

HECTOR DIAZ

Javier Arizabalo

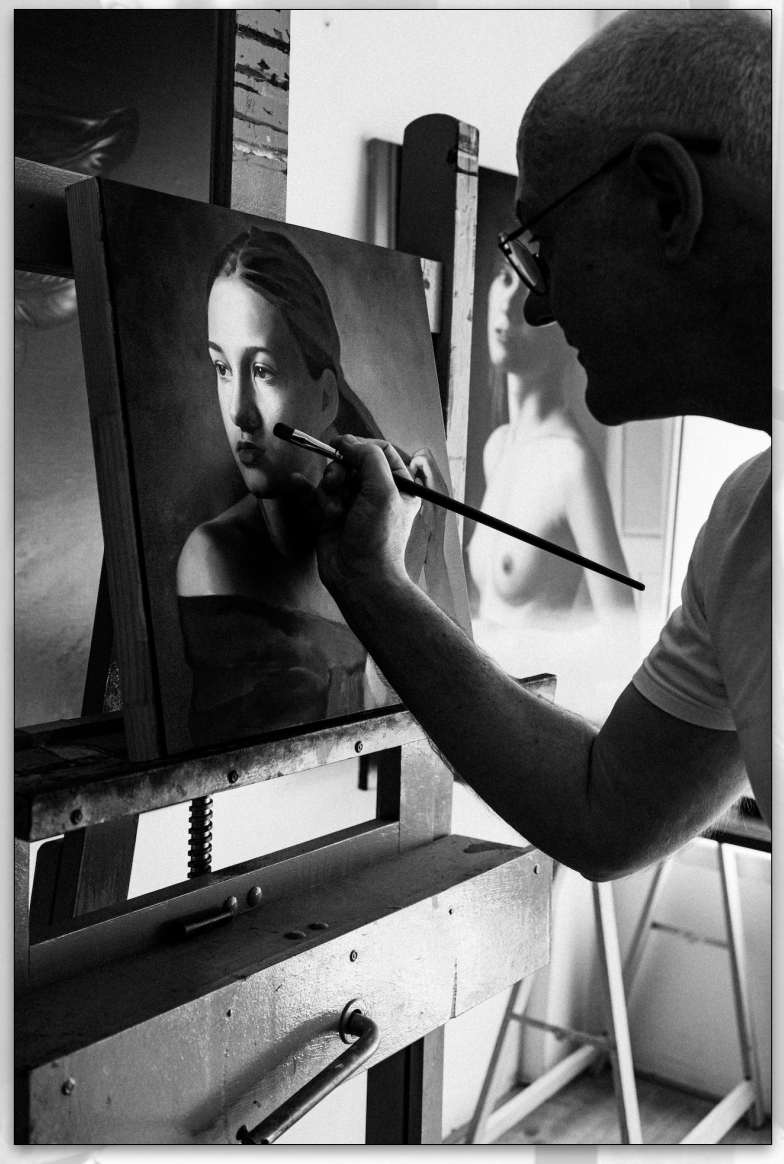
A glimpse into the essence of childhood

By **Héctor Díaz** & **Javier Arizabalo**

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A glimpse into the essence of childhood: Children's Series by Javier Arizabalo

By **Héctor Díaz** & **Javier Arizabalo**
September 2026

Introduction

When we admire the technical mastery and sensitivity of Javier Arizabalo, it is common for our minds to immediately turn to his celebrated portraits and nudes; figures of women and men captured with an exceptional level of realism and emotion. However, his genius is not limited to adult anatomy. Within his astonishing body of work exists a fascinating facet little known to the general public: his Children's Series.

Capturing the true essence of childhood is, historically, one of the most complex challenges in the visual arts. In fact, very few contemporary artists possess the ability to paint girls and boys while managing to convey such a profound universality. Arizabalo not only captures the light on smooth skin or fine hair, but he catches that fleeting spark of wonder and pure vitality.

For HECTOR DIAZ, it is a privilege to share some works from this extraordinary collection, accompanied by the master's own reflections. Below, Javier Arizabalo shares his vision on the role of childhood in the history of art and how, through his canvases, he invites us to reconnect with our own curiosity.

Héctor Díaz
Founder and Director of **HECTOR DIAZ**



Wings, May 2021, Oil on Canvas, 146 x 130 cm, “Children” Series © Javier Arizabalo



Girl, May 2025, Oil on Canvas, 50 x 50 cm, “Children” Series © Javier Arizabalo

Children's Series

The representation of children in art has a history as long as that of adults. From Egypt to Greece, passing through Roman art, in both sculpture and painting, they have gone hand in hand with the character intended for these representations, whether as an idealization, as part of a mythology, an embodiment of feelings, or an attempt to capture the individual.

