

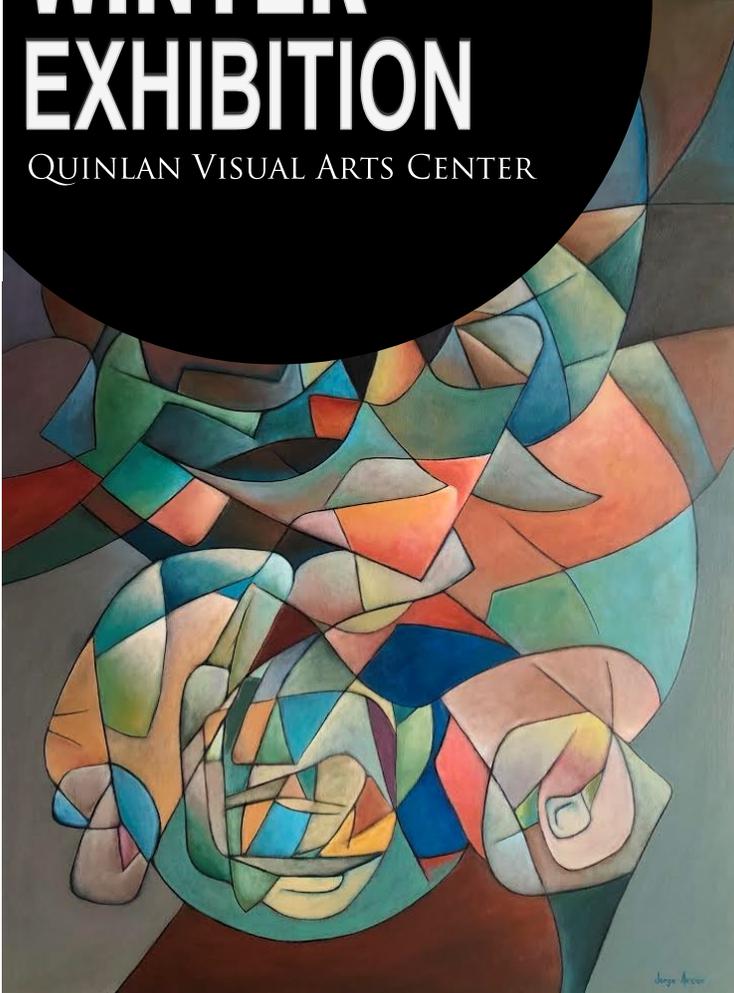


DEC 9

FEB 19

2021-22
WINTER
EXHIBITION

QUINLAN VISUAL ARTS CENTER





WINTER EXHIBITION 2021-22

Contrapunto

CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN ARTIST COLLECTIVE

Jorge Arcos (Mexico)

Arcos was born in 1969 in Mexico City. He was introduced to art in a lyrical and incidental way when he was a little boy working with drawings. As a young boy he received direct artistic influence from his father who was a landscape painter. Jorge regarded art as a part of life, during his childhood and adolescence. Later on he perfected his technique by studying drawing, painting, art history, human anatomy, still-life, engraving, mixed media and abstraction. He decided to pursue a career in "Drawing and Illustration and Fine Arts" at *Escuela Superior de Arte y Dibujo Publicitario*, in Mexico City. Some years later, he moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he focuses on Abstract Art, figurative forms, and murals. In each new work, Jorge looks out from within as he explores issues of outer and inner development. Mr. Jorge has had several art exhibitions in countries, such as Germany, Portugal, Spain and the United States, with private and corporate collections around the world. Currently his work is focused on abstract painting, with different mediums such as acrylic, oil and mixed media, on wood and canvas, also working with encaustic.



Pedro Fuertes (Peru)

An international artist, Pedro Fuertes Bolanos was born in Lima, Peru, February 22, 1958 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. 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. 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.

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 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, Kuwait and the United States. 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, where he is engaged in an intense artistic effort, nationally and internationally.

Catalina Gomez-Beuth (Colombia)

My goal as an artist is to celebrate how our differences make our life richer, and to acknowledge — and celebrate — how in these differences we are so alike. Through my Art I narrate, with brush strokes in people's faces, each person's individuality, avoiding the boundaries created by skin color and ethnicity. This is why all my characters are expressed in various shades of gray. By emphasizing the gestures of the subject surrounded by vibrant colors, I invite the viewer to start a conversation and connect with something deeper to discover the humanity we all share and to feel the raw emotions such as innocence, hopelessness, loneliness, resilience, happiness, determination and more that I portrayed in each canvas.



