

Tonel

Born in Havana, Cuba, 1958.

Education: 1977-1982. *Licenciatura* in Art History, Faculty of Arts and Letters, The University of Havana, Cuba.

Exhibitions solo:

2018, Upcoming: *Ajústate al tema [Stop Digressing]* (working title), opening in mid-June at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.

2015, *Commerce*. Rubén Martínez Villena Gallery, Havana, Cuba.

2012, *The Journey (Talking Walls)*. Factoría Habana Centro de Arte Contemporáneo. Havana, Cuba.

2010, *Nothing to Learn*, Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.

2009, *The Parts Of Me That Sweat The Most When I Get Nervous*, Walter C. Koerner Library in collaboration with The Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

2009, *Cosmos: Feeling the pull of gravity*, Chelsea Gallery, Miami, U.S.A.

2008, *Some information is now available*, Teck Gallery, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada.

2006, *A Music of the Body*, Paolo Maria Deanesi Gallery, Roveretto, Italy.

2003 *A Conversation with "La primera carga..."*, Galería La Casona, Havana, Cuba.

2002, *Tonel*, Gallery Paule Anglim, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

2002, *Taller Tonel*, Espacio C de Arte Contemporáneo and Santander International Airport, Santander, Spain.

2001, *Tonel. Lessons of Solitude*, Art in General, New York, U.S.A.

2000, *Tonel. Lessons of Solitude*, Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

1997, *Self-Portraits*. Or Gallery, Vancouver.

1996, *Tonel*. Krings-Ernst Galerie, Cologne, Germany.

1995, *Cuatro obras: las partes que más me sudan... (Four Works: The Parts of Me That Sweat the Most...)*. Fundación Ludwig de Cuba and National Center for Art Conservation, Havana, Cuba.

1995, *Tonel*. Centro Cultural de la Municipalidad de Miraflores, Lima, Peru.

1993, *Tonel*. Stadtische Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany.

1989, *Yo lo que quiero es ser feliz (All I Want is to Be Happy)*. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes-Castillo de la Real Fuerza, Havana, Cuba.

1986, *Dibujos, acuarelas, etc. (Drawings, Watercolors, etc.)*. Museo Provincial de Villa Clara, Santa Clara, Cuba.

1983, *El eterno verano (The Eternal Summer)*. Galería L, Havana, Cuba.

Exhibitions group

2018, Upcoming: *Climate Change: Cuba / USA* (curated by Noel Smith). University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum. Opening January 12.

2017, *Adiós Utopia: Dreams and Deceptions in Cuban Art Since 1950*. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, U.S.A.

