



MINISTRY OF NOMADS

GALLERY | SALON | ART FOUNDATION

MARIO VÉLEZ

1968

Lives and works in Medellín, Colombia.

BIOGRAPHY

Mario Vélez is a Colombian artist working in painting, drawing, and sculpture. Vélez began his study of fine arts at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín (1994). During his undergraduate degree, he was invited to take part in the Studio Programme in Painting at the Hochschule für Angewandte Kunst in Vienna (1992). After graduating, he returned to Europe for a master class with Karl Horst Hodicke at the Hochschule der Kunst in Berlin (1997). He is currently based in Medellín.

Vélez's oeuvre engages with multiple artistic traditions, drawing influence from three main areas of interest: the art of pre-Columbian Latin America, contemporary abstract and expressionist painting, and the visual culture of present-day Colombia. Working in the abstract mode, Vélez juxtaposes textural organic form and bright, playful colour to suggest a fusion of the primitive and the modern. His style incorporates elements from two major movements within the Western canon: the tradition of geometric abstraction (particularly as seen in the work of Kandinsky, Delaunay, and Af Klint), and the Colour Field paintings of the Abstract Expressionist movement.

Mario Vélez's work has been exhibited worldwide, and he has participated in numerous exhibitions every year since 1994. His paintings hang in museum collections in South America, North America, and Europe, including that of the Museo de Arte Moderno in Bogotá and the Museum of Latin American Art in Los Angeles. His paintings have also been purchased by a number of prestigious private and corporate collections, including that of UBS Switzerland and the Sultan of Oman.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 'Canto Rodado', Gallery Elena Shchukina, London
- 2016 'Mario Velez: Paintings', International Festival of Culture, Cuernavaca
- 2016 'ATLAS', Archivo General de Bogotá, Bogotá
- 2015 'Metric Expansion', Arteconsult Galería, Panama City
- 2015 'Things That Kill', Galeria Lourdes Sosa, Mexico City
- 2015 'Inflections. Chronotope', Sala U Contemporary Art, National University of Medellín
- 2014 'Canto Rodado', Christopher Paschall S. XXI Gallery. Bogotá
- 2014 'Eternal Spring', Frederico Sève Gallery, New York
- 2013 'Formations', Collective Exhibition, Frederico Sève Gallery, New York
- 2013 'Eternal Spring', Galleria Arché, Rome
- 2012 'Paintings & Drawings', Knoerle & Baettig Contemporary Fine Art, Winterthur, Switzerland
- 2011 'Geografías Corporales', Museo de Arte del Tolima, Tolima,
- 2011 'Mario Velez: Paintings', ARV Art Gallery, the Hamptons, New York
- 2011 'Internal Migrations', Bridge Gallery, New York City
- 2010 'Internal Migrations,' Galería Arteconsult, Panama City



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- 2010 'We Are Not Made of Sugar', Bridge Gallery, New York City
- 2010 'Evidence', Etra Fine Art Gallery, Miami
- 2009 'We Are Not Made of Sugar', Alonso Garcés Galería, Bogotá
- 2009 'Mario Velez: Monochromatic Drawings', Promo-Arte Gallery, Tokyo
- 2009 'Small Wars', Etra Fine Art Gallery, Miami
- 2008 'Mario Velez: Paintings', William Merrill Gallery, Laguna Beach, California
- 2008 'Mario Velez: Drawings', Alonso Garcés Galería, Bogotá
- 2008 'Vulnerable Space', Etra Fine Art Gallery, Miami
- 2007 'Horizontal – Vertical', Etra Fine Art Gallery, Miami
- 2007 'The Golden Paths', Museo de Arte Moderno, Medellín
- 2006 'Possesions', Etra Fine Art Gallery, Miami
- 2006 'Possesions', French Alliance, Medellín, Colombia
- 2005 'Mario Velez: Paintings', International Festival of Culture, Cuernavaca
- 2005 'Things That Kill', Galeria Lourdes Sosa, Mexico City
- 2004 'ON-NO', Diners Gallery, Bogotá
- Arizona State University Art Museum, Arizona, USA
- Daros Latinamerica AG, Zurich, Switzerland
- Kadist Art Foundation, Paris-San Francisco, Francia-USA
- Museum Beelden aan Zee, The Netherlands
- Schonewald Fine Arts GmbH - Dusseldorf, Alemania
- National Council of Visual Arts, Havana, Cuba