You can pierce through the soul of global humanity, childhood, feminine empowerment and taste the richness of different cultures when you experience the art of Catalina Gomez-Beuth. Catalina was born in Medellin, Colombia, where she studied fashion design at the "Escuela De Diseño Proyectual". Her love for art was deepened during her stay in Florence, Italy, where she pursued studies in design. However, her true passion has always been painting, vocation she showed since she was a child. Her culture, life experiences and concerns as a person, as a mother and as a woman serve as inspiration for her pictorial works. Currently she is working simultaneously in several art series. Diversity and multiculturalism deeply touch her artistic sensitivity becoming the inspiration for her series titled "ROOTS". Her children and her role as a mother are the foundation for the development of her series "DREAMERS," and women's essence have inspired the series "MUSAS." Catalina has lived in the United States since 2000; she currently resides in Atlanta, GA with her husband and her two children who have been her permanent source of inspiration. She has collaborated with her work to some non-profit organizations such as: "Caminar Latino", "Pianos For Peace", "JDRF Georgia Chapter", "Wheels Of Happiness" and "Feel Beautiful Today". She has also collaborated with the "Latin American Association" as a juror for their annual youth Art Contest 2020. Since 2016 she has been an active member and volunteer of the Art Committee at the Colombian Consulate in Atlanta that aims to spreading and exalting Colombian culture in the State of Georgia, US. Catalina was recently recognized by the Colombian Foreign Ministry among the 100 Outstanding Colombian #migrants of 2020. "I really believe in the importance that Art has to create bridges of communication and inspiration to build and improve communities"

Dora Lopez (Peru)

Sensitive and subjective, the paintings by Dora Lopez, are purely emotional, since always part of a feeling each picture of her is then a story that at the same time is part of its own history. "My works reflect feelings and emotions, which come from the different experiences and circumstances that occur at a certain moment"

Dora Lopez showed her vocation and drawing skills since she was a child, those conditions led her to the National School of Fine Arts, which she entered in 1982, where she discovered the world of her dreams and a life full of shapes, textures and colors and maybe much more than that, he found that painting was a broad world to live and that everything could be expressed through it. The first year she studied in the workshop of Elio Palomino, but in the second entry in Andrés Molina, where I do regular work with models, and the classic drawings of still lifes. In his portraits, he pursued the essence of the characters he drew, perhaps because of that, that the face is the expression of the soul. After that common stage for all, she received the influence of Cubism and Molina herself, from then on Dora Lopez began her search to find her own language, then her emotions and feelings began to play a fundamental role in the construction of each of his

paintings, to which he added elements collected from his research in the cultures of the past. Soon they would have lands and fabrics as symbols that allow a link between their personal history, with the other history, the great history, then papers would appear, always written and in their symbolism transmit that story to the future. Dora Lopez's painting is totally abstract, and despite not recognizing a single figure, in her paintings there is always a character who is represented as a beam of light that travels through history.

The basis on which it sits is its past, and the horizon to which the future is directed, its moods will make that past or future bright or gray depending on the moment it goes through, a sad memory will result then in a gray box the future can be indecipherable, it will then have the same tonality. when optimism invades it, the future is in the broad and luminous picture. His painting always starts from an emotion, that state in front of the canvas, it provokes a charcoal drawing, then he sticks stones, sand, papers or glass. for which it uses glue or acrylate, then it begins to stain, later it pastes later it puts lighter colors. immediately after with brush or charcoal makes his graphics, works what he calls his drippings to which usually add gold dust and finally their lights clearer. Dora Lopez graduated from the National School of Fine Arts in 1987 with the third prize in her class. then he won the first prize awarded by the *Barranco Gallery* at the school's annual exhibition. His first solo exhibition was held at *GALA SALA DE ARTE* where his work was influenced by Orphism. Orphism was a denomination given by Guillaume Apollinaire, to artists who created a universe with elements not taken from visual reality, but created entirely by them, they supposed a rhythmic dynamics of color and consisted in transferring the cubist composition of the painting to the ground of expressionism." for his second sample, I travel invited to exhibit in the Art Room of the Municipality of Valparaíso Chile and the third in the Praxis Gallery of Peru, before leaving for Poland specially invited by the Embassy of Peru of that Country. It is the beginning of a promising career that was undertaken by Dora Lopez, who according to the critic Luís Lama, could be considered as the highlight of her promotion. A first step, no doubt in the difficult search to transcend his time and his history.



