



**HECTOR DIAZ**

The best kept secret  
Francisco Correa

Nov. 24 - Dec. 12, 2021  
Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

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Héctor Díaz Gallery is delighted to present a solo exhibition by Francisco Correa, considered the best kept secret in Latin America.

Born in 1951 in Pueblorrico, Antioquia, Colombia, his childhood was happy, full of freedom and whims, his father was an important landowner. In 1958 he moved with his family to the city of Medellín. He did not grow up in a cultural atmosphere, the city used to offer sporadic cultural events. The life of the city was commerce, the value of the people was cataloged by its economic power.

Started to draw in college, studied architecture at the National University of Colombia.

In the mid-1960s, being a child, he experienced the beginning of a low-intensity asymmetric war between the government of Colombia, paramilitary groups and communist guerrillas that marked the country forever. Despite the violence of the war, drug trafficking reaches the country, an event of historic category. This scourge completely changed the social structure of the community, changing social and moral values of any kind. Many people, given the possibility of obtaining easy money, made themselves available to the drug lords. He saw many comrades die, many families destroyed, murders, even bombs. The city of Medellín would change completely forever, it reached very low levels of morality, it was very painful for him.



Correa lived his last years in La Ceja, a small town in a mountain near Medellín, there in his studio, away from society, with tremendous vigor he gave himself to his art.

His intention was to create, not be famous, so he never participated in exhibitions, fairs, biennials (although he was invited to the one in Florence) or international galleries (even with proposals in Europe from organizations that commercialize Picasos).

His painting is artistically mature, his predominant styles are Abstract Figurative, Cubism and Constructivism. Each work is a story that invites reflection and seduces admiration.

Correa was rarely interviewed, very few Colombians know him, but a great work cannot go unnoticed forever, and that is precisely what happened to him in 2020, 50 years after his inexplicable clandestinity, his work comes to light, a discovery in the industry of those that almost never happen.

In September 2020, his first international individual exhibition would be held on the border between the United States and Mexico, however the businessman who owns the headquarters suffered the death of three members of his family by Covid-19 and his first Show had to be canceled.

In April 2021, a magnificent painting was presented for the first time in a renowned auction house, reaching estimates in thousands of dollars, but days before Correa was induced into a coma victim of Covid-19, so he did not witness his entry into to the international market.

In October 2021 he would participate in a tribute to Leonardo da Vinci, "The Mona Lisa Project", with two representations of the Mona Lisa.

Sadly, he takes his last breath on April 29, 2021 in the morning.

Ironically, it took him 50 years to reach the international scene, and due to certain misfortunes and vagaries of his life, he did not participate in the three great events that would finally catapult his career.

By 2021 his art is admired and treasured by collectors, gallery owners, auction houses, curators and critics from countless latitudes.

The best kept secret in Latin America has been revealed ... now the world is witnessing this great artist.

Today he is assaulting the international art industry with masterpieces that conquer the most demanding collectors in the world.

A giant is gone, but the artistic shadow of him will keep him forever.

Rest in peace, Maestro Francisco Correa, his legacy is just beginning.

Héctor Díaz  
November 2021

"I paint my childhood. The archetypes of my dad and mom are very clearly represented in my painting. The spaces are representations of the places where I lived and grew up. There is deep relationship with nature, beings and elements of that epoch.

I have studied European painting in depth, I love African art, I really like primitive art because is completely timeless. My greatest influences are European painters from the 19th to the 20th century. I have created my own style, based on the influence of Cubism and German figurative art. I have also collected many elements of African art. I have acquired a style with a very personal interpretation of each one of them.

The most relevant part of my career is my personal commitment to art. I am not an academic painter, my style and work is completely self-taught.

