

# Mario Padilla

*Thanks Santiago /  
Gracias Santiago*

2017

Oil Painting / Pintura de  
oleo

90 x 72 x 2 in/plg



# MARIO PADILLA

## Artist Statement/Biography

Mario has a Masters of Fine Art from the New York Academy of Art, where he focused his studies on techniques in oil and acrylic painting, life drawings, anatomy, and composition. His undergraduate degree is in Philosophy from the National University of Colombia in Bogota, his hometown, where he later when back to teach a course on Aesthetics. His background in philosophy informs his current work greatly, as it is always reflective of humans and their context.

Mario's work is inherently political. His compositions usually dive into discussions of the effects of a disappearing public sector on everyday people, uses and abuses of power, and grassroots manifestations of local cultural authenticity vis-à-vis forces of globalization. His inspirations come from the essence and people of places he has lived and travelled. Being a Latin American himself and a consistent critic of the common representation of that world, Mario tries to express the diversity of the relationship between the human being in Latin America and his relationship with the land, using images of cockfights, music, political oppression, and social relations (to name a few) to express his personal philosophies. In the end, Mario continually aims to show to the world a new and original possible representation of Latin America, one that expresses all of the problems and happiness of the Andes, amazons and Central America. Mario tries to bring that America to this America, exposing a different world to his viewers. New Orleans has also been a great muse for Mario. A city filled with joy, racism, old money politics, and beautiful cultural outputs in ways that reassert a definition of the public, Mario's decade living and working in the artist community in New Orleans inspired his work deeply, as he discovered new materials and subjects that look at a parallel contradiction.

Mario is currently an art teacher in an Atlanta Public School and he is certified in International Baccalaureate. He has taught at all levels (K-12, college, community), and has worked for years with arts non-profits that focused on arts education and access. In addition to teaching workshops and winning grants with YA/YA (Young Artists/Young Aspirations), a 20+ year old arts non-profit organization in New Orleans, he also sat on their board for several years to help guide their future. He has also held residencies with the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans, CubaNOLA (a Cuba-New Orleans artist exchange), and the Leung King

Community center in Hong Kong. He has had solo and group exhibitions in many different galleries and other spaces, many of which he was the head organizer for—including the Mexican Consulate in New Orleans, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival (for which he has also been a juror several times), and the New Orleans Healing Center. Mario has always thrived at bringing artists and expressions together for a common purpose, and his collaborative organizing tendency informs the growth of his work.

### **Declaración del artista/Biografía**

Mario tiene una maestría en las Bellas Artes de la Academia de Arte de Nueva York, donde centró sus estudios en técnicas de pintura al óleo y acrílico, dibujos de vida, anatomía y composición. Su licenciatura es en Filosofía por la Universidad Nacional de Colombia en Bogotá, su ciudad natal, donde luego, cuando regresó, enseñó un curso de Estética. Su formación en filosofía informa en gran medida su trabajo actual, ya que siempre refleja a los seres humanos y su contexto.

El trabajo de Mario es inherentemente político. Sus composiciones suelen sumergirse en discusiones sobre los efectos de la desaparición del sector público en la gente común, los usos y abusos de poder, y las manifestaciones populares de la autenticidad cultural local frente a las fuerzas de la globalización. Sus inspiraciones provienen de la esencia y la gente de los lugares que ha vivido y viajado. Siendo él mismo un latinoamericano y un crítico constante de la representación común de ese mundo, Mario trata de expresar la diversidad de la relación entre el ser humano en América Latina y su relación con la tierra, utilizando imágenes de peleas de gallos, música, opresión política y relaciones sociales (por nombrar algunas) para expresar sus filosofías personales. Al final, Mario se propone continuamente mostrar al mundo una nueva y original representación posible de América Latina, que exprese todos los problemas y la felicidad de los Andes, el Amazonas y América Central. Mario trata de traer esa América a esta América, exponiendo un mundo diferente a sus espectadores. Nueva Orleans también ha sido una gran musa para Mario. Una ciudad llena de alegría, racismo, viejas políticas de dinero y hermosas producciones culturales en formas que reafirman una definición del público, la década en que Mario vivió y trabajó en la comunidad de artistas en Nueva Orleans inspiró profundamente su

trabajo, ya que descubrió nuevos materiales y temas que miran a una contradicción paralela.

Mario es profesor de arte en una escuela pública de Atlanta y está certificado en el Bachillerato Internacional. Ha enseñado en todos los niveles (K-12, universidad, comunidad), y ha trabajado durante años con organizaciones artísticas sin ánimo de lucro que se centraban en la educación y el acceso a las artes. Además de impartir talleres y ganar becas con YA/YA (Young Artists/Young Aspirations), una organización artística de más de 20 años de edad, organización sin fines de lucro en Nueva Orleans, también se sentó en su junta directiva durante varios años para ayudar a guiar su futuro. También ha realizado residencias con el Centro Joan Mitchell en Nueva Orleans, CubaNOLA (un intercambio de artistas entre Cuba y Nueva Orleans), y el Centro Comunitario Leung King en Hong Kong. Ha realizado exposiciones individuales y colectivas en muchas galerías diferentes y otros espacios, muchos de los cuales fue el organizador principal, incluyendo el Consulado de México en Nueva Orleans, el Festival de Jazz y Patrimonio de Nueva Orleans (para el que también ha sido jurado varias veces), y el Centro de Curación de Nueva Orleans. Mario siempre ha prosperado en reunir a artistas y expresiones con un propósito común, y su tendencia a organizar en colaboración informa el crecimiento de su trabajo.

