



## PARTICIPATING ARTIST

### PEDRO FUERTES

An international artist, Pedro Fuertes Bolanos was born in Lima, Peru and grew up in the district of El Agustino, Lima. He is the oldest of four brothers, the son of Esperanza Bolanos and Placido Fuertes. He studied in the College of *Jose Carlos Mariategui*.

He began painting and sketching from early childhood. In 1974, he won his first competition at the college level, but his restlessness for the arts made him start working at an early age.

To defray the costs of his studies, Mr. Fuertes sold his artwork to tourists. Against the opposition of his family, he entered the *Escuela de Bellas Artes* of Peru in 1976, and by the end of that year, he had formed the group EMBA with which he performed in the municipality of Huanuco. At the end of three years, he left the school, but not the practice of painting itself, partly for economic reasons, but also because of severe poisoning produced by involuntarily inhaling acids from the paints utilized for his artwork. During this period, Mr. Fuertes taught art in the college where he had studied, founded an academy of drawing and painting, and painted portraits of important people in politics. Two years later, he decided to return to school, studying successively with the masters Carlos Aitor Castillo Alberto Davila and Miguel Nieri. During his sojourn there, he followed the official curriculum, but, at the same time, he looked for his own form of expression, which he called Abstract Surrealism.

The necessity of abstracting without, at the same time, abandoning shapes entirely, has caused the master, Fuertes, to capture distinct harmonies from numerous relationships, developing them according to a new logic, conveying them to a new, unique level of their own.

In 1985, he came away from the Servulo Gutierrez art show with an Honorable Mention, being recognized as one of the best students in the show. He received his award in the specialty areas of Drawing, Painting, Teacher Training and Graphic Design.

A lifelong attraction to the sea led him to create themes based on the marine world, for which reason, his first solo exposition, in the Gala Art exhibition hall, was inspired by marine birds. In his second personal showing in the Gallery Barranco, there was a change. In this one, he broached the theme of warriors and mythical battles. In the third showing, which took place in Praxis Gallery, titled Baroque Concert, there could be seen in his works a notable connotation with surrealism such that his images seemed to emanate from the twilight shadows of a dream. His fourth one-man show took place in the municipality of Valparaiso, Chile. Regarding that show, Hugo Garcia, writing for the newspaper *el Mercurio*, wrote: He possesses a great technical dominance over composition and color; his bestiaries and depictions of myth become, each time, more surrealistic, but also more abstract, moving to reinforce the ontological value of his work.

In 1990, Pedro Fuertes married the artist Dora Lopez, his lifelong companion, initiating together a relentless effort to move beyond and look for a cultural essence in the eighteen countries that Peru represented. In 1987, and since then, Pedro Fuertes has produced more than 250 collective expositions and 17 one-man shows in Peru and abroad, with the artist's presence in fourteen countries including Peru, Chile, Italia, Polonia, Guatemala, Venezuela, Belgium, Ecuador, Bolivia, Spain, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Puerto Rico the United States and Kuwait.

From the most populated districts of Lima where he construed his dreams and hopes to the dazzling world of the shows, Pedro Fuertes creates a strong and durable work in the irrefutable search for that prediction from an old teacher, that of becoming a great artist.

Pedro Fuertes currently resides in the United States with his wife Dora and their son Joaquin, where he is engaged in an intense artistic effort, nationally and internationally. His works enrich museums and collections.