Carlos Solis (Venezuela)



In the infinite world of my imagination, I try to convey and stimulate the mythical and spiritual elements of visual expression. My passion in painting started with the magnificent elements of nature; fauna and flora, and it's natural beauty that involves its selective conditions. For example: the majestic animals of the Amazon or Indians from Venezuela (Guajiros). However, I always try to expand my work to other areas of reality and with a spiritual meaning; therefore, I, occasionally, have the tendency to go from one extreme to another in order to explore, and show the ranges of styles and techniques by creating the most beautiful and delicate components of life to the most complex and strange.

Fortunately, I have the pleasure and the opportunity to experience the richness of many cultures in South and North America, which allow me to expand my imagination even more; this also helps me understand the differences and similarities of both worlds. My work reflects the distinctness of my artistic perception from those experiences, which provide vivid colors and physical details in order to make something visually pleasing, grotesque or unfamiliar to look at. Furthermore, I also try to create awareness and express an opinion about our delicate habitat and lack of knowledge about cultural and racial diversity in South America.



Carlos Solis is a curator and the founder of the Latin American artist collective "Contrapunto". Solis has curated several shows including Blackness in Latin America which premiered in New York, moved to Chicago, New Mexico, and ended in Atlanta, and Surrealist Apparatus which travelled along the east coast of the United States. Born in 1966, in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Solis lived in Venezuela until 1990 when he relocated to Chicago, IL where he studied Graphic Design at College of DuPage. In 2006, he moved to Atlanta where a few years later he dedicated his life to his fine art career. In

2008, the idea for a Latin American artist collective was born.

Melvin Toledo (Nicaragua)



Melvin Toledo's interest in art began as a teenager with drawings of characters from the popular Japanese manga series, Dragon Ball Z. Encouraged by family members, he left his small hometown of Ciudad Antigua in northern Nicaragua to attend the School of Fine Arts in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. His goal was to learn how to create the still life paintings that his uncle's home decorating company sold across the county. At the School of Fine Arts, he focused on graphite and pastel drawing. After a year of study, he left the school to take private classes from a still life painter and soon after he began to paint for his uncle using a mixture of oil paint and lithographic ink.

In 2007 he married Lauren, a Peace Corps Volunteer working in Ciudad Antigua and soon after moved to the United States where he began to paint exclusively in oils.

"Once I arrived in the States, I continued to paint still life. I took some classes and attended workshops that helped me improve the quality of my work. In 2011 after moving to Atlanta, GA, I started to sell my work through galleries in the south. Lately, I have shifted my attention to portrait painting, a subject that I have always found very fascinating. I am currently working on a new series of work about immigration in the United States."



Rosa Obregon (Mexico)



Beautiful colors as well as strong color combinations support my feelings and personal identity. My artwork and themes reflect the vibrancy of my home country, Mexico City. As I explore unfamiliar or well known places they add color and richness to my life; the way I perceive my view, my work.

I grew up surrounded by music, art, and architecture which served as inspiration to my art. My artwork involves a combination of drawing, painting, texture, and collage techniques. These different methods allow me to form geometric shapes and lines with precise design. As an abstract artist I love to find the beauty and complexity of negative and positive spaces emerging together to create the end result; a beautiful composition.



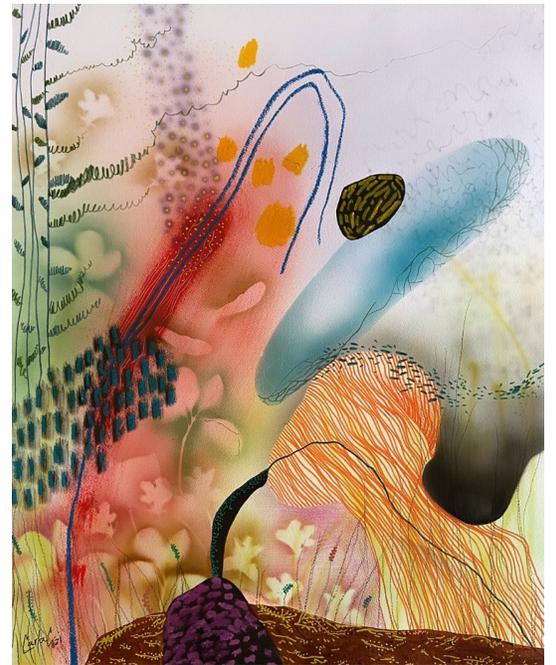
Carla Contreras (Ecuador)



