

Brief Professional and Artistic Profile



Roberto Godoy was born in Guatemala Central America in 1950. He is Guatemalan and Canadian as well, and he lives in Montreal since 1984. He graduated in Architecture at the San Carlos University (Universidad de San Carlos de Borromeo), in Guatemala City in 1978. He received a grant from the Ford Foundation and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in 1979, for an MA in Urban and Regional Planning at the Professional College University of Mexico (El Colegio de México), in Mexico City in 1981.

In his studies eventually he was invited to participate in the preparation of a development plan for the metropolitan city of Merida, Yucatan in Mexico in 1983. He taught "The Environmental Principles and Design" at the School of Architecture at the Autonomous Universidad of Yucatan. In 1985, in Quebec, he independently worked as an architect and specialized in CAD systems applied to the thermal insulation in industrial buildings. He has worked in projects of aluminium and pulp and paper, in companies like Bechtel Lavalin, Sandwell and SNC-Wooster and in the CDH group (co-ops).

Upon his return to Guatemala (1992), he worked in Guatemala City as Executive Secretary of the Mayan World (Mundo Maya) Organisation, a regional tourism project sponsored by the European Commission. He witnessed the signing of the Guatemalan Peace Accords (1994) after 40 years of civil war. He resumed his later work as an architect in developing residential and tourism projects (up to present in Montreal, in the renovation of buildings).

Meanwhile, he became an associate member of the Solar Foundation; group that promotes the protection of the environment and the use of alternative energy (solar - wind), which leads to a specialization in field of sustainable tourism or ecotourism. Back to school, he completed a Masters in Social Anthropology in the combined program at the University of Paris VIII and the Guatemalan Valley University (Universidad del Valle de Guatemala) in 1998.

His main mentor recommended him to the Minister of Tourism (Guatemala 2002). Roberto then started to work in the tourism industry as a social small entrepreneur in ecotourism together with rural communities in the country. During this decade, he resumed his teaching experience as visiting professor at Rafael Landívar University (Universidad Rafael Landívar) in "Design and Ecology" as well as the "The principles of artistic composition, at the School of Tuscan Art in the city of Guatemala (La Escuela de Arte Toscano de Guatemala).

Godoy made as much paint as etching, through self-study and as a teenager. In Mexico City and Merida, two solo exhibitions (1982). So he moved to the seaside and it continues to do the engraving in the studio by Mark Callaghan. In Guatemala it is burning in the studio by Anibal Lopez, Moises Barrios and Irene Torrebiarte. In Canada as an artist, he had his first solo exhibition at the Library of Longueuil, Quebec (1986).

In Montreal, in the context of a sabbatical year, which began in autumn 2002, he worked only burning. He has since completed an internship with the master Carlos Calado Workshop Graff, in all printmaking techniques. He became a regular member of the Atelier Circulaire since. He received the first prize in the Art of the City of Pierrefonds (2002).

The Collection Loto-Québec (CLQ) acquired a copy of his work and sent to the 2003 national competition. CLQ also sent copies of his work to the Gabrielle Roy Library (Bibliothèque Gabrielle Roy du Québec) and the National Library of Quebec (Bibliothèque Nationale du Québec) in Montreal. During 2004 and 2005 other solo exhibitions were held in Guatemala, the galleria Panza Verde (Green Tommy gallery) in colonial city of Antigua Guatemala, in the Centro Cultural El Sitio, (Cultural Centre the Site) and the Tea House (La Casa del Té) at the Zoo in Guatemala City.

EL Popy as most family and close friends called Roberto is currently living in Montreal and still working as an architect, artist and writer; he has participated in group exhibitions for 4 months in 2009-2010 in Montreal, Quebec, Toronto Vancouver, Boston and New York. He has accepted to be social partner with ConceptSur to support Latin American artists and handcrafters who hardly have opportunities in acquiring skills to develop, enhance or update their craft.

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Roberto Godoy

521 Ste. Marguerite H4C 2X1

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Tel: (514) 543 32 86

Email: roganuxe@yahoo.ca

<http://robertogodoyelpopy.blogspot.com/>

Artistic Approach

I work on the creation involving the modification of the pixel, on a pictorial image that leads beyond the manipulation of photography and graphics, and also on the image design with elements in perspective.

I print with the intention of unveiling the synthesis of memory traces, as 'light incisions' looking through and around the souls of beings and objects in parallel but inter-dependent worlds of existence. This principle involves the use of a fusion of technologies, knowledge and techniques to produce a combination of non-traditional and digital prints where imagination does not seem to have limits and the formats could be the mere constraints to the creative process.

Each one of my complex works should tell a story individually or collectively. Circumscribed or transcendent to time, a work can only take one character and be less abstract in nature. The synthesis of primary and complex elements is required, although this synthesis is minimalist.

I seek a place of expression between magic surrealism and tragic realism, as the links between conceptual deconstruction and reconstruction of metaphorical content of the art object. The aesthetic dimension in the Hegelian sense, the result of a pendulum in balance between figurative and abstract, between the possible and the absolute truth.

R. G.

Montreal & Guatemala, September 2011