

## **Artistic Curriculum**

### **José Salas Martínez**

**Habana, Cuba, born 1949**

Artistic name: **J. Salas**

Occupation: **Self-employed artist**

#### **1-EDUCATION**

Graduated in the Academy of Plastic Arts "San Alejandro", Havana , 1972.

Completed all the requirements for the course on graphical design for books. Instituto Cubano del Libro (Cuban Book Institute), taught by the German professor Mr. Sittauer. Havana , 1987.

#### **2-PERSONALS EXHIBITIONS**

Municipal art gallery, "10 de Octubre" municipality, 1985, 16 works.

Municipal art gallery, "Cerro" municipality, 1985, 19 works.

Municipal art gallery, "Centro Habana" municipality, 1990, 34 works.

Municipal art gallery "10 de Octubre" municipality, 1997, 33 works.

Academy of Plastic Arts "San Alejandro", 1998, 19 works.

Art gallery, "Cerro" municipality, 1999, 23 works.

Cuban Book Institute, 2001, 9 assemblies.

"Origenes" art gallery, 2001, 6 works.

Gallery Hotel Vedado, 2007. 17 works.

Gallery Casa de la Poesía, 2008, 18 works

Study J, Salas, Muralla #153. 11 Bienal de La Habana (colateral), 8 works, medium and great format.

#### **3-COLLECTIVES EXHIBITIONS ( selection )**

National Youth Hall, 1973, 1 work.

Contest for the sculptural monument in memory of the slave rebellions, 1976, 1 work.

Hall of the City, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1 work each year.

2nd National Contest of the Book Art, 1984, 7 works.

Book Creative Art, "Luz and Oficios" art gallery, 1984, 3 works.

"Plaza" hall, 1985, 1 work.

3rd National Contest of the Book Art, 1985, 2 works.

National Contest "13 de Marzo", 1986, 2 works.

3rd International Exhibition of the Poster for Peace and Social Progress , USSR , 1986, 1 work.

Biennial of Berno , Czechoslovakia , 1988, 2 works.

2nd Hall of Centro Habana, 1988, 2 works.

4th small format exhibition, "L" art gallery, 1988, 2 works.

National Hall of Graphical Advertising, 1988, 2 works.

"30th Anniversary" Hall, "Galiano" art gallery, 1992, 1 work.

National Illustration Hall, 1992, 1 work.

"Other colors of the smile", Managua , Nicaragua , 1993, 1 work.

Small Format, "L and 23" art gallery, 1993, 1 work.

XXIX Exhibition of Plastic Arts, "Las Peñas" District, 2nd Latin American Meeting, Guayaquil , Ecuador , 1995, 4 works.

"The individual and his Memory", IV Biennial of Havana , "10 de Octubre" Municipal art gallery, 1997, 1 work.

Auction of the Great Theater of Havana, Imago art gallery, 1998, 1 work sold.

"And we are in the middle", Collateral to the contemporary Art the Hall, 1998, 1 work.

" Cuban Hispanic Wide Range ", 1998, "Cerro" art gallery, 1998, 2 works.

Auction of the Great Theater of Havana, Imago art gallery, 1999, 1 work sold.

The other Reality. National museum of Cuba, Exhibition homage to the centennial of the first abstract work of Kandisky. 2010, 1 work.

### **Exhibitions with the Group "Tiempo Libre" (selection)**

*Participation in thirteen exhibitions with this group.*

"12 and 23" art gallery (July 84), 9 works.

4th Anniversary of the Group "Tiempo Libre", "La Lisa" art gallery (October, 1985).

"Amelia Peláez" art gallery, official exhibition in commemoration of Cuban National Culture Day (October, 85), 6 works.

### **Exhibitions with the Cultural Group "Juan Marinello" of Centro Habana municipality, "Wilfredo Lam" posse.**

*Participation in eleven exhibitions with this group. (Selection).*

"Galiano" art gallery (1983), 3 works.

"La Lisa" art gallery (1984), 2 works.

"Carlos Marx" art gallery (1984), 1 work.

"La Lisa" art gallery (1985), 4 works.

"Galiano" art gallery (1987), 1 work.

"Cerro" art gallery (1988), 2 works.

### **Exhibitions with the plastic group, "Proyecto Horizontal"**

Participation in ten exhibitions with this group, (Selection).

Culture Center of Beja , Portugal , 1998, 2 works.

"Habana Libre" Hotel, 1998, 1 work.

"Imago" art gallery, year 1998, 1 work.

Catalan Association of Artistic Entities, Barcelona , 1999, 1 work.

