

Curriculum Vitae



Axel Carlos Meza Guzmán

Age: 24 years old
Nationality: Guatemalan
Email: axelin87@yahoo.com

Education

Primary Education

New Dawn Bilingual School
31 October 2001

Secondary Education

Brazilian Lyceum School
21 October 2004

Toscan Creative Education Centre
Diploma in Technical Drawing and Construction
31 October 2006

Diploma in Art and Design
31 de Octubre de 2006

Graphic Design in "d4 Communication"
6 September to 6 October 2006

Flash Animation

Faculty of Architecture of the University of San Carlos
Digital Programmes Training Centre
20 December 2006

Workshop on Clear Light by Humberto Coronado
26 May to 6 June 2008

4th year dissertation towards Bachelor of Visual Arts with a Specialisation in Painting, from the Higher Art College of the University of San Carlos Guatemala
2008-2011

Exhibitions

5th festival of ManifestaRte
24 to 25 November 2007, with the series entitled "Criaturas" (Creatures)

"Trazo Colectivo" (Collective Trace) Exhibition and Concert
With the Punto Collective in the Toledo Gallery
23 September 2008

Collective Exhibition in the University of San Carlos Guatemala at the 3rd Festival of Life
14 August 2008

Exhibition of Painting at the 11th Festival of the History Centre
7 to 17 August 2008

Collective Exhibition on the Spirit of Art at the Higher Art College of the University of San Carlos Guatemala
9 to 17 October 2008

Collective Exhibition at the 6th Festival of ManifestaRte
23 November 2008

Collective Exhibition called Art without Censorship at the Cervecería Centroamericana (Central American Brewery)
as part of the Higher Art College of the University of San Carlos Guatemala
24 to 28 November 2008

Exhibition of the 6th Inter-University Festival of Culture and Art in Central America – FICCUA –
22 to 24 April 2009

Collective Exhibition called 'Perception' at the Cervecería Central American by the Higher Art College of the
University of San Carlos Guatemala
22 to 29 May 2009

Exhibition of the Punto Collective at the Caos Art Gallery called Collective Stroke
30 July 2009

Collective Exhibition at the 7th Festival of ManifestaRte
29 November 2009

Collective Exhibition of "Contra Punto" at the Intercontinental Hotel by the Higher Art College of the University of
San Carlos Guatemala
3 to 25 July 2010

Collective Exhibition at the 8th Festival of ManifestaRte
28 November 2010

Collective Exhibition called "Student Art" by the Higher Art College of the University of San Carlos Guatemala at the
Efraín Recinos Cultural Centre in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala
9 September 2011

Exhibition at the New Acropolis Philosophy School
17 to 30 October 2011

Reflexions of the Self through my Art

Duality

Duality can be the significance of speaking a single word that becomes the key description (or associated with the defining moment) in time, in the context and in the reality of Guatemala, as reflected in the lives of its citizens and the dual realities that they inhabit, represented in their desperation and uncertainty of Guatemala as a community living through violence, an uneasy peace and building a stable society. It is a confusing and dangerous time to be living in Guatemala. One lives in a constant duality contrasted by the parallel and simultaneous expression of paradise and hell as witnessed in nature and humanity. This absurd contrast can be compared to a beautiful flower resting on a metal stem that has already oxidised. Many people who speak about Guatemala, whether they know our history or not, view us as a nation in pain and a nation to be envied. As shown in the tourist brochures many turn their back on the political situation of the country, enjoying its natural beauty. This is ridiculous because it is a joke, a circus full of clowns without feeling and emotion. The government promotes the natural beauty of Guatemala: its volcanoes, the Mayan population, lakes and rivers, and the striking ecosystems. However we must not forget that Guatemala unfortunately is not only the representation of its natural beauty. What has happened to its historic memory? What has happened to the grim realities of armed conflict that brought horrendous violence to its people? What is happening in the post conflict era saturated in violence and conflict?