Originally from Quito, Ecuador, Carla Contreras is a multidisciplinary visual artist and educator living and working in Atlanta since 2016, when she came to pursue her M.F.A degree in Painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Contreras's artwork deals with ideas related to the human condition, the seek for balance, and connection with nature. Her work has been exhibited at MOCA Ga, The Mint Museum (Charlotte, NC), The Hambidge Art Auction, The Callanwolde Fine Art Center, The Johns Creek Art Center, The Lovett School, Pace Academy, The Coca-Cola Head Quarters, SCAD Art Sales, The Shops at Buckhead, the ART PAPERS Auction, O/Art and The City Auction, and local contemporary galleries like

MINT, EYP/100, Besharat, FreeMarket Gallery. Contreras has been featured in covers, publications, and reviews for the AJC Journal, SCAD Connector, BuckHaven Lifestyle Magazine, Studio Visit Magazine, BURNAWAY, ArtsATL, SHOUTOUT Atlanta, The VoyageATL Magazine for their "Thought Provokers: celebrating artists & creatives" Series, Univision 34 Atlanta, La Vision Atlanta Radio and Newspaper, and ELYSIAN Magazine's Arts and Culture 2020 issue.



About *Contrapunto*

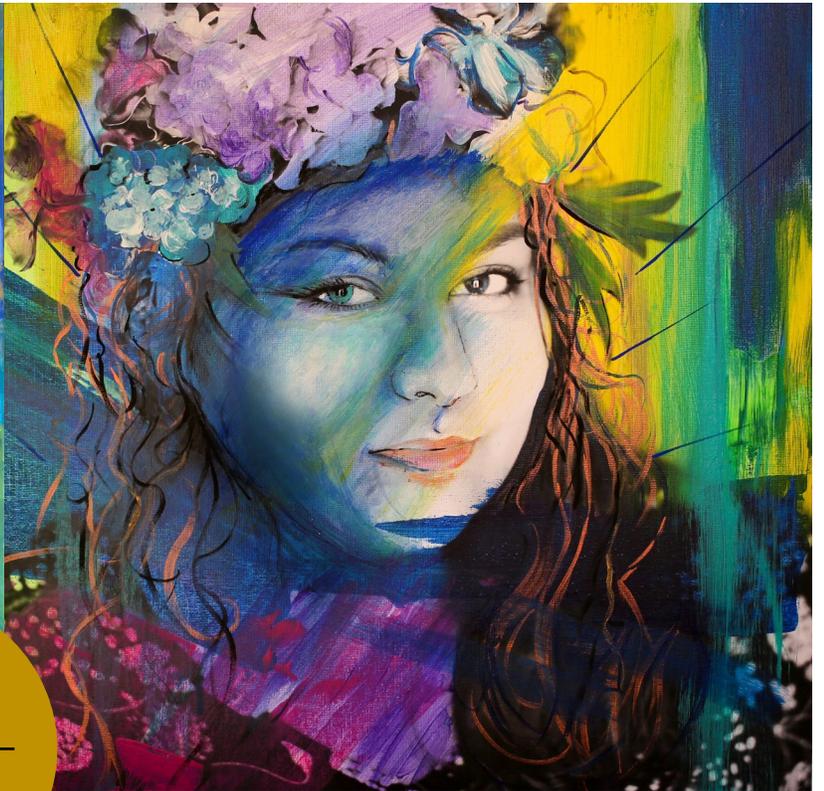
*“In music, the word Counterpoint (*Contrapunto* in Spanish) is the technique of combining two or more melodic lines in such a way that they establish a harmonic relationship while retaining their linear individuality”*

As artists, we are connected and work together in a unique and harmonious way — the best way to describe our dynamic is to use the musical term: Counterpoint. We are a small yet strong group of artists from Peru, Mexico, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Colombia, and Venezuela. *Contrapunto* founder Carlos Solis (Venezuela) alongside Pedro Fuertes (Peru), Jorge Arcos (Mexico), Melvin Toledo (Nicaragua), Dora Lopez (Peru), and Catalina Gomez-Beuth (Colombia) made up the original group.

