

FLAVIO GARCIANDÍA

Flavio Garciandía is a foundational figure in contemporary Cuban art, whose work and teaching helped shape the experimental renewal of the late 1970s and 1980s. Initially recognized for the technical precision of his hyperrealist paintings, he developed a conceptual practice that challenged the authority of artistic style and the conventions through which cultural identity is represented. His participation in Volumen Uno in Havana in 1981 placed him at the center of a generation that transformed the island's artistic landscape. As a professor at the Instituto Superior de Arte, he extended this critical approach into teaching, influencing the development of a younger generation of Cuban artists.

Across painting, drawing, and installation, Garciandía brings the history of modernism into an irreverent dialogue with Caribbean popular culture. His self-defined Nueva Abstracción Tropical draws on kitsch, appropriation, and provocative titles to question distinctions between artistic refinement and popular taste. References to Ad Reinhardt, Robert Ryman, and Willem de Kooning become part of an imagined encounter between the Western canon and the material realities of Cuba. Humor is central to this exchange: paintings that appear formally autonomous are unsettled by their titles, while tropical imagery and everyday objects expose the hierarchies that distinguish cultural centers from their supposed peripheries.

After a decade in Monterrey, Garciandía settled in Mexico City in 2005. His international career includes participation in the Venice, Sydney, and Havana biennials, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Major solo exhibitions include *Auge o decadencia del arte cubano* at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Havana in 2006 and *Autorretrato no autorizado* at the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey in 2026, curated by Tobias Ostrander. His work is held by the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art, and the Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, among other collections.

Born in Caibarién, Cuba, 1954.

Education: Escuela Nacional de Arte (ENA), Havana, 1969-1973; Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA), Havana, 1976-1981.

Lives and works in Mexico City, Mexico.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Autorretrato no autorizado, curated by Tobias Ostrander. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO), Monterrey, Mexico.
- 2024 Flavio Garciandía y Flavio Garciandía exhiben juntos (otra vez). El Apartamento, Madrid, Spain.
- 2022 Lo mejor y lo peor de Flavio Garciandía. Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2019 10 years (2009-2019). Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2018 Otra vez / Otra cosa. El Apartamento, Havana, Cuba.
- 2016 Flavio Garciandía. Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2014 Quisiera ser Wifredo Lam. Centro de Arte Contemporáneo Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba.
- 2012 No Man Is a Brush. Couturier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.
- 2010 Iba a decir algo muy importante (pero ya se me olvidó...). Galería Villa Manuela, Havana, Cuba.
- 2009 N'a que ver. Centro Morelense de las Artes, Cuernavaca, Mexico.
- 2006 Auge o decadencia del arte cubano. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- 2004 I insulted John Baldessari in... Havana. Couturier Gallery, Los Angeles, USA.
Yo insulté a Clement Greenberg en La Habana. Galería KBK, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2003 Flavio Garciandía. Galería Luis Adelantado, Valencia, Spain.
- 2002 Flavio Garciandía, Paintings. School of Art and Design Gallery, Georgia State University, Atlanta, USA.
- 2001 I insulted Brice Marden in Havana. New paintings by Flavio Garciandía. Galería Ramis Barquet, New York, USA.
- 2000 No tuvo derecho a colorear. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
Clifford Still recogiendo mangos en mi patio. Museum of Fine Arts, Santa Fe, USA.
- 1999 Flavio Garciandía. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 1997 Flavio Garciandía. Rachel Harris Gallery, Fort Worth, USA.
Who's Afraid of Barnett Newman. Galería Ramis Barquet, San Pedro Garza García, Mexico.
Abstracción (tropical). Galería La Acacia, Havana, Cuba.
- 1995 Una visita al Museo de Arte Tropical. Galería Ramis Barquet, San Pedro Garza García, Mexico.
- 1994 Flavio Garciandía. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- 1992 Flavio Garciandía. Galerie El Patio, Bremen, Germany.
- 1991 Tropicalia II. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba.