Duality defines what Guatemala is today. Mayan shamans and spiritualists like the Ajq'ij guiders who exist alongside the demons that roam the streets with pistols and sub-machine guns produce fear of the imagination,

thought and in the reality of life. I have been a victim of violence since my childhood. A gun has been pointed at me at the point of being robbed, to reprimand me, to scare me and simply for pleasure. This is the prevailing culture of violence. It was enough to traumatise me and to make me obsessed with the idea that my family and I take tremendous risks when we walk on the streets and that we may not return. We must understand the duality of life and reality in order to understand the discourse attached to art in Guatemala. We find artists who are magicians, who are melodious and those who are rebellious, who denounce and shout about the reality of Guatemala. Some do not approach certain themes because of fear (of violence, intimidation and prosecution) that has permeated society since the signing of the Peace Agreements. Freedom of expression remains repressed in this context.

In my life and in my work I represent a strong existential crisis. At times I challenge the fear of repression and shout out to my community and at other times I stop myself from doing so because I tire of the indifference I face. I surround myself in forms and realities from the Mayan universe that I adopted from the time I was a child and during trips to the mountains. Mayans have been the great enigma for me and I would have dedicated my life to the mountains but I have not been able to forget my reality upon my return to the city, the abuses and injustices, the misery and frustrations, the desperation that awakens in me a new consciousness. Looking at my work I am confronted with reality that brings me very bad memories. I have lost a lot – friends, family, and colleagues – in art. I hope to rest my soul just a little, for a while. I breathe and see the Mayan images, bees and plants, the sun and moon that exists in my soul. The same thing happens in Guatemala, neighbourhoods full of pain and suffering, poverty and sadness and a few kilometres away is a hill where you can go and relax with your thoughts, ideas and your heart.

This discussion of my art may not have significance for the public in the United Kingdom. My first expression of art was graffiti. Little by little I walked away from walls and found myself with paper and fabric at Cerrito del Carmen, my first school of fine art. And if it was not for this bit of paradise, in the middle of the inferno of the Capital City in Zone 1, I would not have known what would have happened to me or my work. It was in this school that I could reconstruct trees and spend afternoon drawing, enjoying the peace that had become detached during colonial time – the duality of Guatemala.

Curriculum Vitae



Gustavo Antonio Bracamonte Bautista

Age: 22 years old

Nationality: Guatemalan

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Education

Diploma in Technical Drawing with a specialisation in Art and Design from the CEC Toscana College, 15 Avenida 19-52, Zona 13

Primary education at New Dawn School, Zone 2

Bachelor in Visual Arts from the Higher Art College, University of San Carlos, Guatemala

Exhibitions

Exhibition called 'Maximum Synchronicity' at INGUAT
11 November 2010.

Exhibition called 'Counterpoint' at the Intercontinental Hotel
2010

Exhibition at Cervecería Central America
2010

Exhibition called 'Dog's Paw' San Carlos University's Paraninfo
2010

Exhibition at the Lake of Atitlán Festival
13 March 2010.

Inauguration of the web page MUSAC at the Higher Art College
March 2010

'FESTIVAL OF LIFE' at the University of San Carlos, Guatemala
August 2009

Exhibition at the art and culture festival at the 6th Inter-University festival of Art and Culture –FICCUA –
22 April 2009

'Art without Censorship' at Bodegas (Warehouse) Museum at the Cervecería Central American
24 November 2008

'Spirit of Art' in Antigua Guatemala
9 October 2008

Exhibition in Homage to Efraín Recinos, Manolo Gallardo, Magda Eunice Sanchez and Ingrid Klussmann at Paraninfo 8 August 2008

'FESTIVAL FOR LIFE' at the University of San Carlos Guatemala
14 August 2008

First Artists and Culture Evening with the Manuel Herrarte Lemus School in Chiquimula
17 April 2008

Exhibition at the Miraflores Museum with students from CEC Toscana
November 2006

Workshops

National Seminar on Visual Art and Collective Management of Copyright
November 2008

