

Marcos Carvajal — Biography

Marcos Carvajal (Havana, Cuba, 1943) is a multidisciplinary artist who has masterfully explored the integration of media such as graphic design, illustration, drawing, painting, sculpture, digital art, and wearable art. As an educator, he facilitates the learning of visual arts as creative expressions through various media and as a tool for teaching academic subjects.

Early Steps: 1952

It all began when Carvajal was 9 years old, and a client of his mother, who was a painter, invited him to the Almendares River in Havana to draw and paint small fishing boats sailing along the river. His father, a self-taught artist, inspired him to continue experimenting with various media, including painting and craftwork such as woodcarving and the use of found objects. He completed his high school studies at University School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In 1966, after studying three years at the School of Medicine at the University of Havana, family friends living in Pittsburgh offered him the opportunity to study visual arts at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. In 1968, he graduated with an associate degree in Visual Arts applied to advertising, specializing in graphic design and illustration. At the same time, he studied drawing and painting at the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

Applied Visual Arts: 1968

After graduation, Carvajal worked as a graphic designer, illustrator, and art director at advertising companies in Florida and Puerto Rico. Independently, he served as a consultant for urban planning, architectural, and interior/exterior design companies, receiving several design awards, including Best Design from Printing Industry of America and Best Public Mural for his work “Yumurí,” awarded during the US Bicentennial in Miami, Florida.

With the multidisciplinary vision that characterizes his work, Carvajal incorporated photography into his practice, studying photojournalism at Florida International University. Anticipating emerging technologies in design and digital illustration, he furthered his studies at the New York Institute of Technology.

Sculptural Ceramics and Multimedia: 1982

In 1982, he was hired as Art Director at Premier Maldonado advertising agency in Puerto Rico. In 1984, he began exploring the integration of art and education when he met Puerto Rican educator Dr. Pedro Schuck, who invited him to create the Institute for the Development of Education and the Arts (IDEA). Carvajal integrated graphic design and visual services into Dr. Schuck’s human development training programs.

In Puerto Rico, Carvajal attended Casa Candina, a ceramic sculpture school, where he learned to create hand-built ceramic sculptures with instructors Jaime Suárez and Tony Hambleton. From this work emerged his “**Raíces**” collection, made with stoneware clay and iron, cobalt, and copper oxides, incorporating elements inspired by Puerto Rican fauna such as roots and leaves. These pieces were exhibited at the annual convention of interior decorators and designers in Puerto Rico.

Excited by his ceramic work, in 1987, Carvajal submitted his portfolio to the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and applied to the four-year Studio Program. Alongside courses in marble, metal, and ceramic sculpture, jewelry, mosaics, and public art, he studied art history of ancient Mesoamerican, North American, Egyptian, African, and Caribbean cultures, as well as European art movements.

Upon completing his studies, in 1990 he founded Carvajal Sculpture Gallery and SunGod Workshops in Boston and Marblehead, Massachusetts, creating a space to exhibit his work and that of Pan-American artists in the U.S. and abroad, while offering ceramic sculpture workshops.

During this period, he created and exhibited his **“Arqueológicas”** collection, sculpturally documenting the cultural traditions of Cuba, Mexico, Peru, and Puerto Rico, as well as the **“AquaSculptures”** collection, consisting of indoor water fountains.

In 1992, his piece **“Memorial to My Father”** (cenotaph) was selected by Jonathan Fairbanks, curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, as the first contemporary ceramic sculpture in the permanent collection of the Forest Hills Columbarium in Boston. Carvajal was also selected by First Night Inc. to design and build the **“Latin American Pavilion”** for Boston’s Annual Arts Festival. The sculpture, presented to the public on New Year’s Eve, was constructed as a boat with 23 oars bearing the flags of Latin American countries, allowing visitors to step inside and listen to an audio narrative about Latino immigrants in the United States.

Arts Educator: 1995

Seeking to teach at the university level, Carvajal completed the requirements for a Master’s in Education at Cambridge College and began exploring arts in education, producing a thesis proposing the integration of arts into primary school curricula. He specialized in multiple intelligences in the classroom, accelerated learning, and right-brain drawing techniques.

In 1996, Carvajal founded the Altos de Jácome School of Art in the Cayey Mountains of Puerto Rico, serving as resident artist and instructor. He designed curricula for art education and taught drawing, painting, ceramic sculpture, and art therapy workshops. That same year, he became a professor at the University of Puerto Rico, teaching courses such as The Artistic Language of the Self, Mind Maps: A Strategy for Creative Teaching, Ceramic Sculpture: History, Aesthetic Principles, and Creative Process, and Drawing I & II: A Right-Brain Perspective, while participating in academic committees.