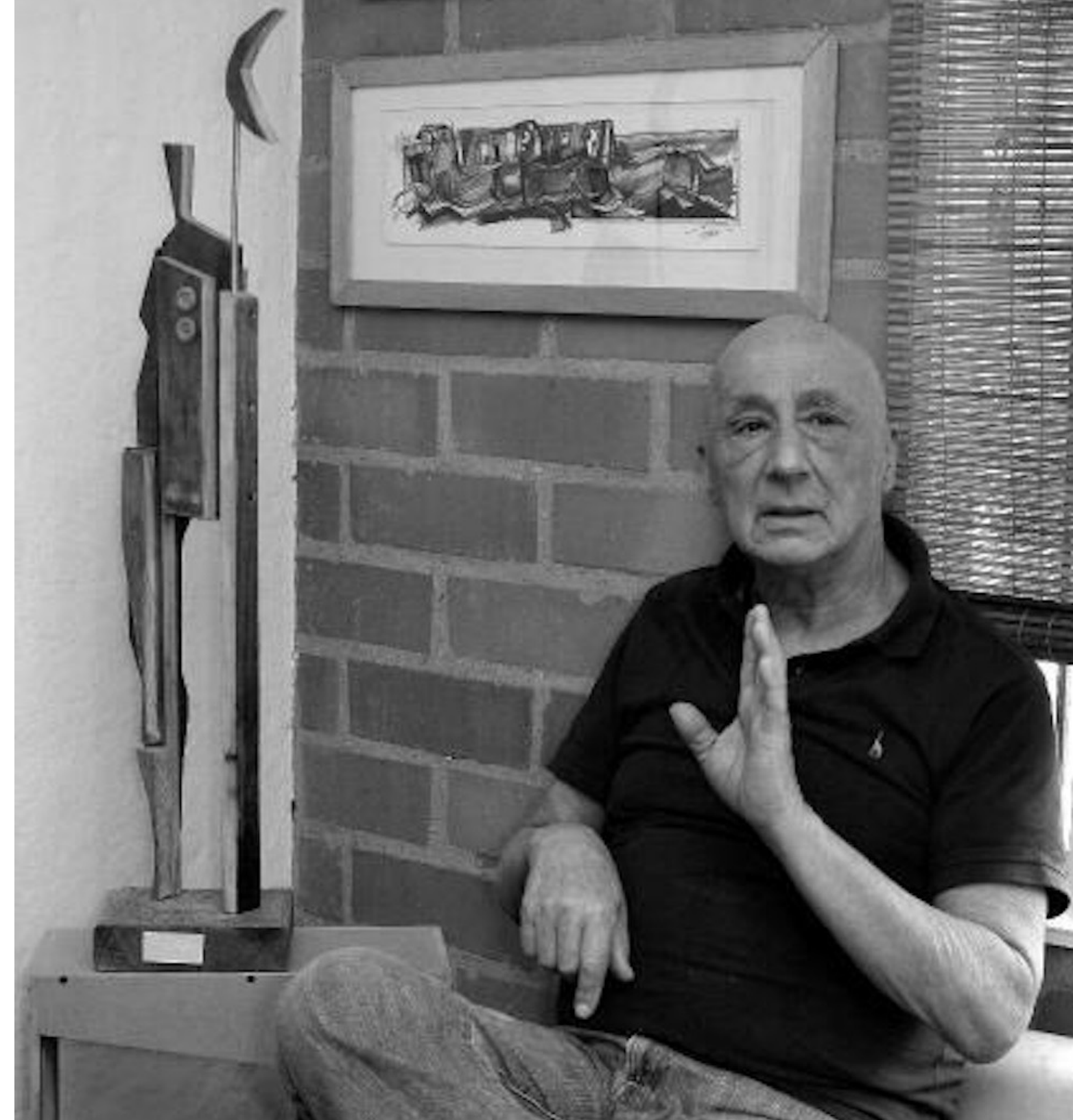
The search for my profession is deeply linked to the search for myself, I have not had commitments to the social environment that develops around art, but art has been the most valuable tool in a personal search.

Art gives meaning to my humanity, art is me, my memory, my memories, my yearnings, my divinity, in it I find my meaning.

I do not know what my work can contribute to art, the artist is only the architect of something and is completely unaware of the impact of its construction.