In the medieval period, which roughly spans from the 5th to the 15th century in what is considered the West, their representation is practically reduced to the iconography of the man-child Jesus. It is said that children were seen (and represented) as small adults.

It is once again in the Renaissance when they appear as the embodiment of innocence, but also, childhood is conceived as a period of formation and preparation for adulthood, which is why they also form part of scenes in which they "fulfill" their future roles.

Few artworks about children, even contemporary ones, fail to project—from the perspective of both the creator and the viewer—ideas such as innocence, delicacy, sensitivity, joy, vitality, the promise of the future, curiosity, fragility, tenderness, or beauty.

Childlike features are not highly accentuated: smooth, soft skin or fine hair generally materialize in less coarse representations, which require a more refined technique, with shallower shadows and more vivid colors.

Because children have a natural playful attitude, their ideas about reality—which are not rigidly formed or structured as in adults—give rise to their inclusion in less formalist scenes, managing to establish a critique of the rigidity of maturity.

Javier Arizabalo

By: Héctor Díaz & Javier Arizabalo
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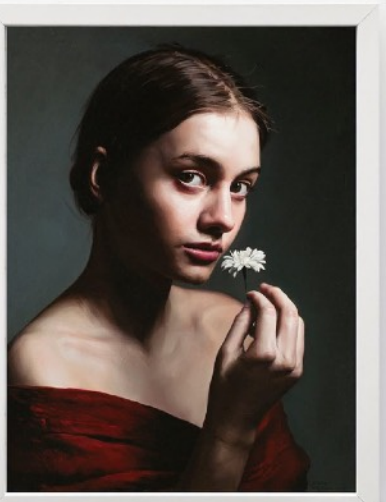



UNA MIRADA A LA ESENCIA DE LA NIÑEZ
Serie Infantil de Javier Arizabalo
Cuando el arte captura algo más que un rostro: captura una etapa de la vida.
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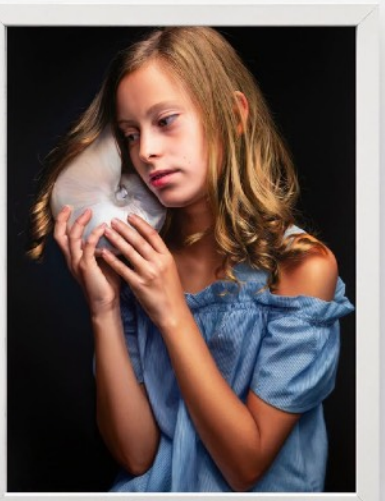
Wings, May 2021, Oil on Canvas, 146 x 130 cm, “Children” Series © Javier Arizabalo

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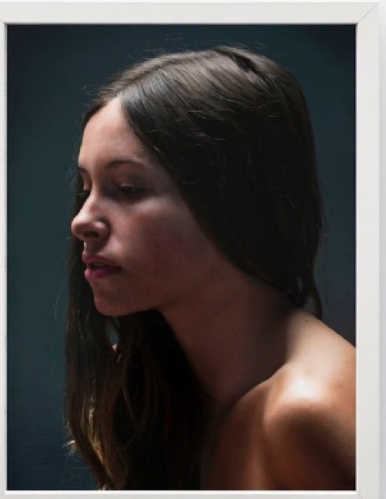
Girl, May 2025, Oil on Canvas, 50 x 50 cm,
"Children" Series © Javier Arizabalo

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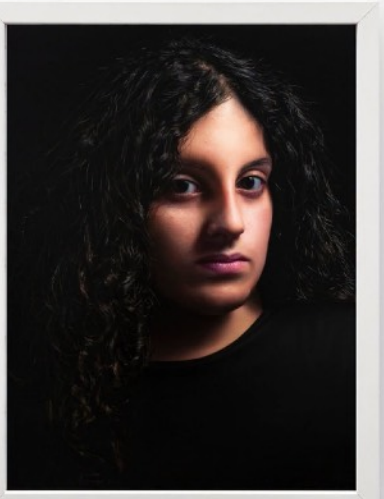
Ane, Feb. 2020, Oil on Canvas, 92 x 60 cm,
"Ane" Sessions, "Children" Series
© Javier Arizabal

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Girl, Mar. 2019, Oil on Canvas, 46 x 33
cm, "Children" Series © Javier Arizabalo

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Andrea, Apr. 2018, Oil on Canvas, 46 x 46
cm "Andrea" Sessions, "Children" Series ©
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HECTOR DIAZ

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Javier Arizabalo © Javier Arizabalo

Back Cover:
Wings, May 2021, Oil on Canvas, 146 x 130 cm, “Children” Series © Javier Arizabalo

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