

# Gonzalo Fonseca

b. 1922 Montevideo, Uruguay - d. 1997 Seravezza, Italy



In 1942, Fonseca quit his architectural studies in order to pursue an artistic career. Working under the direction of Joaquín Torres-García, Fonseca joined the artist's workshop, where he participated in the group's collective exhibitions, *Removedor*. In 1945 Fonseca traveled with other *Taller Torres-García* members through Argentina, Peru, and Bolivia to study pre-Columbian art. This experience, along with numerous trips throughout Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa during the 1950s, profoundly affected Fonseca's formal and theoretical approach to art.

Although Fonseca left the College of Architecture in Montevideo as a youth, an emphasis on structure and architectonics is present throughout his oeuvre. As a teenager, he taught himself to sculpt in stone and later returned to such sculptural practices after studying ceramics in Spain in 1953. Fonseca moved to the United States in 1958, and later divided his time between New York and Italy, where he created large-scale marble sculptures.

Artworks by Fonseca are included at The Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Museo Municipale, Pietrasanta, Italy; and the Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, among other collections. The artist's works are also featured in numerous public spaces around the globe, including Tokyo; Palo Alto, California; New York; Reston, Virginia; and Montevideo.

## Main Solo Exhibitions

- 2018-2017 *The Sculpture of Gonzalo Fonseca*, The Noguchi Museum, Long Island City, Queens
- 2008 *Gonzalo Fonseca: Sobre los Muros*, Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales del Parque Rodó, Uruguay
- 2003 *Gonzalo Fonseca*, IVAM, Valencia, Spain
- 1999 *Gonzalo Fonseca*, Fundación César Manrique, Lanzarote, Spain
- 1994 *Mundos de Gonzalo Fonseca*, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1991 *Gonzalo Fonseca: Sabbakhin Sculpture*, Arnold Herstand, New York
- 1990 Venice Biennale, representing Uruguay, Italy
- 1989 *Fonseca, Sculpture & Drawings*, The Arts Club of Chicago, Illinois
- 1988 *Gonzalo Fonseca: Sculpture & Drawings*, Arnold Herstand, New York
- 1986 *Gonzalo Fonseca: Sculpture*, Arnold Herstand, New York
- 1978 *Fonseca*, Fiera di Bologna, Italy
- 1977 *Sculturi di Gonzalo Fonseca*, Galleria del Naviglio, Milan, Italy
- 1976 *Gonzalo Fonseca*, Galleria Adler/Castillo, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1974 *Gonzalo Fonseca*, Galleria Conkright, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1970 *Gonzalo Fonseca, Recent Works*, The Jewish Museum, New York
- 1962 *Gonzalo Fonseca, Selected Works*, The Portland Museum, Oregon
- 1953 *Gonzalo Fonseca Ceramica*, Galleria San Marco, Rome, Italy
- 1952 *Gonzalo Fonseca Paintings*, Studio Claudio Matinenghi, Rome, Italy

## Group Exhibitions

- 2019-2018 *American Geometries, from Mexico to Tierra del Fuego*, Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
- 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

- 2010 *Constructive Spirit*, The Newark Museum, New Jersey and Amon Carter Museum, Fort Worth, Texas
- 2009 *Constructivism in Relief: Taller Torres García*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2006 *Line-Plane-Volume/Sculpture: 1940-2006*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 2005 *Modern and Contemporary Works On Paper*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 2004 *Inverted Utopias*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas
- 2002 *Modernism in Montevideo, New York and Buenos Aires-1930s-1970s*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2001 *Abstraction: The Amerindian Paradigm*, Pal. des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium & IVAM, Spain
- 2000 *Heterotopías*, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain  
*A Latin American Metaphysical Perspective*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 1999 *North & South Connected: An Abstraction of the Americas*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 1998 *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*, Pavilhão 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  
*Una estética permanente 60 mil años de escultura moderna*. Galería E. González, Madrid, Spain
- 1996 *The Still Life*, Cecilia de Torres Gallery, New York  
*Le Cercle de Torres-García*, Zabriskie Gallery, Paris, France  
*Constructive Universalism*, OAS 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
- 1993 *Latin American Artists of the 20th Century*, MOMA, New York; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- 1993 *El Taller Torres-García, The School of the South*, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
- 1991 Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, Austin, Texas; Museo de Monterrey, México; Museo Rufino Tamayo, México DF; The Bronx Museum, New York
- 1990 *The Latin American Spirit: Art & Artists in the U.S., 1920-1970*, Center for the Arts, New York
- 1988 Vero Beach, Florida; Institute of Culture, San Juan, Puerto Rico; El Paso Museum of Art, Texas; The Bronx Museum, New York
- 1987 *Latin American Artists in New York since 1970*, A.M. Huntington Gallery, Austin, Texas
- 1986 *Torres-García and his Legacy*, Kouros Gallery, New York
- 1985 Group Show, Veksolund, Denmark
- 1970 *Universalismo Constructivo*, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1960 *4 Constructivist works of the TTG*, The New School, New York
- 1956 *Jonges Schilders uit Uruguay*, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Exposición de Arte Plástico, Museo San Martín Artigas, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1954 Bienal de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil (Uruguayan Delegation)
- 1950 *Torres-García & his Workshop*, OAS Museum, Washington, D. C.
- 1946 *Arte d'América, Maison de l'Amérique*, Paris, France
- 1943-49 TTG exhibitions in Uruguay, Argentina, France, Italy and the United States

## Public Collections

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York

The Brooklyn Museum, New York

Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art, University of Texas, Austin

Portland Art Museum, Oregon

Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela

## Works in Public Spaces

1996 Jardín de esculturas Palacio Libertad, Montevideo, Uruguay

1995 Faret Tachikawa Fund, Tokyo, Japan

1990 *Muro Bianco*, originally for a private residence in Caracas, Venezuela

1983 Work in marble for an interior patio, Museum of Fine Arts, Caracas, Venezuela

1970 Seven marble works, Alza Laboratory, Palo Alto, California

1968 Monument in Wood, (lost), Paul Friedberg Associates, Architects, Bronx, New York

1968-7 Cement tower, 40' high, Olympic Games Committee, México D.F.

1967 Mural in cement, P. S. 46, David Todd Assoc., Architects, New York

1965 3 Sculptures: The Building (wood), The Sun Boat (cement), Underpass (cement), Wittlessey, Conklin and Rossant Architects, Reston, Virginia

1960 Mural in polished brick (lost), Medical Center, Queens, New York

1959 Mosaic, The New School for Social Research, New York