

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Gonzalo Fuenmayor

They Say I Came Back Americanized

July 11 - August 31, 2013

Born in Colombia but a resident of the United States since 1998, Gonzalo Fuenmayor's remarkably precise charcoal drawings explore themes of cultural hybridity, identity politics, and acculturation.

As a Colombian artist living abroad, Fuenmayor once felt he had a responsibility to make art that commented on the social events happening back at home. Feeling too detached from the drugs and violence that he was expected to engage, Fuenmayor started drawing bananas instead. Bananas carry great cultural, historical, and economic significance in Colombia, and have even been tacitly embroiled in controversy if one considers the various Chiquita Brands International scandals. What initially began as a lighthearted attempt to self-exoticize and position himself as specifically "Colombian" has since evolved into an earnest exploration of cultural hybridity and transnational identity.

In his *Apocalypse* series, for instance, opulent Victorian and Rococo chandeliers grow out of bunches of bananas like absurd Dadaesque fruits. Their glowing lights and glimmering crystals are articulated using the negative space of the naked white paper while the bananas climb upward into the charcoal's darkest values. The message is clear: the natural wealth of Latin America's Banana Republics brought financial prosperity to its European colonizers. But despite allusions to a tragic and violent past, there is a harmony to the disjointed imagery that suggests not reconciliation but rather, according to Fuenmayor, "the subordination of the contradictory into a delicate and imaginative order" that figures as the present.

Recent works have provided the artist with the opportunity to interrogate the many latino stereotypes and caricatures that exist in American pop culture. In the *Carmen series*, for example, exaggerated, towering headdresses feature impossible columns of bananas, disco balls strung from palm trees, an effusion of flowers and ferns that suggest the wilds of the jungle, and a nesting family of flamingos. There is a mythical, supernatural quality about these headdresses that recalls both the magical realism of latino literature as well as the mystery of "the other." They are also sexy, witty, and inescapably humorous.

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Carmen Miranda—the Brazilian entertainer who purposefully sported a thick accent and knowingly performed the role of the exuberant latina—is the indisputable inspiration behind the Carmen series. What brought her success in the States, however, polarized her from her compatriots. Fuenmayor explains that he too struggles to negotiate not only stereotypes of latinness, but as both a Colombian and American, he must also negotiate transnational identities. *The Moment of Surrender* is symbolic of Fuenmayor's attempt to resolve his liminal circumstances as a foreigner both at home and abroad. In a nod to Oswald de Andrade's "Cannibal Manifesto" of 1928, a boa constructor, the proxy for one culture or experience, can be seen consuming the proxy of another: an ornate coat rack. The point is not to destroy the coat rack or to imitate it by becoming it, but to create something new. In this strange, startling act, hybridity is celebrated.

Gonzalo Fuenmayor was born in 1977 in Barranquilla, Colombia. He moved to New York City in 1998 to study at the School of Visual Arts, where he earned his BFA. In 2004 he earned his MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Fuenmayor has exhibited across North and South America, and has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and fellowships. This past spring, he traveled to the Amazon in the region of Leticia, Colombia on an Alumni Traveling Fellowship from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts. This will be his first solo exhibition at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.

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Gonzalo Fuenmayor

b. Barranquilla, Colombia 1977

EDUCATION

- MFA 2004 School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston in affiliation with Tufts University, Medford, MA
- BFA 2000 Fine Art Major with Art Education Minor, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2013 *They Say I Came Back Americanized*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2010 *Splendor*, Galeria Mundo, Bogota, Colombia
- 2009 *Pornorama*, Dot Fifty One Gallery Project Room, Miami, FL, USA
- 2006 *Imaginary Displacements*, Galeria Pluma, Bogota, Colombia
- 2004 *Silencios Maduros*, Galeria Pluma, Bogota, Colombia
Ballet, The Artist Foundation, Boston, USA
- 2003 *The Aftertaste of Nothingness*, Colombian Center Gallery, New York, USA
Calores Mansos, Galeria La Pared, Bogota, Colombia
- 2001 *Trabalenguas para Tartamudos*, Galeria France, Barranquilla, Colombia
- 2000 *Lineas Tacitas*, Museo Institucional, Barranquilla, Colombia