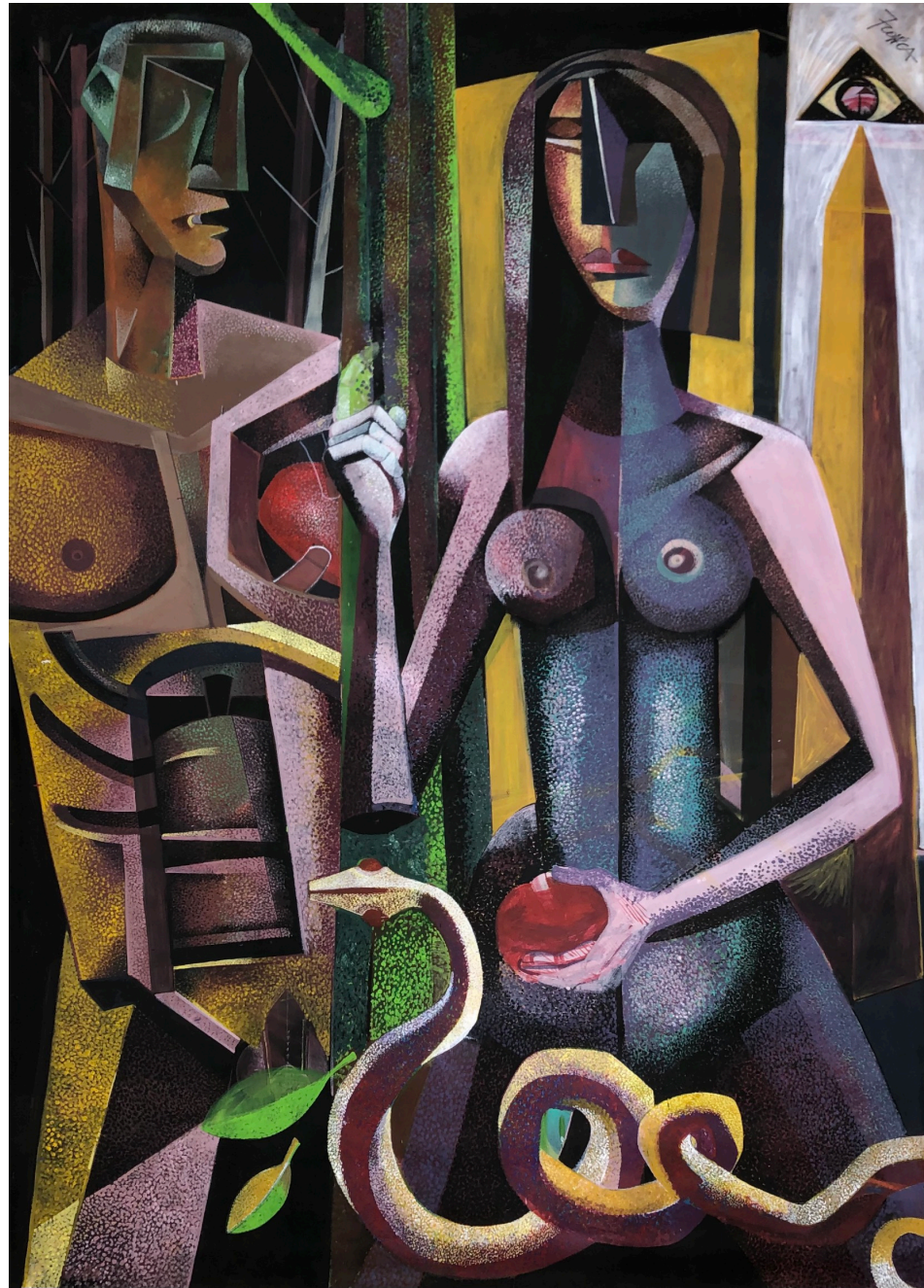
I feel mature, I feel full, I feel capable, I think I can say wonderful things, I am happy with what I do, I love my job, I love the freedom it gives me, I love the company it provides me, I love drawing, I love painting, I love creating things, my mind is constantly busy with that, it's the only thing I think about".