- 1989** Tropicalia I. The Central Space, Faroe Road Studios, London, England.
Obra reciente. Castillo de la Real Fuerza, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes,
Havana, Cuba.
Flavio Garciandía. Galería Cine Charles Chaplin, Havana, Cuba.
- 1983** Flavio Garciandía. Museo Provincial de Villa Clara, Santa Clara, Cuba.
Flavio Garciandía. Hotel Tritón, Havana, Cuba.
- 1982** Vereda tropical. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 1981** Flavio Garciandía. Centro Cultural José Martí, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 1979** Pintura. Casa de la Cultura de Plaza, Havana, Cuba.
- 1976** Pinturas. Galería L, Havana, Cuba.
- 1973** Flavio Garciandía. Galería L, Havana, Cuba.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Pintura (Archivo). El Apartamento, Project Room, Madrid, Spain.
- 2025 Década. Volumen II. El Apartamento, Madrid, Spain.
Garciandía / Balkenhol. Mai 36 Galerie, Madrid, Spain.
- 2022 You Know Who You Are: Recent Acquisitions of Cuban Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection. El Espacio 23, Miami, USA.
Abstractions Cubaines: des années 50 à nos jours. Passerelle Centre d'art contemporain, Brest, France.
- 2020 Group Exhibition. Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2019 ABUC: Eleven Cuban Artists. Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2017 On the Horizon: Contemporary Cuban Art from the Jorge M. Pérez Collection. Pérez Art Museum Miami, Miami, USA.
Adiós Utopía: Dreams and Deceptions in Cuban Art Since 1950. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, USA.
Art x Cuba: Contemporary Perspectives since 1989. Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
- 2013 On Painting. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno (CAAM), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.
- 2012 The Marco Polo Syndrome: Contemporary Cuban Art. Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA.
IB6621: Raúl Cordero, Flavio Garciandía, Michel Pérez el Pollo. Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich, Switzerland.
- 2009 Revolution I. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba.
- 2008 Cuba. Art and History from 1868 to Today. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada.
- 2006 Arte de Cuba. Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2005 Tres generaciones: Jesús Soto, Magdalena Fernández, Flavio Garciandía. Durban Segnini Gallery, Miami, USA.
- 2003 Los tres mongos sabios: Flavio Garciandía / Lázaro Saavedra / José Toirac. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 2002 Marta María Pérez Bravo / Flavio Garciandía. TEOR/ética, San José, Costa Rica.
- 2001 Colección Manolo Rivero. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Ateneo de Yucatán, Mérida, Mexico.
- 1998 II Salón de Arte Cubano Contemporáneo. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba.
- 1996 Cuba. Siglo XX. Modernidad y sincretismo. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain.
- 1993 Art from Latin America. Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia.

- 1992 Von dort aus: Kuba. Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
- 1991 Ostkunst-Westkunst. Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
Los hijos de Guillermo Tell. Biblioteca Luis Ángel Arango, Bogotá, Colombia.
- 1990 Kuba OK. Aktuelle Kunst aus Kuba. Städtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany.
Contemporary Art from Havana. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Sevilla, Seville, Spain.
- 1989 III Bienal de La Habana. Havana, Cuba.
Contemporary Art from Havana. Riverside Studios, London, England.
- 1988 Signs of Transition: 80's Art from Cuba. Museum of Contemporary Hispanic Art, New York, USA.
Made in Havana. Contemporary Art from Cuba. Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Museum of Contemporary Art, Brisbane; and Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia.
- 1987 Nuevo arte de Cuba. Museo de la Universidad de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico.
- 1986 Biennale di Venezia. Corderie dell'Arsenale, Venice, Italy.
Biennale of Sydney. Sydney, Australia.
II Bienal de La Habana. Havana, Cuba.
Künstler aus Kuba. Galerie Junge Künstler, Berlin, Germany.
- 1985 New Art from Cuba. Massachusetts College of Art, Boston, USA.
- 1984 I Bienal de La Habana. Havana, Cuba.
Kunst aus Kuba. Forum für Kulturaustausch, Stuttgart, Germany.
Pintura cubana. Hermitage Museum, Leningrad, Russia.
- 1983 7 artistas cubanos contemporáneos. Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo, Madrid, Spain.
International Painting Festival. Cagnes-sur-Mer, France.
- 1982 Biennale de Paris. Paris, France.
5 Kubaner. Sällskapet Maneten, Gothenburg, Sweden.
- 1981 Volumen Uno. Centro de Arte Internacional, Havana, Cuba.
5 Artisti Cubani. Istituto Italo-Latino Americano, Rome, Italy.
First Look: 10 Young Artists from Today's Cuba. Westbeth Gallery, New York, USA.
- 1980 Inter.-Grafik '80. Ausstellungszentrum am Fernsehturm, Berlin, Germany.
- 1979 Bu / Flavio / Orbeín. Galería de Santiago de Cuba, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.
Young Cuban Painting. Neue Berliner Galerie, Berlin, Germany.
- 1978 4th International Biennale of Painting. East Slovak Gallery, Košice, Slovakia.
- 1977 Salón Permanente de Jóvenes. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- 1973 III Salón Nacional Juvenil de Artes Plásticas. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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| 1993 | Guggenheim Fellowship, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, New York, USA. |
| 1991 | DAAD Fellowship, Kassel, Germany. |
| 1983 | Académie des Beaux-Arts Fellowship, Paris, France. |
| 1978 | Slovak Visual Arts Economic Prize, International Biennale of Painting, Košice, Slovakia. |
| 1977 | First Prize, National Drawing Salon, Havana, Cuba. |

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.
- Museo Histórico, Santa Clara, Cuba.
- Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), Miami, USA.
- Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Buffalo, USA.
- Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, USA.
- Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.
- Museum of Modern Art, Łódź, Poland.
- Museo La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia.
- Pori Art Museum, Pori, Finland.
- Jorge M. Pérez Collection / El Espacio 23, Miami, USA.