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 *Caribbean Crossroads of the World*, Queens Museum of Art, Flushing Meadows, NY
leitmotiv, Dot Fifty One Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
About Change, The World Bank, Washington, D.C
Arte BA, Dot Fifty One Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2011 *BLACK AND WHITE*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Florida Contemporary: Paintings, Photography and Sculpture Exhibition, Naples Museum, FL, April 23-June 5
All Media Juried Biennial, Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, FL, April 30 –June 5
Arte BA, Dot Fifty One Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Accumulations, Art Solar Gallery, East Hampton, NY, June 25th.
2011 All Media Juried Biennial, Art and Culture Center of Hollywood, FL, April 30 –June 5
Arte BA, Dot Fifty One Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2010 *10 x 10 + 1*, Museo de Arte del Tolima, Ibague, Colombia
Arte BA, Dot Fifty One Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Thank You For Thinking Of Me, Parque Cultural del Caribe, Barranquilla, Colombia,
- 2009 *Hacer del Cuerpo*, 13 Salón Nacional de Artistas – Zona Caribe. Curatorial Group "Este Lado Arriba", Cartagena, Colombia

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- 2009 *IV Salon Bidimensional*, Gilberto Alzate Avendano Foundation, Bogota, Colombia
ArtBo 2009, Pabellón Artecámara curated by Maria Iovino, Corferias, Bogotá, Colombia
ArtBo 2009, Galería MUNDO, Corferias, Bogotá, Colombia
Encuentro "Instituto Hemisferico", Hemispheric Institute-NYU, Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia
II Concurso Arte Joven Colsanitas, Galería La Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia
Economies of Scale, Miller Block Gallery, Boston, MA, USA
- 2008 *V International Biennial of Standards / 8th Edition*, Centro Cultural Tijuana, Tijuana, Mexico
Premios Molaa, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA
ARTBO 2008, Galería MUNDO, Corferias, Bogota, Colombia
Laberintos, Galería MUNDO, Bogota, Colombia
- Conexion Colombia Auction*, Galería La Cometa, Bogota, Colombia
Colombia Coloring Book, LMAK projects, Brooklyn, NY
Sintonizar 2008, Entrearte Gallery, Bogota, Colombia
Arteamericas, Solar Gallery, Miami FL,
Alchemy; Collage, Photomontage & Assemblage, 516 Arts, Albuquerque, NM
The Dynamics of Belonging, curatorial project, G-A-S-P Projects, Brookline, MA
- 2007 *Word of Mouth*, Bridge Art Fair, The Catalina Hotel, Miami, FL
The 20th Drawing Show, "Drawing the Line – Magdalena Campos Pons, Juror", The Mills Gallery, Boston Center for the Arts, Boston, MA
Brave New World, Solar Gallery, East Hampton, NY, USA
Arte Joven, Galería MUNDO, Bogota, Colombia
VI Salon de Dibujo de Santo Domingo, Museum of Modern Art of Santo Domingo, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
Cabinet of Curious Ties, Lab Gallery @ Roger Smith Hotel, New York, NY
Premio Botero, Claustro de la Enseñanza, Bogota, Colombia
Cover Up, KOP Foundation, Breda, Netherlands
Papel XIII, Galería Blasini, Caracas, Venezuela
- 2006 *Imagen Regional*, Banco de la Republica, Valledupar, Colombia
ARTBO, Galería Jenny Vilà -Arte Contemporáneo. Bogotá, Colombia
Size Matters, Jury Show, The Rhys Gallery, Boston, MA, USA
Under the Fort, The Rhys Gallery, Boston, MA
- 2005 *USA IMAGEN MULTIPLE*, Galería France, Alianza Francesa, Barranquilla, Colombia
XIII Concurso Nacional de Pintura BBVA, Casa de Moneda, Banco de la Republica, Bogota, Colombia
III Juried Show, Galería Galou, Brooklyn, NY
- 2004 *Sexy Sustenance*, Imming Gallery, Emmanuel College, Boston, MA
SLIP, Thesis Exhibition, Aidekman Arts Gallery, Tufts University, Medford, USA
Student Annual Exhibition, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA

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- 2003 *Exploraciones*, Ministerio de Cultura, Monteria, Colombia
Student Annual Exhibition, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
Memorias de Apolo, Colombian Center Gallery, New York, NY, USA.
- 2001 *Procesos XI*, Amira de la Rosa, Banco de la Republica, Barranquilla, Colombia
Vanguardia Francesa y Pintores de Barranquilla, Galeria France, Barranquilla, Colombia
International Works on Paper, SOHO 20 Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2000 *Concurso Alejandro Obregon*, Biblioteca Departamental, Barranquilla, Colombia
Painting the Line, East Side Gallery, School of Visual Arts, New York, NY, USA.
Nuevos Artistas Costenos, Cámara de Comercio, Barranquilla, Colombia
- 1999 *Galería Massacio*, Montecastello di Vibio, Italy

