Joaquín Torres–García

b. 1874 Montevideo, Uruguay – d. 1949 Montevideo, Uruguay

When Torres–García arrived in Montevideo on April 30, 1934 after forty-three years of absence, Torres–García told the press that he had returned to his native country of Uruguay in order to “develop a wide range of activities, to lecture, to teach courses, to achieve... on walls what I have already achieved on canvas,... to create in Montevideo a movement that will surpass the art of Paris.” These lofty ambitions were achieved through the creation of his world famous workshop, the Taller Torres–García, where he taught his theory of Universal Constructivism to future generations of Latin American artists.

Before returning to Uruguay, Torres–García had arrived at the concept of Universal Constructivism after a long development during which his painting evolved from Mediterranean classicism through periods of Vibrationism, Cubism, and Fauvism. A truly global artist, Torres–García lived in Spain, New York, Italy, and Paris, where his theories and aesthetic style culminated into his characteristic incorporation of symbols located in a geometric grid based on the golden section.

The uniqueness of Torres' proposal consisted of his incorporation of essential elements of indigenous American art into the basic principles of European constructivism and geometric abstraction. Today, he is recognized as a canonical figure in both Latin American and modern art in general, with works in prestigious public and private collections worldwide.

Main Solo Exhibitions

2015
Joaquín Torres–García: The Arcadian Modern, MoMA, New York
Joaquín Torres–García, Sala Dalmau, Barcelona, Spain
Joaquín Torres–García, Gary Nader Gallery, New York
Joaquín Torres–García, The School of the South, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas

2011
Torres García: Geometría, creación, proporción, Fundación Iberé Camargo, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Torres–García: Utopía y Tradición, Museo de la Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Torres–García at his Crossroads, Museu Nacional d’Art de Catalunya (MNAC), Barcelona, Spain

2010
Trazos de New York, Museo Torres García, Montevideo, Uruguay; Caixa de Río de Janeiro, Río de Janeiro, Brazil

2009
Joaquin Torres–García: Constructing Abstraction with Wood, The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas

2008
Darrere la màscara constructiva, Centre Cultural de Caixa Girona–Fontana D’Or, Girona, Spain

2007
Joaquín Torres–García: Una Vida en Papel, Museu Valencia de la Illustracio i de la Modernitat–MuVIM, Valencia, Spain; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Madrid, Spain

2006
Torres–García: Selected Works, Jan Krugier Gallery, New York

2005–09
Universalismo Constructivo, Museo Torres García, Montevideo, Uruguay; Fundación Antonio Saura, Cuenca, Spain; Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales de Chile, Santiago, Chile; Instituto Tomie Othakie, San Pablo, Brazil; Museo Oscar Niemeyer, Curitiba, Brazil; Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Caixa de Girona, Caixa de Murcia, Museo de Mataró, Spain
2005–07  *ALADDIN. Juguetes transformables*, Museo Torres García, Montevideo, Uruguay; Fundación Bank Boston, Santiago, Chile; Museu Oscar Niemeyer, Curitiba, Brasil; MALBA, Buenos Aires. Argentina

2003  Museu Picasso, Barcelona

2002  Musée de Strasbourg, France

Fundación ICO, Madrid

1997–98  IVAM Centre Julio González, Valencia

La Pedrera, Barcelona

Fundación BANCAJA, Madrid

1997  Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas

1996  Fundaçao Arpad Szenés–Vieira da Silva, Lisbon

Museo Pontevedra, Spain

1994  XXII São Paulo International Bienal, Sala Torres–García

1991  Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid

IVAM Centre Julio González, Valencia

1985–86  Hayward Gallery, Barbican Centre, London

Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona

Stadistische Kunsthalle, Düsseldorf

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Miami Center for the Arts, Florida

1981  Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City

1980  Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela

1978  Museu de Arte Moderno, Rio de Janeiro (exhibition destroyed in a fire)

1975, 79  Musée d’Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

1973  Museu d’Art Modern, Barcelona

Museo Español de Arte Contemporáneo, Madrid

1971, 74  Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, University of Texas, Austin


National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa

Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island

1961  Pan American Union, Washington, D.C.

San Francisco Museum of Art

Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam

Städtische Kunsthalle, Baden–Baden

1960, 63, 65  Rose Fried Gallery, New York

1959  V Bienal de São Paulo: Sala Torres–García, São Paulo

1956  XXVIII Biennale de Venezia: Sala Torres–García, Palazzo Centrale, Venice

1955  Musée National d’Art Moderne, Paris

1950  Sidney Janis Gallery, New York

Galerias Laietaines, Barcelona

1933  Museo de Arte Moderno, Madrid

1929  Galerie Jeanne Boucher, Paris

Galerie Percier, Paris

Galerie Jean Charpentier, Paris

1928  Galerie Zack, Paris

1927  Galerie Carmine, Paris

1926  Galerie G. A. Fabre, Paris

1922  Gallery Hanfstaengel, New York

1912, 13, 16, 18, 26, 29  Galeries Dalmau, Barcelona

1900  Sálo de “La Vanguardia,” Barcelona