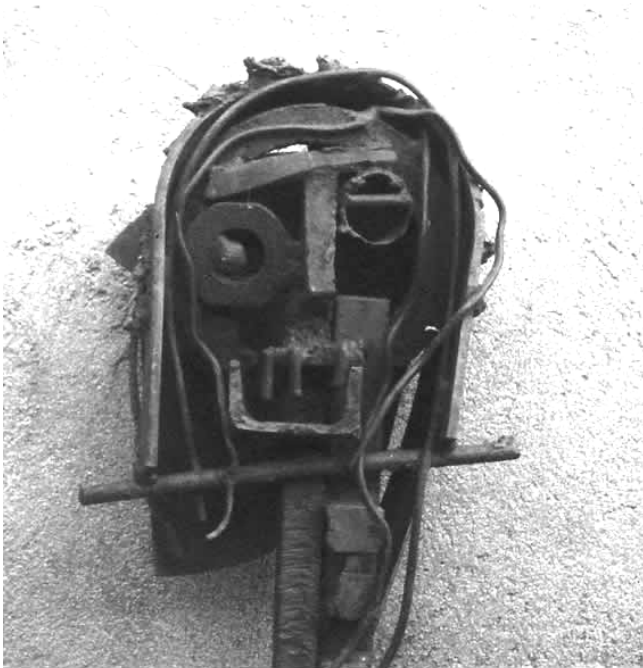


## The Spanish Expressionist Art of Ramón Lapayese



Cabeza de vieja (Old Woman). Iron, 1966. 72 x 23 x 17 cm.

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Ramón Lapayese paints reality and charming popular scenes with energy, enthusiasm and acute observation

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Pez (Fish). Oil on canvas, 1992. 34 x 69 cm.

It is not easy to classify and to define the style of Ramón Lapayese. His style of painting is full of suggestions from his native land and expresses the most intimate feelings of a Spaniard.

There is in the expressionist art of Ramón Lapayese a permanent call, a continuous flame alive with historic memories that move him towards themes, shapes and colors drawn at times from the magnificent prehistoric paintings of the Altamira caves in northern Spain, or perhaps the burlesque style of Goya, and sometimes bringing to mind the lyric style of the impressionists.

The bullfight themes of Lapayese evidently remind us more of the style in Altamira, while his studies of Don Quixote and other Spanish folk themes, vibrant with deep colors, bring us closer to the strong style of Goya.

The paintings of Ramón Lapayese give the impression of having been melted by fire and cast like his sculptures, colors achieving the very special effect of burned matter. The red, that plays an important role in Lapayese paintings, gives the sensation of having been exposed to such a high degree of temperature that the result is one of a metallic texture. The black is given as accumulative layers of matter one on top of the other, offering an effect of density and depth.

We can say that the colors used by Lapayese, and so central to his wisely thought out and elaborately designed paintings, are always under his strict command even in those works which show a looser and apparently less controlled approach. *by Victoriano Cremer, "La Hora Leonesa" Newspaper. April 16, 1983. Translated by Carmen Hilton, N.Y.*

The first exhibition of the season at the Galeria Kreisler consists of 50 paintings and 15 small sculptures by Ramón Lapayese.

He belongs to an illustrious saga of artists, but his works have a personality of their own, and a certain family resemblance can only be spotted occasionally.

Ramón Lapayese paints reality and charming popular scenes with energy, enthusiasm and acute observations. Whitewashed villages serve as a background to country folk engaged in every day tasks.

Animals -bulls, horses, cats on the roof- carts, everyday objects all form part of the artist's world. Sometimes he falls into the temptation of telling an anecdote.

The city is also present in some of Lapayese's canvases. And with the city, characters seen with irony and humour plus a little tenderness.

Lapayese is at a brilliant moment of his career which started 25 years ago and which took him to Italy and France where he lived for many years and won many prizes.

*Consuelo de la Gandara. Iberian Daily Sun Newspaper, Majorca. October, 15, 1980*

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Desnudo sentado (Seated Nude). Mixed media on paper, 1958. 100 x 58 cm.



Toreando con la mano izquierda (Left Hand Pass). Oil on canvas, 1959. 73 x 60 cm.

Ramón Lapayese is a Spanish painter and sculptor, who has studied in Rome and Paris, and exhibited in many European countries and the Americas; this is his first one man exhibition in London.

He is individualistically representational, concerned with areas of city and domestic life, human ceremony, and classical subjects: motherhood, dancers, horses, village fairs, the park, boys playing, etc.

His small bronzes are movingly executed, a rough-crumbled texture emphasizing an unusual cutout quality: quite powerful, yet charming. The paintings too have a deliberate flatness, soft powdery colors enhancing their decorative, stylized characteristics.

*Karina Vaizey. Arts Review, Volume XXII No. 4 London, Saturday 28 February 1970*

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Contra el burladero (Against the *Burladero*). Carved wood, 1968. 27 x 13 x 10 cm.



Ciclista (Cyclist). Oil on canvas, 1969. 146 x 114 cm.

#### ROUND THE GALLERIES

Madrid-born Ramón Lapayese is also showing his double facet of painter and sculptor in Galeria Ariel.

From the sculptural point of view he inclines towards schematism. This brief but substantial display of sculptures shows plastic richness and formal dynamism which, are in our opinion, their best qualities.

As far as his paintings are concerned, he achieves a perfect compenetration of colour and form. Without great chromatic displays, his figurative paintings have an extraordinary human, expressive dimension, full of an intuitive quality.

With this exhibition, the artist shows his valuable gifts, both in the field of painting and in that of sculpture, presenting himself as one of the most qualified painters of the day.

*Jose Maria Forteza MAJORCA DAILY BULLETIN – March, 30 1969*

## Top Spaniards give a fresh vision to art in two London shows

An exhibition of Spanish paintings and sculptures is now drawing crowds at the Woodstock Gallery, in London's Mayfair.

The artist is Ramón Lapayese, one of the foremost artists in Spain today and also one of the most prestigious: he has just finished a bronze commissioned by Prince Juan Carlos and is working on a large oil painting for the Vatican.

Sr. Lapayese, 41, and a father of two small sons, comes from a noted artistic family in Madrid (where his father is still maintaining a prodigious output at the age of 70). His father was in fact his first teacher, but at the age of 14 he was sent to the St. George Art School in Barcelona.

In 1954 he won a scholarship in Rome. When his studies had been completed, he was fortunate in soon obtaining commissions from official organizations, including universities. From 1957 to 1963 he studied at the School of Fine Arts in Paris under a French Government scholarship.

Sr. Lapayese, a small, neat man with dark eyes describes himself as "a very figurative painter but veering towards the abstract— a very personal vision".

This is certainly a fair description of his work, and his interesting use of colour to flatten the shapes of his humans and animals adds considerable impact. A German critic has written of him: "Nobody has learned as he has to paint the play between man and animal".

The exhibition, which contains 29 paintings and 10 sculptures, was opened on Feb. 23 in the presence of the Spanish Ambassador, the Marques de Santa Cruz. *Spain Today. London, March 9, 1970*

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(Please note that these pictures' colors may lack accuracy from their originals)



Miami Beach I. Oil on canvas, 1990. 92 x 73 cm.

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His interesting use of colour to flatten the shapes of his humans and animals adds considerable impact

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Jinete (Horse Rider). Oil on canvas, 1993. 92 x 73 cm.