# MARIO PADILLA

www.mariopadilla.com

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## EDUCATION

- 2006-2008    **New York Academy of Art, Masters of Fine Art (MFA), Painting**
- 1993-1997    **Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bachelor's degree, Philosophy**
- 1990-1994    **Universidad Libre de Colombia sede Bogotá, four years coursework in Law**

## EXHIBITION RECORD: *partial list*

- Solo**            PK Gallery, New Orleans  
Salome Fine Art, Miami  
“Beyond Borders,” Arts Council of New Orleans  
Satchmo Summer Festival, U.S. Mint, New Orleans  
“Artmoor,” Rosa F. Keller Center, New Orleans
- Group**            “Linked,” The New Orleans Art Center, New Orleans  
“Connections,” The New Orleans Art Center, New Orleans  
“Scopomania,” Second Story Gallery, New Orleans  
“Encuentro,” Studio Inferno, New Orleans  
“Respond,” Smack Mellon Gallery, Brooklyn  
Prospect 3, New Orleans  
Arte Americas, featured in private tour of Jack Singer’s collection, Miami  
“Art for Art’s Sake,” New Orleans  
Museo Gallery, New Orleans
- Public**            Fresh Paths, Louisiana ([http://blog.nola.com/new\\_orleans/2014/12/golden\\_change\\_inc\\_founded\\_to\\_h.html](http://blog.nola.com/new_orleans/2014/12/golden_change_inc_founded_to_h.html))  
Exhibit Be, New Orleans ([https://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2014/11/exhibitbe\\_new\\_orleans\\_5-story.html](https://www.nola.com/arts/index.ssf/2014/11/exhibitbe_new_orleans_5-story.html))  
“Supporting Dreams,” Mural at Finch Elementary School, Atlanta  
“Stop,” mural with SilenceIsViolence at Booker T. Washington High School, New Orleans  
Large Louis Armstrong Painting design on New Orleans Steamboat
- Juried**            New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, various years, including:  
                          “A Whole Lotta Lovin, Special Tribute,” special exhibit 2018  
                          “Murmurs from Cuba,” special exhibit 2017  
                          Featured artist for Latin American Village, 2007  
                          Contemporary Arts Demonstrator, 2015 and 2011  
                          Contemporary Arts Juror, 2015 and 2012  
Bayou City Arts Festival, various years, Houston  
Bayou Boogaloo, Norfolk (with the Arts Council of New Orleans)

**Poster Design** Satchmo Summer Fest, Festival Poster Artist, New Orleans, 2017  
Que Pasa Fest, Festival Poster Artist, New Orleans, 2014  
El Gran Giacomo, Movie Poster Design, Bogota (Colombia), 2008

## GRANTS AND RESIDENCIES

2016 **CubaNOLA**, Artist Residency in Santiago de Cuba  
2013-2014 **Joan Mitchell Foundation**, Resident Fellow, *New Orleans*  
2013-2014 **Fresh Paths**, YA/YA, Major public artwork commission, *New Orleans*  
2011 **Leung King Community Center**, Hong Kong

## ARTS ADMINISTRATION

2012-2017 **New Orleans Healing Center**, *New Orleans, LA*  
*various* Festival Art Exhibition Curator and Administrator  
2010-2018 **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival**, *New Orleans, LA*  
*various* Juror for the Contemporary Crafts Artists, Special Exhibition Curator and Administrator  
2015 **Mexican Consulate of New Orleans** “Convergencia” Art Exhibition,  
Curator and Producer  
2013-2014 **New Orleans Academy of Art**, *New Orleans, LA*  
Monitor of Life Drawing Sessions

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017-current **Atlanta Public Schools**  
Art Teacher, *Atlanta, GA*  
2016-2017, **International High School**  
2012-2013 Visual Art Teacher and International Baccalaureate (IB), *New Orleans, LA*  
2015 **Bard Early College**  
Professor of Humanities, Art and Design, *New Orleans, LA*  
2013-2015 **International School of Louisiana**  
Visual Art Teacher, *Metairie, LA*  
2010-2016 **Young Artists/Young Aspirations (YA/YA Inc.)**  
Oil Painting and Sculpture Workshop Instructor, *New Orleans, LA*  
2011 **Leung King Community Center**  
Artist-in-Residence & Teacher, *Hong Kong*  
2009-2011 **SilenceIsViolence**  
Peace Clubs Arts Instructor, *New Orleans, LA*  
2010 **Summerbridge Hong Kong**  
Mentor Teacher, *Hong Kong*  
2008 **Universidad Nacional de Colombia**  
Visiting Professor of Aesthetics, *Bogota, Colombia*  
2000-2001 **Universidad Libre de Bogota**  
Professor of Ancient Greek and Latin, *Bogota, Colombia*