- 2016, *Cuba. Tatuare la storia*. PAC Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea, Milano, and ZAC Zisa Arte Contemporanee, Palermo, Italy.
- 2016, *Naufragio. Robert Kleyn, Manuel Piña and Tonel*. Back Gallery Project. Vancouver, Canada.
- 2016, *Things Fall Apart*. Calvert 22 Foundation, London, U.K.
- 2016, ARCO – Madrid. *On the Serious Side of History* (solo display with Paolo Maria Deanesi Gallery, Italy). Madrid, Spain.
- 2015, *Welcome / Goodbye*. Torrione Passari Arte Contemporanea. Molfetta, Bari, Italy.
- 2015, *Miami Art Project Art Fair* (with Back Gallery Project, Vancouver). Miami, U.S.A.
- 2015, *Ficción y Fantasía. Arte de Cuba*. Casa Daros, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2015, *Foucault's Pendulum*. 12<sup>th</sup> Havana Biennale, Morro Castle, Havana, Cuba.
- 2015, *Crack*. Galería Habana, Havana, Cuba.
- 2014, *Cuban Contemporary perspectives # 1. Eduardo Ponjuán, Lazaro Saavedra, Tonel*. Galleria Bianconi, Milan, Italy.
- 2014, *8<sup>th</sup> Berlin Biennale*. KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany.
- 2014, *Diffractions of the Local – Part 2*. Back Gallery Project, Vancouver, Canada.
- 2013, *55th Venice Biennale. Cuban Pavilion* at the National Archeological Museum, Venice, Italy.
- 2013, *Zona Maco Sur – México Arte Contemporáneo*. Centro Banamex, Mexico D.F., Mexico.
- 2012, *The Metaphors of Change* (a collateral exhibition to the 11<sup>th</sup> Havana Biennial). Factoría Habana Centre for Contemporary Art, Havana, Cuba.
- 2011, *The End of Money*. Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
- 2011, *Crisiss. América Latina: arte y confrontación*. Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2010, *Six Artists, Two Cities. Art from Vancouver and Havana*. Centro de Desarrollo de las Artes Visuales, Havana, Cuba.
- 2008, *Cuban Avant-Garde. Contemporary Cuban Art from the Farber Collection*. Winnipeg Art Gallery, Winnipeg.
- 2008, *Cuba. Art and History from 1868 to today*. Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal.
- 2008, *Disturbing Narratives: Cuevas, Toledo, and Tonel*, Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, U.S.A.
- 2008, *It is not neutral. (Latin American Artists from The Daros Collection)*. Tabakalera, San Sebastián, Spain.
- 2008, *The Billboard Project (Seeing Peace). A public art installation project*, San Francisco International Arts Festival (SFIAF), San Francisco, U.S.A.
- 2007, *Killing Time*. Exit Art, New York City, U.S.A.
- 2007, *Waiting List*. Mestna Galerija, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- 2005, *Crossings: A Gathering of Artists*. Organized in conjunction with the *Bayennale: Bay Area International Arts Festival*. SomArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.
- 2003, *Global Elegies: Art and Ofrendas for the Dead*. Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, California, U.S.A.
- 2000, *7<sup>th</sup> Havana Biennial*. Centro Wifredo Lam, Havana, Cuba.
- 1998, *Irony and Survival on the Utopian Island*. Arizona State University Art Museum, Arizona, U.S.A.

1998, *The Direction of the Gaze*. Stadthaus Zürich and Musée des Beaux Arts de La Chaux-de-Fonds (ProHelvetia), Zürich - La Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland.

1997, *Utopian Territories: New Art from Cuba*. Morris & Helen Belkin Art Gallery, University of British Columbia, and Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada.

1996, *Cuba Siglo XX. Modernidad y Sincretismo*. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno (CAAM), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria / Fundación La Caixa, Palma de Mallorca / Centro de Arte Santa Mónica, Barcelona, Spain.

1995, *New Art from Cuba*. Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, Carlisle, Cumbria, U.K.

1994, *22<sup>nd</sup> Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo*. Parque Ibirapuera, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

1994, *5<sup>th</sup> Havana Biennial*. Fortaleza de la Cabaña, Havana, Cuba.

1992, *Von dort aus: Kuba*. Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst, Aachen, Germany.

1992, *La ronda cubana*. Van Reekum Museum, Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.

1991, *Los hijos de Guillermo Tell (The Children of William Tell)*. Museo de Artes Visuales Alejandro Otero, Caracas, Venezuela and Biblioteca Ángel Arango, Banco de la República, Bogotá, Colombia.

1990, *No Man is an Island*. Pori Art Museum, Pori, Finland.

1989, *Humor Cubano (Special Events Exhibitions)*. 20<sup>th</sup> Bienal Internacional de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

1987, *Cinco artistas contemporáneos de Cuba (Five Contemporary Cuban Artists)*. Museo de Arte Costarricense, San José, Costa Rica.

1986, *Bienal Americana de Artes Gráficas (Latin-American Biennial of Graphic Arts)*. Museo de Arte Moderno La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia.

1985, *Premio Internacional de Dibujo Joan Miró (Exhibition of The Joan Miró International Drawing Award)*. Fundación Joan Miró, Barcelona, Spain.

1984, *1<sup>st</sup> Havana Biennial*. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.

1984, *International Exhibition of Original Drawings*. Museum of Modern Art Rijeka, Rijeka, Yugoslavia.

1982, *Pintura joven cubana (Young Cuban Painting)*. Galería Rafaela Padilla de Zaragoza, Puebla, Mexico.

1973, *Salón Nacional Juvenil de Artes Plásticas*. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Havana, Cuba.

#### Collections:

National Art Museum of China (Ludwig International Artworks Collection), Beijing, China.

Museo de Arte Moderno La Tertulia. Cali, Colombia.

Museo de Arte Costarricense. San José, Costa Rica.

