

**CARLOS ALARCON**Colombia, 1979

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It could be said that Carlos Alarcon's evolution as an artist runs contrary to that of most painters who began by realistically representing the visible world, and have ended up distorting it in favor of expressionist or conceptual aims. In contrast, Alarcon began by producing expressionist paintings laden with socio-political content, and has progressed to creating a type of realistic representation with no obvious or literal message.

The obstinate counter-direction of his work is also manifest in his small drawings which contrast with this era of grand artistic egos. It is also present in his current preference for classicism, as his work has changed from the avant-garde and experimental to a practice that prizes skill, knowledge, craftsmanship and aesthetics.

Moreover, his work allows us to understand that, for the artist, painting and drawing possess the ability to stir admiration by their mere presence. By being the result of a mental project brought to fruition through skill, mastery of material, and vision, the work embodies a character and spirit that inevitably moves the observer. It predisposes a viewer to find arguments that may not have crossed the artist's mind, but which effectively convey any thoughts or emotions prompted from the work itself. Keep in mind that painting possesses a special ability to both demonstrate and poeticize the problems and hopes of human beings.

It is well known that Van Gogh's painting, 'The Shoes', was subject to two diametrically opposed interpretations: that of the philosopher Martin Heidegger, who discovered in that painting a symbol of the authentic values of the rural man, closely related to nature, and that of historian Meyer Shapiro, who interpreted the shoes as belonging to an urban being, like the shoes of Van Gogh himself. Both interpretations are equally valid. Something similar happens with Alarcon's work. It can have different meanings for different people depending on their knowledge, preferences or past experience, yet all meanings are induced by the same source. Hence, representations that may arouse compassion for one person may at the same time stimulate joy for another, or images that may provoke admiration to some, may symbolize memories or experiences for others. The roads are many, as many as there are observers of the work, and all of them are justifiable.

Appreciation of his work finally leads me to think that for Alarcon, painting and drawing play an important role against the submission of individuality and the survival of private space. His work shares that which is subjective and offers an appealing escape to the standardization implied by many contemporary expressive means.

*Fragment of Eduardo Serrano's text, "I don't Draw on Sundays."*

**EDUCATION****1998 – 2003**

Visual Arts with emphasis on Audiovisual Expression, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Bogotá, Colombia

**2006**

Post graduate degree in Ephemeral Architecture and Stage Events and Concepts, Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña, Barcelona, Spain.

**SPECIAL COURSES****2004**

Certification in Set Design, Commercial Exhibition and Ephemeral Space Architecture, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

**2002**

IX Cátedra Internacional de Arte Luís Ángel Arango, Russian Icons. From Mysticism to Vanguard, taught by Jean Claude Marcadé, Bogotá, Colombia

**2001**

Metal Engraving, Lithograph and silkscreen, taught by Alfonso Álvarez, Taller de Artes Gráficas AA.

**2000**

Seminar in Staging and Script taught by Víctor Gaviria, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá, Colombia

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS****2017**

*Trial and Error*, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

**2016**

*Angustias*, Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

**2015**

*Recoleccion de Angustias*, Performance, Bogota, Colombia

**2013**

*Ante la Nada*, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Art, Bogotá, Colombia

**2011**

*Angustias*, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Art, Bogotá, Colombia

**2008**

*DOS*, Sala de exposiciones Convenio Andrés Bello, Bogotá, Colombia

**2007**

*Paredón de Fusilamiento*, Centro Cultural de la Universidad de Salamanca, Bogotá, Colombia

**2005**

*Mutilación*, Fhara Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

**2004**

*Nn*, Fhara Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

**2003**

*Sustracción*, Galería Atena, Bogotá, Colombia

**GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2020**

*Navegando Espacios*, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogota, Colombia

**2019**

*Luxembourg Art Week*, Adrián Ibañez Galería

*Art on Paper*, Brussels International Contemporary Art Fair, Adrian Ibañez Galería

*Drawing Room Lisbon*, Adrian Ibañez Galería

*ARTBO*, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

*Dallas Art Fair*, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Dallas, USA

**2018**

*ARTBO*, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

**2016**

*Dallas Art Fair*, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Dallas, USA

*Art New York*, Beatriz Esguerra Art, New York, USA

*ARTBO*, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

*Resounding Subtleties*, Beatriz Esguerra Art, Miami, USA

**2015**

*ARTBO*, Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

*Permanente*, Espacio Permanente, Bogotá, Colombia

*Nuevos Nombres*, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

*Graphein*, La Caja Galería, Bogotá, Colombia

*El Hombre y su Universo*, 12 Bienal de la Habana, Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes San Alejandro, La Habana, Cuba.