Francisco Correa

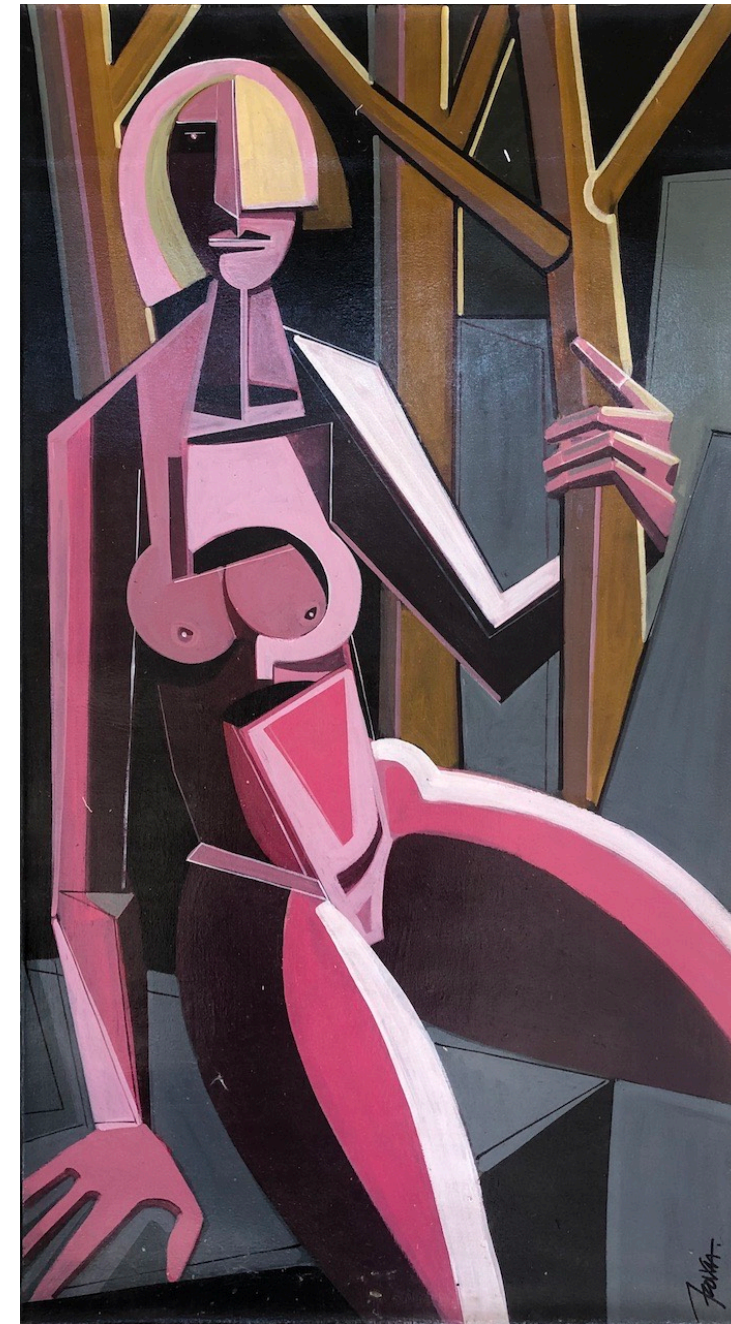




**Old history**, 2021  
Acrylic on Canvas  
170 x 125 cm

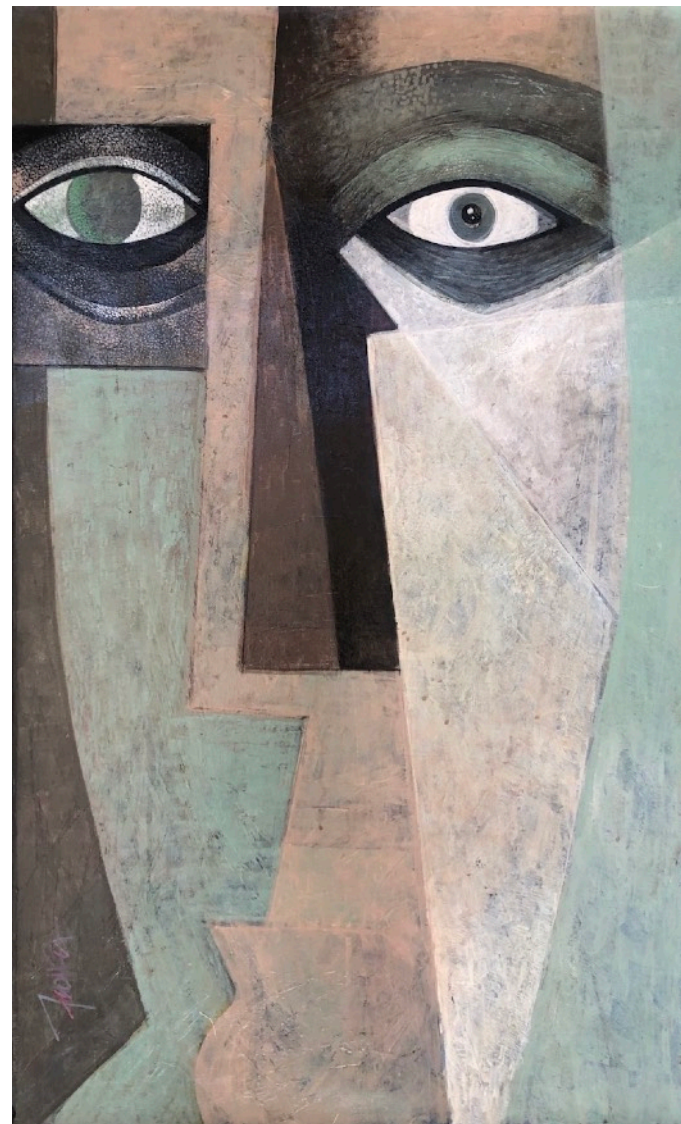






**Jungle**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
110 x 60 cm





**Face**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
100 x 60 cm



**Face**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
70 x 50 cm



**Face**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
72 x 60 cm

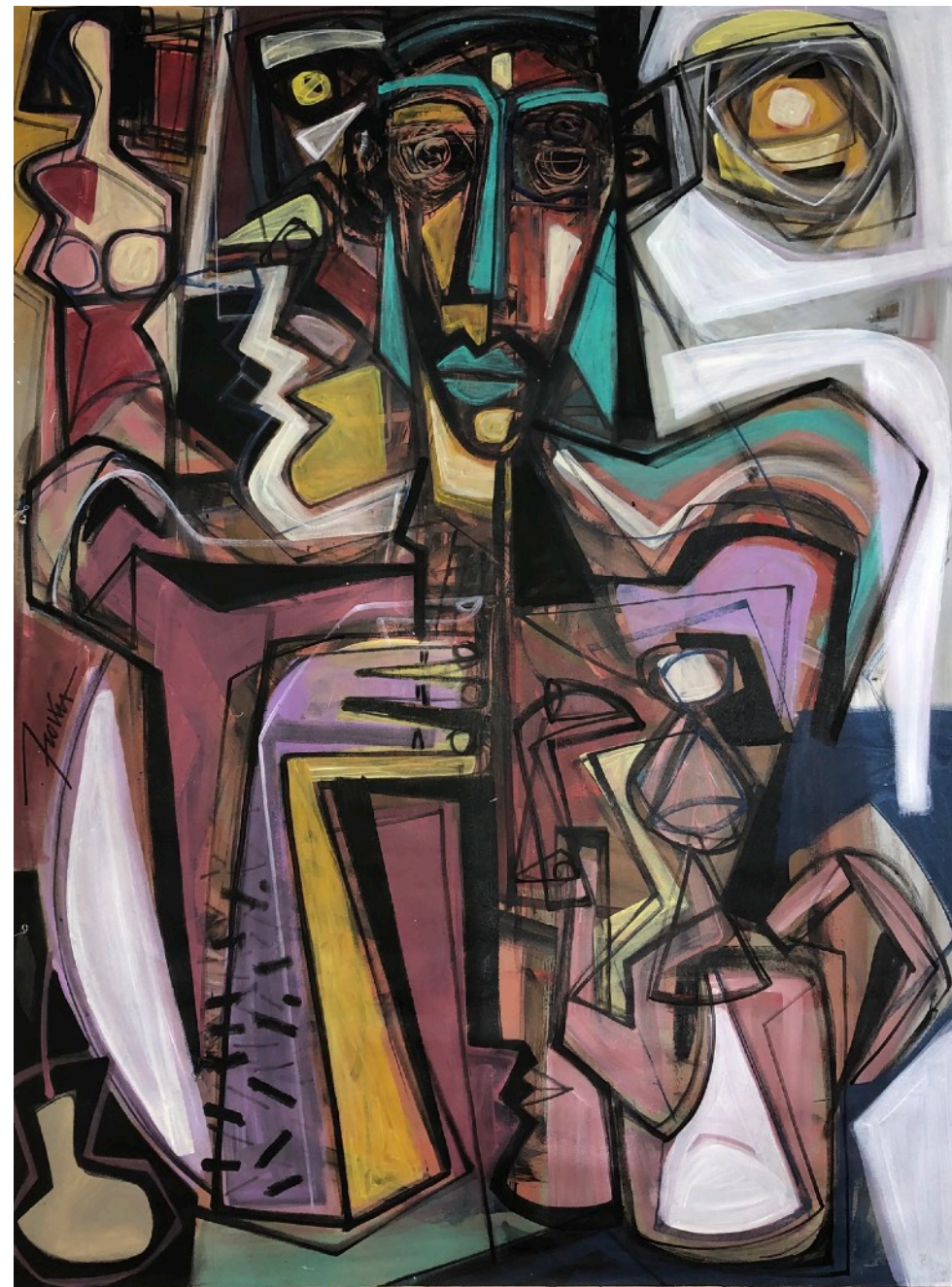