While we work independently, collaborating with galleries and institutions far and wide, we regularly show our work as a group. This includes other guest artists, and it is our philosophy to provide opportunities to emerging, mid-career, and established artists. *Contrapunto* recognizes the importance of working alongside people outside of our community in order to make our presence as Latin American artists, individually as well as together, stronger and more recognizable.

Contrapunto places great importance in working with the greater Atlanta community, using art as an educational platform to raise awareness about Latin American culture, folklore, and collective history. We view our visual art as the best way to send a message, exchange ideas, and share differing points of view across the board. We are a dedicated and united group, increasingly recognized for our hard work, high level of skill, and professionalism.



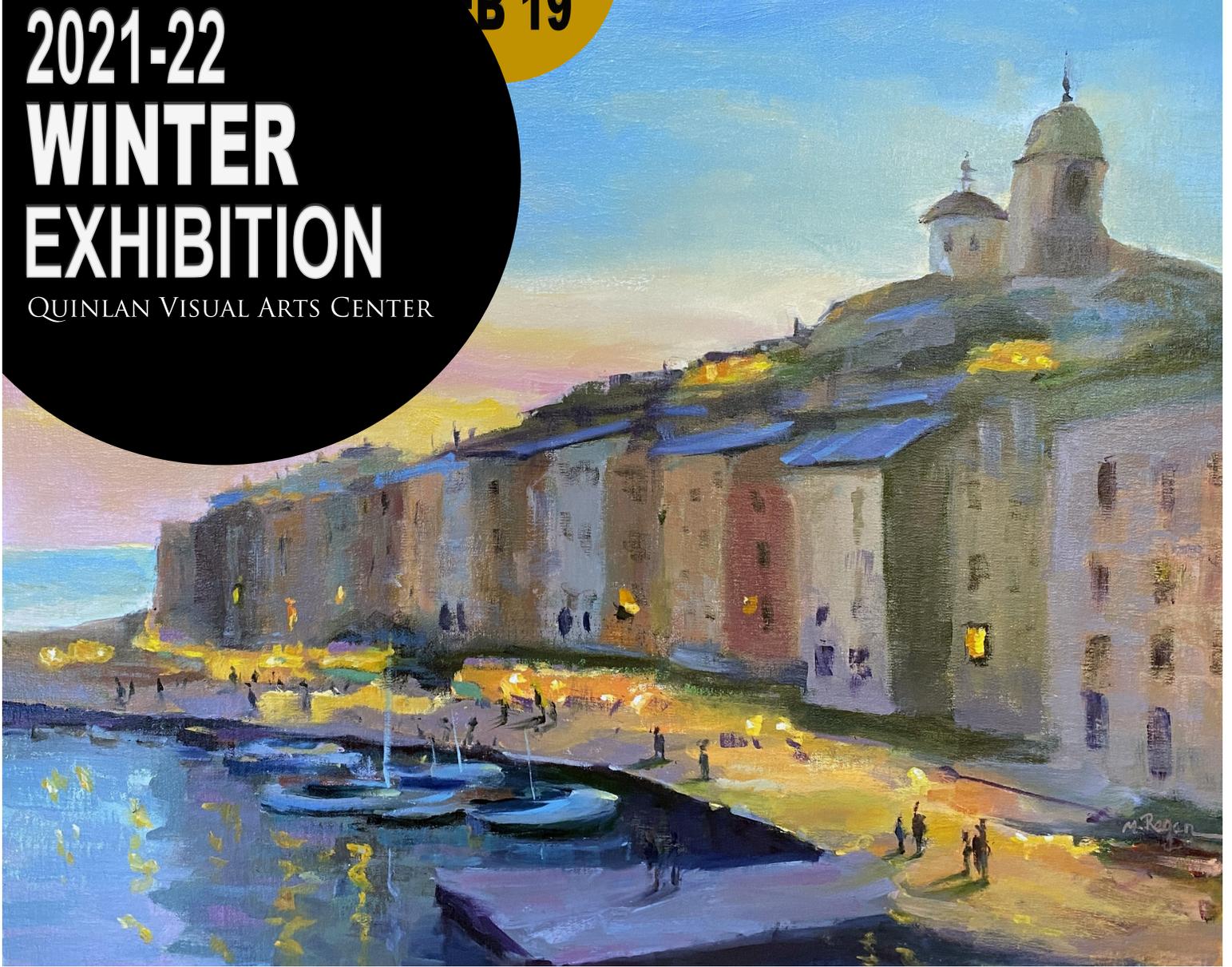


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Fox Gradin – Artist Statement

Aura: Mentors and Muses

Within the shadows of this facade we present to the world, the true colors of the soul cannot be hidden from those who seek to know it.

