

## 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: Exposição Monográfica," 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

- 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, Porte 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

- 2006 *Line-Plane-Volume/Sculpture: 1940-2006*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 2005 *Works On & Of Paper*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 2004 *Inverted Utopias*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas  
*Francisco Matto & Augusto Torres*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2002 *Modernism in Montevideo, New York and Buenos Aires-1930s-1970s*, Sicardi Gallery, 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
- 1999 *Latin American Still Life: Reflections of Time and Space*, Katonah Art Museum, 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 Sofia, 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 Matto-Augusto 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 surindépendants*, 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.