**Characters at night**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
120 x 140 cm





**Afternoon coffee**, 2021  
Acrylic on Canvas  
170 x 130 cm



**Couple watching sculpture**, 2021  
Acrylic on Canvas  
160 x 120 cm





***Moonlight***, 2021  
Acrylic on Canvas  
170 x 110 cm









***The balcony***, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
120 x 140 cm



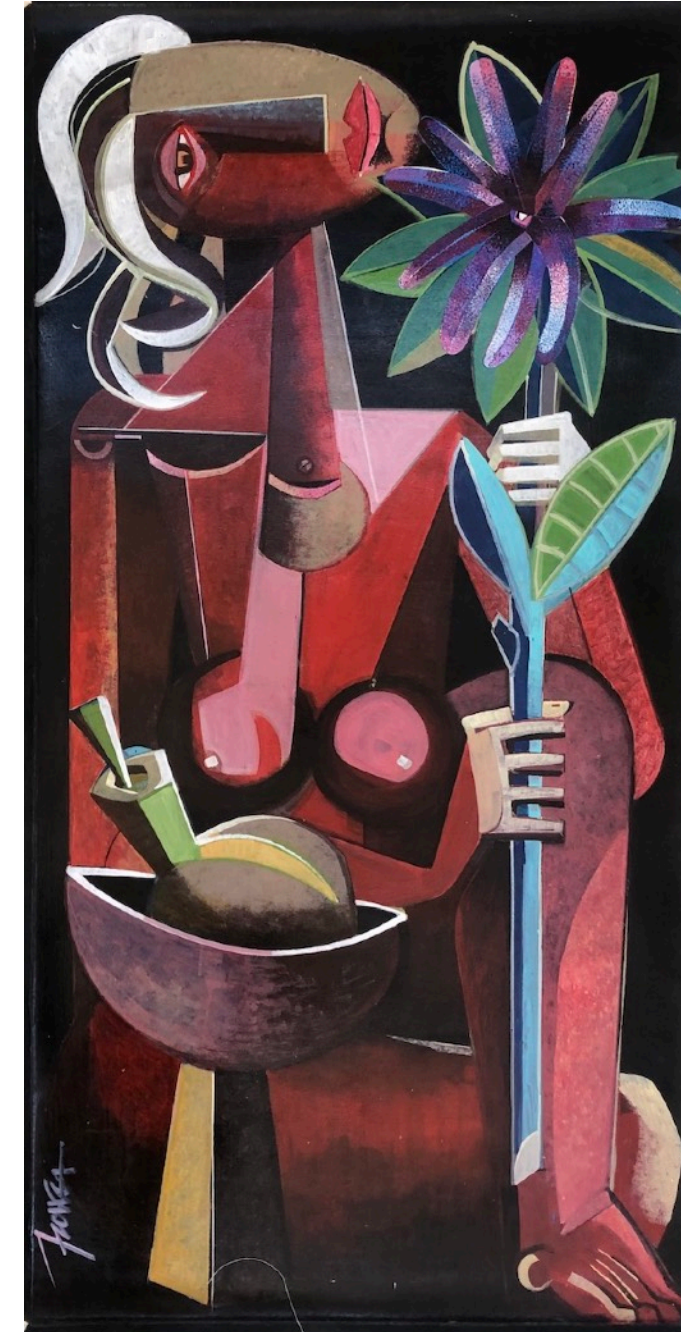


**Shamans**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
128 x 170 cm





**Woman with fruit**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
50 x 70 cm (1 piece)  
100 x 70 cm (2 pieces)



**Woman and flower**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
140 x 70 cm





**La Hacienda**, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
110 x 170 cm



***The Infanta and her little horse***, 2020  
Acrylic on Canvas  
120 x 140 cm





# HECTOR DIAZ

This catalogue was produced by Héctor Díaz Gallery for the exhibition *The best kept secret*.

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