My fascination with Spiritualism and Spirit Photography of the early 19th century, as well as the movement to photograph Auras, beginning with Kirlian photography in the 1940s, has led me to an experiment with painting photographs as an attempt to further capture the true essence of a person.



In the 1930's, cultural critic Walter Benjamin worried about the loss of "aura" in art. He said that the mystical force that stemmed from an artwork's presence in time and space was being dulled by the rise of "artwork of mechanical reproduction".

My art is rooted in storytelling and by whatever medium it is produced, strives only to capture the magic of life. There are no more magical creatures, in my estimation, than human beings. I endeavor to know as many people, on a soul level, as I can.

In *Aura: Mentors and Muses*, I have used people in my own life who I find inspirational, my teachers, my collaborators, my motivators, the ones who push me to be a better version of myself, as the subject of captured auras, life force, magic, and spirit.

Play along by taking a list of possible meanings behind the colors in the art. What color is your aura?





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Mali Regan

Artist Mali Regan has been painting since she was 15 years old in her hometown of Tehran, Iran. Her first teacher was Mansour Fakoor. She continued her art until she was married and had a family. Mali took early retirement from Delta Air Lines, where she was a senior analyst in the treasury department, in 2005. Six years ago she started painting again, studying with Chris Didomizio. She also took workshops with famous artists Nancy Franke, Bill Davidson, Lori Putum, and John Barry Raybould, the latter of whom took classes in Italy. Her mentor is James Richards.

Mali is a member of the Atlanta Artist Center. Her specialty is oil painting, both landscape, cityscape, and portrait, and her biggest influences are impressionist artists Pierre-Auguste Renoir, John Singer Sargent and Oscar-Claude Monet.

Mali has two children and two grandchildren. She makes sure to have time for them and for her painting. As she always says, painting keeps her sane, happy and her mind busy. This exhibit is the culmination of the past 20 years of traveling to 36 countries around the world, taking snapshots of scenes from near and far, whether it's the coastal islands of Georgia, the hills and bustling cities of Italy, or still life in Iran. "I always look for inspirations in nature, city life, and people around me," says Mali, who travels around the country and the world to take photos or plein air sketches to use for her paintings.

Mali's passion and dedication to her art has created a second career, with an enthusiastic following of patrons for her pieces. Her paintings are on her website (www.MaliRegan.com), at Westside Market Atlanta (North Druid Hill-Toco Hill), and at Anis Cafe & Bistro in Atlanta. She frequently shows at galleries and Scott's Antique Market, and is available for commissions.





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Carol Christie

Carol Christie, a contemporary abstract expressionist, has been creating art, born of passion, for what seems like a lifetime. From her earliest memories, she recalls wanting to be an artist and sketched most of her childhood. The youngest of seven children, Christie grew up in Royal Oak, Michigan in a beautiful home with breathtaking gardens.

Best known for her exuberantly-hued florals, she has recently become enamored with painting expressionistic abstracts. Her painting process transverses effortlessly between subjectivity and objectivity. Her high energy paint strokes, luminous depth of color and lyrical color patterning, are profoundly visceral and soul-stirring.

As she matures as an artist, she is breaking down barriers as she explores the surface of the canvas and her own life. A feeling of space and calmness now interrupts the high energy brushstrokes and Christie's signature calligraphic marks. As she allows herself the freedom to paint more objectively, her challenges become more complex. Inner physical rhythms are her impetus and these rhythms guide her journey from subconscious to conscious until a painting comes together in harmony and wholeness. The raw, harnessed energy in her paintings underlines the complex contrast of emotion, mirrored in her works.

Christie began exhibiting her contemporary acrylic works on canvas in 1990. C.A. Christie (how she signs her work) is represented by numerous fine art galleries. Her work hangs in private and corporate collections throughout the United States.

