Francisco Matto
b. 1911, Montevideo, Uruguay - d. 1995, Montevideo, Uruguay

A founding member of the Taller Torres-García, Matto studied painting as a child before meeting Joaquín Torres-García, the atelier's founder in 1939. Following this encounter and encouraged by the creative environment at the Taller, Matto's artistic production shifted from his early Surrealist-influenced work to paintings and sculptures with markedly orthogonal compositions; these works were often executed on humble material supports such as cardboard and found wood pieces.

At the age of 21, Matto traveled to Tierra del Fuego and acquired the first Pre-Columbian pieces of what was to become a major collection and an important influence on his art. In 1962 Matto opened his collection of Amerindian art to the public. The Museum of Pre-Columbian Art housed ceramics, textiles and sculpture from Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Venezuela.

The Central Bank of Uruguay commissioned Matto to design a silver coin for the F.A.O. (United Nations Organization for Agriculture and Food). It was in circulation in 1969 and won the first prize from the Gesellschaft für Internationale Geldgeschichte, an international numismatic association based in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1982 Matto was invited to participate in the First International Meeting for Open Air Sculpture in Punta del Este, Uruguay. He made a U shaped form sculpture in cement placed next to the beach.

His recent exhibitions include "Francisco Matto: Exposicion Monografica," 6a Bienal do Mercosur, Porto Alegre, Brazil, 2007; "Francisco Matto: The Modern and Mythic," The Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas, 2009; "Constructed Dialogues: Concrete, Geometric, and Kinetic Art from the Latin American Art Collection," The Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas, 2012-2013. His work has also been included in group exhibitions in Paris, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Germany, Moscow, Tokyo, New York, and throughout Latin America.

Main Solo Exhibitions

2016  Another Way of Seeing, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
2009  Francisco Matto: The Modern and Mythic, Blanton Museum of Art, Texas
2007  Matto: El Misterio de la Forma, Galería Oscar Prato, Montevideo, Uruguay
2007  Matto, Bienal de Mercosur, Porto Alegre, Brazil
2005  Matto, Galería Ramis Barquet, New York
2003  Matto-Poesías y Pinturas, Galería Oscar Prato, Montevideo, Uruguay
1999  Matto: Totems, Portraits and Graphisms, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
      Matto: Galería Palatina, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1994  Francisco Matto, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York City
1993  Matto, Galería Moretti, Montevideo, Uruguay
1989  Francisco Matto - Retrospectiva, Subte Municipal de Montevideo, Uruguay
1975  Galería Contemporánea, Montevideo, Uruguay

Group Exhibitions

2015  The South was Their North: Artists of the Torres-García Workshop, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
      Face to Face, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
2013-12 Constructed Dialogues: Concrete, Geometric, and Kinetic Art from the Latin American Art Collection,
      Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
2009  Constructivism in Relief, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
2004  Inverted Utopias, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
       Francisco Matto & Augusto Torres, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
2001  The School of the South, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
       Abstraction: The Amerindian Paradigm, Pal. des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium & IVAM, Spain
2000  Heterotopías, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
       Latin American Still Life: Reflections of Time and Space, El Museo del Barrio, New York
1998  Primera Bienal del Mercosur, Porto Alegre, Brazil
       The School of the South, Anderson Gallery, Buffalo, New York
       La Escuela del Sur - El Taller Torres-García, Iturralde Gallery, Los Angeles, California
1997  A Escola do Sul, Pavilhao Cultural Renée Behar, São Paulo, Brazil
       La Escuela del Sur, Museo Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
       T-G y 10 Artistas del Taller, Galería Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires, Argentina
       Dibujos en papel, Galería Clavé, Caracas, Venezuela
       El Taller Torres-García, Museo Central de Costa Rica, San Juan, Costa Rica
1996  The Still Life, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
       Le Cercle de Torres-García, Zabriskie Gallery, Paris, France
       Constructive Universalism, Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C.
1995  65 Years of Constructivist Wood, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
1994  Torres-García y la Escuela del Sur, Quinta Galería, Bogotá, Colombia
1992  El Taller Torres-García: The School of the South: Centro Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
1991  Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, Austin, Texas; The Bronx Museum, N.Y.; The Monterrey Museum and the
       Rufino Tamayo Museum, Mexico
1986  Torres García and his Legacy, Kouros Gallery, New York
1974  Francisco MattoAugusto Torres, Sala Monzón, Madrid, Spain
1970  Universalismo Constructivo, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1964  Salón Comisión Nacional de Bellas Artes & the Jockey Club of Montevideo, Uruguay
1955  Jonges Schilders uit Uruguay, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
       XXIX Salón des surindependants, Paris, France
1953  II Bienal do Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil
1942  Francisco Matto, Augusto Torres, Horacio Torres, Amigos del Arte, Montevideo, Uruguay
1940  Grupo Cézanne, with Francisco Matto, García Reino, Pablo Serrano and others, Montevideo, Uruguay.