As a consultant, he contributed to the EducArte project of the Puerto Rico Department of Education, developing an arts-in-education model for public schools and conducting workshops for middle school teachers, implemented in 140 schools.

In 1999, he was invited to teach acrylic painting courses in the Continuing Education Program at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. That same year, he founded Travel & Learn Inc., a nonprofit promoting cultural trips to Cuba and Puerto Rico, offering courses such as **“Painting in the Rainforest”** (Puerto Rico) and **“Making Art in Cuba”** (Cuba), widely

covered by the New York Times, Boston Globe, El Nuevo Día, CNN.com, NPR, Arts and Antique Magazine, and Associated Press International.

In 2003, Carvajal founded Alcachofa Image and Design Consultants and was hired by Cambridge College's Puerto Rico Regional Center as an image and design consultant, creating visual materials for academic publications, advertising, interior and exterior projects, and organizing cultural events. He also produced digital painting series such as **"Natura"**, recreating Puerto Rican flora, donated to Cambridge College.

Cultural Travel, Wearable Art, and Art Therapy: 2009 - present

Carvajal returned to Massachusetts in 2009, establishing his studio and gallery in Salem, where he created mixed-media works, painting, ceramic sculpture, and digital art. In 2013, he moved to Sarasota, Florida, expanding his gallery-studio and cultural travel programs to Cuba and Puerto Rico through CubArtEdu Inc., serving over 300 participants from art schools, museums, and community art centers. Travel programs included The Arts in Cuban Culture, Havana Art Biennial, Gardening in Cuba, Ceramic Sculpture in Cuba, International Ballet Festival of Havana, African Heritage in Cuban Culture, Painting Cuba, and Photography in Cuba.

During this time, he developed two collections: **"Crónicas Isleñas"** and **"Delia"**.

"Crónicas Isleñas: From Havana to San Juan" is an installation of seven circular pieces painted on both sides, immersing viewers in a participatory experience that explores visual-spatial intelligence (as defined by Harvard's Howard Gardner), allowing participants to reconstruct images like a puzzle. **"Delia"**, created in honor of his mother, is a wearable art collection of necklaces, bracelets, and earrings produced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, Carvajal continues to create and exhibit his work in Florida, with projects including **"Queen Amarineras"** at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and **"Lambayeque"** at the Orlando Museum of Art. He frequently exhibits at the Sarasota Art Center, where his piece **"Look, There Is No More Cancer"** received an Honorary Mention and forms part of the installation **"A Path of Hope for Healing"**, to be exhibited in 2026 for a fundraising initiative with Florida Cancer Specialists. He is actively developing art therapy workshops.

Selected Exhibitions - www.marcoscarvajal.com

- Celestial Soiree, Art Ovation Hotel, Sarasota, FL (A Path of Hope for Healing)
- Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL (Lambayeque, Solo Piece Exhibit)
- Dunedin Fine Art Center, Dunedin, FL (José Martí Totem)
- Art Center Sarasota, Sarasota, FL (Healing-Look, There Is No More Cancer, Honorary Mention, 2025)
- International Art Halls II, III and IV, Centro Pablo, Havana, Cuba (Digital Paintings)
- Boston First Night Art Festival, Boston, MA (Latin American Pavilion, Public Sculpture)
- Forest Hills Museum, Jamaica Plain, MA (Memorial to My Father)
- Marblehead Festival of the Arts, Marblehead, MA
- The Boston Museum School of Fine Arts, MA
- Gallery 333, Falmouth, MA

- Printing Industry of America, Miami, FL
- Montserrat College of Art Gallery, Beverly, MA
- Mon Petit Art Gallery, San Juan, PR
- Flowers & Gallery, Viejo San Juan, PR
- Altos de Jácome School of Art, Cayey, PR
- Carvajal Sculpture Gallery, Boston / Marblehead, MA
- Conseca Gallery, Marblehead, MA
- Arnould Gallery, Marblehead, MA
- Artisan Gallery, Marblehead, MA
- Pertuti Gallery, Boston, MA
- Giovanni Gallery, Boston, MA
- Anasara Gallery, Martha's Vineyard, MA
- Plantique, Marblehead, MA
- Art and More Gallery, Boston, MA
- Massachusetts State House, Boston, MA
- Groomsman Gallery, Boston, MA
- Bunker Hill Community College Gallery, Boston, MA
- Beaulieu Art Resources, Cambridge, MA
- Interior Designers of Puerto Rico Gallery, San Juan, PR
- Fioridella Gallery, Condado, PR
- Big Five Gallery, Miami, FL