

José Gurvich

b. 1927, Lithuania – d. 1974 New York City



Populated with figures and images that reflect his Jewish upbringing, his participation with the *Taller Torres-García*, and his profound admiration for the European art masters Breughel and Bosch, Gurvich's artworks combine a unique personal style with technical mastery.

The child of Jewish immigrants, the artist was born in Lithuania and moved to Uruguay with his family in 1932. There, Gurvich excelled at both music and the visual arts, and it was while studying the violin alongside Horacio Torres that the young artist was introduced to Horacio's father, Joaquín Torres-García. Soon after, Gurvich joined the *Taller Torres-García*, participating in the workshop's exhibitions, writing for its publications, executing mural projects, and teaching. Gurvich's role at the Taller later influenced the creation of his own workshop, the *Taller Montevideo*, where he taught the

next generation of Uruguayan artists.

In 1954 and again in 1964, the artist travelled to Europe and Israel, where he lived as a shepherd on the Ramot Menasche kibbutz. These experiences profoundly influenced the iconography of his paintings and sculptures. Moving to the United States in 1970, Gurvich joined his fellow *Taller Torres-García* artists Julio Alpuy, Horacio Torres, and Gonzalo Fonseca in New York City, where he continued to produce art until his premature death in 1974.

Main Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 Inauguration of new Gurvich Museum, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2013 *Gurvich Abstract Works (1946-1973)*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
Geometry and beyond, curated by Edward J. Sullivan, PINTA NY, New York
José Gurvich: Cruzando Fronteras, Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2012 *Los Mundos Fantásticos de José Gurvich*, Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales, Montevideo, Uruguay
Gurvich y el Cerro, Museo Solari, Fray Bentos, Uruguay
- 2011 *José Gurvich en Colecciones Privadas*, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
Obras Inconclusas, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
José Gurvich: Personajes y Monumentos Galería Sur, Punta del Este, Uruguay
Los Mundos Fantásticos de José Gurvich, Fundación Atchugarry, Punta del Este, Uruguay
Galería Palatina, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2010 *José Gurvich: Canción de la pintura*, Galería Oscar Prato, Montevideo, Uruguay
The fantastic world of José Gurvich, Frost Art Museum, Florida
Los universos judíos de José Gurvich, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
Con Anheló. Homenaje a Anheló Hernández, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
Naturalezas Muertas de José Gurvich, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2005 *José Gurvich Constructive Imagination*, Americas Society, New York
- 2003 *José Gurvich*, Museum of Fine Arts, Santiago de Chile, Chile
José Gurvich Murales, Esculturas y Objetos, Municipal Exhibits Center, Montevideo, Uruguay
José Gurvich, Torres-García Museum, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2000 *José Gurvich*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
A Song to Life - José Gurvich: Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California
Skirball Cultural Center, L.A., California
Memorial de América Latina, São Paulo, Brazil

- Museo J.L. Cuevas, México D.F.
José Gurvich, Galería Palatina, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1999 *José Gurvich – Dibujos*: Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina
 Fundación Buquebus, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1997 Museo de Bellas Artes, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1995 *José Gurvich, Un canto a la vida*, Galería de la Matriz, Punta del Este, Uruguay
- 1994 *José Gurvich - Homage*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 1987 Galería Sur, Punta del Este, Uruguay
- 1985 *José Gurvich Homage Retrospective*, Haifa University, Israel
- 1972 Lerner-Misrachi Gallery, New York
- 1970 Negev en Bersheva Museum, Israel
 Couturier Gallery, Stanford, Connecticut
 Katz-Idan Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel
- 1967 Comisión Nacional de Bellas Artes, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1960 Galería Americana, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1959 Amigos del Arte, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1958 Galería Arte Bella, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1956 Katz-Idan Gallery, Tel-Aviv, Israel
- 1955 Galería San Marco, Rome, Italy

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 *Mujeres vistas X Mujeres X Gurvich*, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2012 *Mañana, Levántese azul! José Gurvich: una paideia desvelada*, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2011 *Norte en el Sur, el legado de Joaquín Torres-García*, Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires,
 Argentina
Homenaje a Totó Gurvich, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2009 *North Looks South: Building a Latin American Art Collection*, Museum of Fine Arts Houston, Texas
Constructivism in Relief: Taller Torres García, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2008 *Forma, Línea, Gesto, Escritura: Aspectos del dibujo en América del Sur*, MuVIM, Valencia, Spain
- 2007 *Murales TTG*, Museo Gurvich, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2006 *Line-Plane-Volume/Sculpture: 1940-2006*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 2005 *Works On & Of Paper*, Cecilia de Torres, Ltd., New York
- 2002 *Modernism in Montevideo and Buenos Aires*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
- 2001 *The School of the South: Taller Torres-García*, Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas
Entremundos: Jewish Artists of Latin America, Singer Gallery, Mizel Center, Denver, Colorado
- 2000 *Latin American Still Life: Reflections of Time and Space*, El Museo del Barrio, New York
- 1999 *Claves del Arte Latinoamericano, Colección Constantini*, La Caixa Foundation, Madrid, Spain
Latin American Still Life: Reflections of Time and Space, Katonah Museum, New York

- 1998 First Bienal del Mercosur, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 1997 *La Escuela del Sur*, Museo Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
Torres-García y 10 Artistas del Taller, Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1996 *El espíritu de la Pintura Latinoamericana*, Associated American Artists, New York
The Still Life, Cecilia de Torre, Ltd., New York
Le Cercle de Torres-García, Zabriskie Gallery, Paris, France
Constructive Universalism-School of the South, Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C.
 Museo del Banco Central, San José, Costa Rica
Taller Torres-García, Praxis Gallery, New York
- 1995 *65 Years of Constructivist Wood*, Cecilia de Torre, Ltd., New York
- 1994 *Torres-García y la Escuela del Sur*, Quinta Galería, Bogotá, Colombia
- 1993 *El Taller Torres-García: The School of the South*, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, Austin, Texas; Museo de Monterrey & Museo Rufino, Tamayo, México; The Bronx Museum, New York
- 1991 *Chagall to Kitaj, Jewish experience in 20th Century Art*, Barbican Gallery, London, United Kingdom
El Taller Torres-García: The School of the South, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery, Austin, Texas; Museo de Monterrey & Museo Rufino, Tamayo, México; The Bronx Museum, New York
- 1989 *Arte Contemporáneo Uruguayo*, Tetriakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia
Arte del Uruguay nel Novecento, Instituto Italo-Latinoamericano, Roma, Italy
- 1978 Galería Fauna, Madrid, Spain
- 1973 Temple Israel, Great Neck, New York
- 1972 Feria de la opinión latinoamericana, San Clemente Church, New York
- 1971 *Selected Works from Latin America*, Stanford Museum, Connecticut
- 1967 *One Hundred Years of Uruguayan Paintings*, Corcoran Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1960 *Art and Space*, University of Chile, Santiago, Chile
- 1956 *Jonges Schilder uit Uruguay*, Stedelljk Musuem, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1949 TTG exhibitions in Uruguay, Argentina, France, Italy, and United States
- 1943 TTG exhibitions in Uruguay, Argentina, France, Italy, and United States

Works in public spaces

- 1970 Mural, Ramot Menasche Kibbutz, Israel
- 1963 Mural, Caja de Compensaciones de la Co-op. del Frigorífico del Cerro, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1962 Gesso relief, Edificio El Malecón, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1961 Mural, Calle Sarmiento, commissioned by the architect San Vicente, Montevideo, Uruguay