"Prestige" art gallery, Barcelona , 1999, 3 works.

Ewing Gallery, University of Tennessee , 1999. 1 work.

### **4-PRIZES**

2nd National Contest of the Book Art (1984). 1st Prize in the category of best cover and 3rd Prize in the category book of science and technique.

National Hall of Graphical Advertising (1985). One mention in the category of book cover.

2nd Hall of "Centro Habana" municipality (1988). One mention in the category of drawing .

7th National Contest of the Book Art (1989). One mention in the category of interior design.

National Hall of Graphical Advertising (1991). 2nd Prize in the category of poster .

## 5-CHRONOLOGY OF THE MOST RELEVANT ASPECTS

- 1972. Graduated in the Academy of Plastic Arts of "San Alejandro".
- 1973. Began to work as graphical designer in the Cuban Book Institute.  
Joined the Brigade "Hermanos Saíz".
- 1981. Founded the group "Tiempo Libre", together with four designers.
- 1983. Became part of the Cultural Group "Juan Marinello" of Centro Habana municipality.
- 1985. Appointed as Member of the Advisory Technical Board for "Cerro" Municipal Art Gallery .
- 1987. Participation in the course on graphical design for books, taught by the German professor Mr. Sittauer.
- 1992. Joined the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba . Began to work as a self-employed artist.
- 1995. Traveled to Guayaquil , Ecuador .
- 1997. Joined the plastic group, "Proyecto Horizontal". Appointed as Member of the Advisory Technical Board of "10 de Octubre" Municipal Art Gallery .
- 1998. Joined the Association of Spanish Artists.
- 2000. Foundation of the visual art workshop "J. Salas".
- 2002. Participation in the National Contest "Book Art" as a member of the panel of judges.
- 2003. It designs the original diplomas of the Literary Prize "Alejo Carpentier" in Short-Story, Rehearsal and Story 2003.
- 2009. It designs the original diplomas of the Literary Prize "Alejo Carpentier" in Short-Story and Rehearsal 2009.
- 2010. It designs the original diplomas of the Literary Prize "Alejo Carpentier" in Short-Story, Rehearsal and Story 2010.  
Exhibition homage to the centennial of the first abstract work of Kandisky. The other Reality. National museum of Cuba, 1 obra.
- 2011. It designs the original diplomas of the Literary Prize "Nicolás Guillén" in Poetry 2011.

## 6- COUNTRIES THAT EXHIBIT HIS WORKS

His works are part of the decoration of several hotels located in his native country; as well as in the Cuban private collections, and in foreign countries such as: Canada , Ecuador , Spain , Germany , Argentina , Australia , Denmark , England , Italy , Mexico , Nicaragua , Norway , Peru , Russia , United States ,Switzerland, and Venezuela .

The abstract art is to make from one image many different ones; my (spatial) painting and my (letter work) sculpture is associated to this contemporary art. By combining geometric figures, I create new associations and expressive forms.

**Stages of his work:**

Since 1973, I work in publishing, combining this activity with painting, sculpturing, drawing, and engraving.

Stylistic periods: informal abstraction stage (1973-84), expressionist-figurative-geometric stage (1979-84), geometric abstraction stage with optical and modular elements (1982). Since 1988, I incorporate minimalist art features; and as of 1992, some characters, resulting from the recombination of the iconographic and technical knowledge, appear in part of my work.

**Prisoner of art**

The purpose of my work is only that of self-satisfaction. The only standard I follow is just not to have any. Having my own material and technical resources, I start from an original idea, which I struggle not to abandon or transform its essence. The construction process is highly calculated and exhausting; this working pace captivates me in the dialog work-artist, for confidences and revelations, which are common in painters, are caught between me and the work. For this reason the artist has devoted part of his physical and emotional live.

When completing a work and gazing at it, I feel incomparably intoxicated with pleasure, this state of mind can hardly be described with words. From that moment on, or perhaps before, the work suggests me or reveals one (or more) new ideas to perform.

In this way, it is repeated a cycle in which I am not more than a *prisoner of art*

Havana , November 10, 2004

**With the New Century** I prepared new ways for my artistic expression, stimulating passion for volume. This time I brought into three-dimensional what we are used to watching in a plane or printed way, I turned typography into corporeal. I kept showing an optical effect on the surface, now in a different way (new in my works) for in the same surface I establish a dichotomy of images in modular fragments where one overlaps the other and vice versa, considering the resulting visual effect brought by the absence and restoration of my discursive axis.

Havana 2003.