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes. Havana, Cuba.

Museo de Topes de Collantes. Sancti Spiritus, Cuba.

Ludwig Forum für Internationale Kunst. Aachen, Germany.

Van Reekum Museum. Apeldoorn, The Netherlands.

Daros Latinamerica AG. Zürich, Switzerland.

University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Department of Fine Arts. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, U.K.

Arizona State University Art Museum. Tempe, Arizona, U.S.A.

Museum of Art. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, U.S.A.

Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art. The University of Texas at Austin, Texas, U.S.A.

Stanford University Libraries, Department of Special Collections. California, U.S.A.  
 Lehigh University Art Galleries. Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.  
 Howard and Patricia Farber Collection. New York, U.S.A.  
 Gilbert Brownstone Foundation. Paris, France.  
 The Donald and Shelley Rubin Collection of The Rubin Museum of Art. New York, U.S.A.  
 CIFO Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation. Miami, U.S.A.

Awards:

2014, Project Grant. Canada Council for the Arts, Canada.  
 2003, Cuban Artists Fund Award. Cuban Artists Fund, New York, U.S.A.  
 1997, Senior Fellow, Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities. The Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, The University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.  
 1995, John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (Painting and Installation Art). New York, U.S.A.  
 1992, Collective Award, Cuban entry. *Primera Bienal de Pintura de Centroamérica y el Caribe (First Painting Biennial of Central America and the Caribbean)*, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.  
 1991, Grant for research and art criticism. Cuban Union of Writers and Artists (UNEAC), Havana, Cuba.  
 1991, National Award for Art Criticism. Cuban section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA). Havana, Cuba.  
 1984, “Rafael Blanco” Drawing Honorary Mention. *Primera Bienal de La Habana (1<sup>st</sup> Havana Biennial)*, Havana, Cuba.

Selected writings about the artist:

Zaza, Giacomo, “Tattooing History: Cuba Between Commitment and Disenchantment,” in *Cuba. Tatuare la storia*. Milano: Silvana Editoriale, 2016.  
 Yumang, Jade. (2015, September). *Serious Side of History. Tonel in Conversation with Jade Yumang*. Retrieved from <http://www.artfilemagazine.com/Tonel>  
 Rodríguez Enríquez, Hilda María. “Cartografía de un pensamiento. La obra de Tonel”, in *La Gaceta de Cuba*. July / August 2015, 32 – 35.  
 Fernández Torres, Jorge and Giacomo Zaza, *La perversion de lo clásico: anarquía de los relatos*, in Catalogue of the Cuban Pavillion, 55 Exposición Internacional de Arte, la Biennale di Venezia. San Marino: Maretti Editore, 2013.  
 Moreno, Gean, “Cosmonauts at the 18<sup>th</sup> Hole: Tonel’s Recent Drawings,” in *Art Papers*. November / December 2009, 24-29.  
 Antón, Héctor, “Antídoto contra los iceberg,” *Noticias de arte cubano*. No 7, July 2003, 3.  
 Mosquera, Gerardo, “The New Cuban Art,” in Erjavec, Aleš, ed. *Postmodernism and the Postsocialist Condition: Politicized Art under Late Socialism*. Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2003, 232-233.  
 Smith, Roberta, “Tonel ‘Lessons of Solitude’,” *The New York Times*, Friday, March 16, 2001, E37.  
 Princenthal, Nancy, “Tonel at Art in General,” in *Art in America*. October 2001, 162-163.  
 Valdés, Eugenio, “Solitude Laid Bare in the Garden of the Madhouse,” in *Tonel Lessons of Solitude*. Vancouver: Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, April – June 2000, 25-41.

Watson, Scott, "Form Against Content: The Project of a Revolutionary Cuban Art," in *Utopian Territories: New Art from Cuba*. Vancouver: Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, March 1997, 15-16, 147.

Camnitzer, Luis, *New Art of Cuba*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1994, 222-225.

Bertazzo, Diane, "Herencia / Héritage," in *Art cubain actuel*. Montreal: Galerie de l'UQAM, April – May 1994, 6.

Harten, Jürgen, "Tonel O.K.," in *Tonel*. Dusseldorf: Stadtische Kunsthalle, July 1993, unpagged.