*Dallas Art Fair*, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Dallas, USA

*Las Ciudades Del Caos a la Poesía*, Galería Club el Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia

*Art Wynwood Fair*, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Miami, USA

*Retratos*, Galería Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

*Exposición Colectiva de Dibujo*, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

**2014**

*ARTBO* (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Beatriz Esguerra Arte, Bogotá, Colombia

*Muñecos de Loza*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Bogotá, Colombia

*Pequeño Formato*, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

**2013**

*Salón Bidimensional*, Fundación Gillberto Alzate, Bogotá, Colombia

*Pintura Abierta*, Sala El Parqueadero, Museo del Banco de la Republica. Bogotá, Colombia

*Pequeño Formato*, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

**2012**

*Odeón Feria de Arte Contemporáneo*, Galería el Garaje, Bogotá, Colombia

*Esta sala es un JOHN CAGE*, Museo de Arte de la Miversidad Nacional, Medellín, Colombia

*14 Salón Regional de Artistas*, La Coperativa, Proyecto Recolección de Angustias Ajenas. Museo del Banco de la Republica. Bogotá, Colombia

*Mug Shots*, Galería el Garaje, Bogotá, Colombia

*Pequeño Formato*, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia

*IV Salón de egresados de artes visuales*, Biblioteca Julio Mario Santo Domingo, Bogotá, Colombia

*MIA* (Miami International Art Fair), Galería Baobab, Convention Center, Miami, USA

**2011**

*Perseverancia*, Galería El Garaje, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Cuatro pintores*, Galería Baobab, Bogotá, Colombia  
*IV Salón de Arte Joven ColSanitas Embajada de España*, Galería La Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia  
*JUANNIO*, Museo Nacional de Arte Moderno Carlos Mérida de Guatemala, Guatemala.  
*Pequeño Formato*, Museo El Castillo, Medellín, Colombia  
*Colectiva*, Galería La Localidad, Bogotá, Colombia

### **2010**

*Todo a 999*, Galería la Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Colectiva*, Galería Arte Consultores-Beatriz Esguerra, Bogotá, Colombia  
*ARTBO* (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Arte Consultores-Beatriz Esguerra, Bogotá, Colombia  
*80 años la Javeriana en las Artes*, BID, Washington D.C, USA  
*III Salón de Arte Joven ColSanitas (finalista)*, Galería la Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Ideogramas*, The Warehouse-Art Gallery, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Pequeño formato*, Museo el Castillo, Medellín, Colombia  
*III Salón de egresados de artes visuales*, Centro Cultural García Márquez, Bogotá, Colombia  
*"Printemps Latin Contemporary Art"*, Roquebrune Village, Francia.

### **2009**

*La Memoria Decapitada*, Claustro de San Agustín, Bogotá, Colombia  
*ARTBO* (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia  
*V Salón de Arte Joven Club el Nogal*, Galería Club El Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia  
*II Salón de Arte Joven ColSanitas (finalista)*, Galería la Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia

### **2008**

*ARTBO* (Feria Internacional de Arte de Bogotá), Corferias, Galería Alonso Arte, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Cuestión de Corazón*, Galería el Museo, Bogotá, Colombia  
*II Salón de egresados de artes visuales*, Centro Cultural García Marquez, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Arte Américas Fair*, Galería Alonso Arte, Convetion Center, Miami, USA  
*IV Salón Premio Fernando Botero*, Bogotá, Colombia

### **2007**

*III Salón de Arte Joven Club el Nogal*, Bogotá, Colombia  
*III Salón Premio Fernando Botero*, Bogotá, Colombia

### **2006**

*Finalista II Salón de Pintura Joven*, Club el Nogal, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Exposición Colectiva, Col.Lective*, Julia Karp Gallery, Barcelona, España.  
*VII Concurso y exposición de pintura Al passeig de Sant Joan*, Barcelona, España.  
*A Mantra For a Peacer*, Wang Center, Stony Brook, Nueva York, USA.

### **2005**

*Arte Joven*, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá (MAMBO), Bogotá, Colombia  
*Primer Salón de Pintura*, Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, España.

### **2004**

*Bienal Agustina*, Galería Carrión Vivar, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Vacas Sagradas (Diseciones)*, Galería Casa Cuadrada, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Tesis*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC), Bogotá, Colombia

### **2003**

*7 Dibujos Instalados*, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá (MAMBO), Bogotá, Colombia  
*Pentimentos*, Sala alterna Galería Santa Fe, con el colectivo Ruinas Faber, Bogotá, Colombia

*Primer Salón de Arte Bidimensional*, Fundación Gilberto Alzate Avendaño, Bogotá, Colombia  
*8ª Bienal de la Habana*, Acción 30 días; Departamento de Intervenciones Públicas con el grupo Bogotá Ltda., Habana, Cuba

### **2001**

*Arborizarte* en representación de la Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia  
*I Salón Javeriano de Artes Visuales*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo (MAC), Bogotá, Colombia  
*Premio Philips de Arte*, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Primera Exposición Arte en Conserva*, Bogotá, Colombia  
*Expositor invitado Segundo Salón Estudiantes de Artes* Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia

### **1999 – 2000**

*Participante Muestra de Dibujo* Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá, Colombia

## **PRIZES AND AWARDS**

### **2011**

First Prize, Tragaluz Prize for Illustration. Colombia

### **2003**

First Prize, Fine and Visual Arts Contest, Instituto Distrital Cultura y Turismo (IDCT), Galería Santa Fe, Bogotá, Colombia Work developed with the Ruinas Faber Group, Colombia

## **PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **2001**

Invited to participate in the Video Exhibit at the Film Festival in Havana, Cuba. Participant in the Film Festival Toma Cinco, Bogotá, Colombia

### **2000**

Exhibitor by Colombia in the XXVII International Board on Books for Young People Ibbv Congress, Cartagena, Colombia

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **2018**

*I don't Draw on Sundays*. Hard cover book, 130 pages, texts by Curator Eduardo Serrano. Published by Beatriz Esguerra Art.