PUBLICATIONS

- 2011 La Nación, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dec.18, 2011
Herrera, Adriana. "Gonzalo Fuenmayor: Canibalizar el Trópico". El Nuevo Herald, Sept 18, 2011, Miami, USA
Catalog 13 Salones Regionales de Artistas de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2010 New American Paintings Ed. 88, Southern Edition, Open Studios Press, 2010
Esplendor, Revista Mundo, April 2010
- 2009 Herrera, Adriana. "Hernan Cedola y Gonzalo Fuenmayor. Arte al Dia, Ed. November
Herrera, Adriana. "Cedola y Fuenmayor: Nuevos Horizontes del Arte Emergente", El Nuevo Herald, Jul. 6, 2009, Miami, USA
Fiorillo, Heriberto, El Hombre que Murio en el Bar, (front cover and illustrations), Editorial Norma, 2009
- 2008 Mayfield, Dan. "Show Portrayis Modern Relevance por Collage" Albuquerque Journal, April 6th, 2008
- 2007 Rogers, Pat. "Artists Explore "Brave New World" ". The East Hampton Press, Dec. 19
- 2007 McQuaid, Cate, Drawing Show Works Around the Edges, Boston Globe, Dec.21, 2007
- 2007 Franco, Maria Angelica, "Platanos como Propuesta Pictorica", Revista noventaynueve, Dec. 21, 2007
- 2007 Landes, Jennifer, Scary New World, The East Hampton Star, Nov. 8, 2007
- 2007 ARTE JOVEN, Revista MUNDO, Sept. 23, 2007.
- 2004 McQuaid, Cate, Boston Globe. Immig Exhibit meant for Public Consumption, Jul. 23, 2004
- 2004 Monsalve, Jaime, Fruta Fresca, Revista Cambio 16. Jul. 26, 2004
- 2004 McQuaid, Cate, Young Masters. Boston Globe. Jun. 13, 2004
- 2003 Villamarin, Paola, Los Colores de la Costa. El Tiempo. Feb. 19, 2003
- 2002 Cuello, Claudia, El Estudio de un Artista. Revista Gente Caribe. Jul. 13, 2002
Cuello, Claudia, La Musica de Gonzalo Fuenmayor. Revista Gente Caribe. Sept. 1.
Diaz, Paola. El Sujeto detras de los Trabalenguas. El Herald, Aug. 2001

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- 2002 Martinez, Carolina, Los Trabalenguas de Gonzalo Fuenmayor, El Herald, Aug,
19
Diaz, Paola. El Sujeto detras de los Trabalenguas. El Herald, Aug. 2001
Martinez, Carolina, Los Trabalenguas de Gonzalo Fuenmayor, El Herald, Aug,
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HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2012 SMFA Traveling Fellowship Award, Boston, MA
Artist Residency at Bemis Center, Omaha, NE , June 2014
- 2011 Third Place, 2011 All Media Juried Biennial, Art and Culture Center of
Hollywood, FL
- 2010 New American Paintings Ed. 88. Editor's Pick. Juror, Barbara O'Brien,
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, MO
- 2009 Second Prize, II Concurso Arte Joven Colsanitas,
Galería La Cometa, Bogotá, Colombia
- 2007 Vermont Studio Center Residency Program, August 2007, Johnson, Vermont, USA
- 2007 Honorable Mention, Premio Botero,
Fundación Jóvenes Artistas Colombianos, Bogota, Colombia
- 2006 Art-Omi Artist Residency, Ghent, NY, July 2006
- 2005 Second Place, 13th Concurso Nacional de Pintura BBVA 2005,
Casa de Moneda, Banco de la Republica, Bogota, Colombia
- 2005 Included in Slide Registry of The Drawing Center, New York, NY
- 2001 First Honorable Mention, Concurso Alejandro Obregon,
Biblioteca Departamental, Barranquilla, Colombia
- 2000 Finalist Nuevos Artistas Costeños promoted by Chamber of Commerce,
Barranquilla, Colombia
- 2000 Keith Haring Full Tuition Scholarship Recipient granted by the
Visual Arts Foundation and the Keith Haring Foundation, New York, NY
- 2000 Silas Rhodes Family Award granted by School of Visual Arts, New York, NY
- 2000 Stacey Sussman Travelling Award granted by School of Visual Arts, New York,
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