry the legacy of Auerbach, Freud, and Bacon, yet the sensibility remains distinctly Cuban, closer to the grotesque humanism of Fabelo and the neofigurative lineage of Eiriz than to any European postwar orthodoxy. Working between his Pulsión Studio in Havana and Open Studio Elizagaray in Trinidad, Elizagaray was named Artist of the Year by the Circle Foundation for the Arts in 2019 and has been represented exclusively in the United States by Cernuda Arte since 2023. His recent projects include *Aura* at Villa Manuela in Havana, *Pulsiones* in Portugal, and the inclusion of his work in *Grandi Artisti Cubani* at the Palazzo della Cancelleria in Rome, with a solo exhibition curated by Fernando Castro Flórez opening at DDR Art Gallery in Madrid in 2026.

Born in Yaguajay, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba, 1987.

Education: Escuela de Instructores de Arte Vladislav Volkov, Sancti Spíritus, 2005-2008; Universidad Pedagógica de Arte, Sancti Espíritus, 2008 (Bachelor in Plastic Arts and Humanities).

Lives and works between Havana and Trinidad de Cuba.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Portraits for an Insomniac Painter, curated by Fernando Castro Flórez. DDR Art Gallery, Madrid, Spain.
- 2025 Solo presentation, curated section. Expo Chicago, Chicago, USA.
Pulsiones. Nuno Sacramento Arte Contemporanea, Ilhavo, Portugal.
- 2024 Aura. Galería Villa Manuela, UNEAC, Havana, Cuba.
- 2023 Animas. Galería Artis 718, Havana, Cuba.
- 2019 Mis Candidatos. Galería Provincial de la UNEAC, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
Mirando el vacío. Galería Benito Ortiz, Trinidad, Cuba.
- 2018 Rostros. Galería Oscar Fernández Morera, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
- 2015 Sigilos. Galería Larios, Camagüey, Cuba.
- 2012 Se busca la permuta. Galería AHS, Trinidad, Cuba.
- 2010 Punto de partida. Museo de Arquitectura Colonial, Trinidad, Cuba.
- 2009 Universos. Galería Oscar Fernández Morera, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
Seres. Galería de la Sociedad Cultural José Martí, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
Imágenes de imágenes. Galería El Paso, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** Grandi Artisti Cubani. Palazzo della Cancelleria, Rome, Italy.
 Kosmos. Galería Artis 718, collateral exhibition to the Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba.
 La levedad del ser. Galería Arte Morfosis, Havana, Cuba.
 Cuerpos Integrados. Estudio LOLO, Matanzas, Cuba.
 Where there is fire. Estudio Pulsión, Havana, Cuba.
 Art Madrid. Contemporary Art Fair, Madrid, Spain.
- 2024** Kosmos. Galería Artis 718, collateral exhibition to the Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba.
 La pintura siempre viva. Biblioteca Nacional José Martí, Havana, Cuba.
 25 Aniversario de Cernuda Arte. Cernuda Arte, Coral Gables, USA.
 Open Studio Elizagaray Inauguration, collateral event to the Havana Biennial, Trinidad, Cuba.
 Art Miami, Miami, USA.
 Art Palm Beach, Palm Beach, USA.
 Art Wynwood, Miami, USA.
 Art Madrid, Madrid, Spain.
 Expo Chicago, Chicago, USA.
- 2023** Post-it. Galería Galiano, Havana, Cuba.
 Yo Soy. Galería Maxima, Havana, Cuba.
 Art Madrid, Madrid, Spain.
 Art Miami, Miami, USA.
- 2022** Arroz con Mango & Habanero. Galería Covarrubias, Mexico City, Mexico.
 Arroz con Mango. Centro Hispanoamericano, Havana, Cuba.
 Post-it. Galería Galiano, Havana, Cuba.
- 2017** Cuba Station. Consejo Nacional de las Artes Plásticas, Havana, Cuba.
- 2016** Vendome. Cuban Art. Traveling exhibition, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Richmond, and Baltimore, USA.
- 2015** Plástica e Identidad. Galería de Arte, Sibanicú, Camagüey, Cuba.
 VIII Evento de Miniatura Nacional. Galería de la Sociedad Cultural José Martí, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
- 2013** Expo Sur Meridiano 80. Teatro Principal, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
- 2011** Canchánchara Espirituana en Berlín. Galerie GOTLAND, Berlin, Germany.
- 2010** KWBA / HORA. Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de La Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 2009** Salón Nacional de Instructores de Arte. Oficina del Historiador de la Ciudad de La Habana, Havana, Cuba.
 V Bienal de Artes Plásticas. Galería Benito Ortiz, Trinidad, Cuba.
- 2008** Parrandas Espirituanas. Galería Collage Habana, Havana, Cuba.
 II Encuentro Nacional de Arte en Miniatura. Galería Leopoldo Romañach, Caibarién, Cuba.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2019** Award for Excellence, Artist of the Year, Circle Foundation for the Arts, Lyon, France.
- 2018** Collateral Award, I Bienal de Artes Visuales Fayad Jamís, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
Second Prize, XXVIII Salón de la Ciudad, Galería Alejo Carpentier, Camagüey, Cuba.
- 2017** Second Prize, XXX Salón de Artes Visuales Fidelio Ponce de León, Camagüey, Cuba.
Collateral Award, EJO Project, XXX Salón de Artes Visuales Fidelio Ponce de León, Camagüey, Cuba.
- 2015** Mention, Salón de Artes Visuales Fidelio Ponce de León, Camagüey, Cuba.
Prize, XVI Salón Territorial Plástica e Identidad, Sibanicú, Camagüey, Cuba.
- 2013** Mention, VII Bienal de Trinidad, Galería Benito Ortiz, Trinidad, Cuba.
- 2010** Prize, XIV Salón de la Ciudad, Galería Oscar Fernández Morera, Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.
- 2008** Gran Premio Martiano, II Encuentro Nacional de Miniatura, Remedios, Villa Clara, Cuba.

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Colección Cernuda, Coral Gables, USA.
- Fondo Cubano de Bienes Culturales, Havana, Cuba.
- Colección Luciano Méndez, Spain and Cuba.
- Colección Eriberto Bettini, Italy and the Holy See.
- Colección Viñas-Gil, Spain and Cuba.
- Embassy of Belgium in Cuba, Havana, Cuba.
- Private collections in Cuba, Spain, Italy, the United States, Germany, Portugal, Denmark, France, Canada, Mexico, and England.