Reflexion of the Self through my Art

Transformation

It does not make any sense to me to talk about my art because all people have stages in life that are marked at the moment of occurrence or in many moments yet to come. These moments and stages change over time, through thoughts that are conceived to define them, and in art it is about how we represent them and how we reflect the themes coming forward. They change day to day. In one instance in my life I criticised many things in an ill mannered way and did not feel that they needed expression. It was not always necessary to be 'nice' and the things that are beautiful are not always expressed. The cruelty is that no one sees. The world has changed my art. It makes me aware that I cannot go on criticising the world of savage expressions, shouting, vomiting, being drunk and looking at strange foreign creatures trying to be beautiful. They cannot cover themselves up with make up because the truth cannot be made up. They are only false and through this they attempt to dominate the world, its nature, our nature. I don't speak to a world that does not listen because I am not of the world and I do not attempt to understand it any better than you. From now and forever I am of the mountain, of the land where I was born, where the seed is planted, which marks my face like whatever kind of animal when is free. I speak about this but this is only a brush stroke of my experiences that I have talked about, that no one hears.

Curriculum Vitae



Estuardo Enrique Maldonado Fuentes

Age: 24 years old

Nationality: Guatemalan

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Work Experience

2011

Director de Art, Diagramme, Graphic Design and Illustration at ABC

Illustration (graphic design) for the cover of "El Vuelo del Azacuán"

Web page designer for Filgua (Book Festival)

Educational Editorial and illustration for school books

2010

Development and conceptualisation of characters for video games at CG Armada Guatemala

2009

Miracle Factory

Story boarding and concept development for Mirinda ads

Illustration and design for the comic book "Laberinto del Buki". (The Labyrinth of Buki) Independent, Jorge Lemus)

2007

Story boarding and illustration for Studio C

Illustration at Black Box Creative

Website design and illustration at GuateliknReal Diseño

2006

Illustration at Studio C

Website design and Guatelink

Exhibitions of Paintings

2011

Capuchinas Antigua Guatemala with the Muestra Collective

2009

Taberna el Buki, (Buki's Tavern) December 2009

2008

Muestra Colectiva (collective exhibition) at Capuchinas Antigua Guatemala.

Emergent Art called Morfo with Muestra Colectiva (collective exhibition)

2007

Metropolitan Cultural Centre with Muestra Collective

Participation

Festival of Art for Women in Ixchel 2011

Graffiti on 3rd Avenue and 2nd Street in Central Park

Social Forum of the Americans 2009

Graffiti at the Bienestar Estudiantil (graffiti at the Student Welfare House building) at the University of San Carlos Guatemala

ExpoGraff Frontier. Festival de graffiti in Tapachula

Festival for Life, 2009

Education

2007 – 2009 Galileo University with a Bachelor in Communication and Graphic Design

2009 – 2010 University of San Carlos with a Bachelor in Visual Arts at the Higher Art School at the University of San Carlos

Diploma in Computer Science with a specialisation in Graphic Design at the Blaise Pascal Computation School

Basic and Primary education at Liceo (school) San Antonio

Reflexions of the Self through my Art

Environment

What I paint and draw is an extension of myself summarised in art with a pen. My environment is my mind and within it are my memories of 24 years, dancing with death in this beautiful theatre that is Guatemala, walking through life, destroying memories and reliving those that should never exist. My work does not find eyes that like what they see. It is better to go on searching and hopefully to understand how to be better each day. Guatemala is my country and in her I will die.

Black ink is my passion and my reality painted in strokes. It is not affected by events, it search to become mature in order to find a new fruit, which is not better or worse than any other for the mouth that chews the mistreatment and repression of my country and that does not want to be lost in the consumerism of North America which has embraced the land like the strong embrace between brothers. I am searching to re-describe a past, which has been eradicated little by little. One of the greatest influences of my life has been my father through whom I understood history that charges life in multiple forms and colours, inherited by root and blood and y territory to give it context. Everything starts with a point and will end the same way. We can expand it with ideas about our work in one or two paragraphs. Visual conceptualisation is normally more aesthetic, semantic, thematic and ideological and philosophical than what can be presented on a page.