

Human Spheres in the Painting of Ramón Lapayese

by José Pérez-Guerra Sánchez

From the perspective of his own century, Ramón Lapayese (Madrid, 1928) contemplates the human panorama and human endeavor throughout the course of time. It is when he investigates the primitive, when he traces silhouettes and outlines with simple drawings, descends to the minium and gold of medieval times and, with renaissance perspectives, puts forth an aesthetic that appears like a mirror where the luxury of living can take pleasure in urban spheres with architecture and other peculiarities. And he observes desert nomads, in action and amusing themselves, without leaving behind the impression of a bullfight, bulls and bullfighters in sketches that seem to come from the Quaternary.



Dive Fishing, 1977. Oil on Canvas

Ramón Lapayese, painter, sculptor and engraver. He started his career alongside his father, José Lapayese Bruna, and studied in centers and studios in Madrid and Barcelona. He later received grants and broadened his knowledge, time and spaces in academies in Rome and Paris, where he lived for several years. He is an artist who prepared himself for the profession from a broad as well as diverse notion. Thus, his sculptural and pictorial work, his engravings and murals have been widely recognized and make up a discourse that is consistent with his formation and culture. He has also received recognition for his didactic efforts. Because Ramón Lapayese, a resident of the United States for some years, has taken great pains in his work, which improves each day and which can be measured on a scale of excellence. Portraitist and muralist: nine large public buildings in Florida proudly display Lapayese's work, and students from the universities of Miami, Saint Thomas and Florida Memorial College have received from Lapayese the value of knowledge and the encouragement to make their art into a personal conviction.

In 1991 he delighted us with an excellent painting exhibition in the Santa Barbara gallery, and now he returns to this same place with paintings overflowing with humanity and completed with a simple conception; paintings that propose themes in which intelligence and passion reveal steps in the path of the everyday routine, with the uncertainty that the future inspires, in an ironic vein that does not leave room for affection and effects. In the course of the last two years, Lapayese has participated in different fairs and conferences —"Europ'Art 92", in Geneva; "Art Asia, 1992", in Hong-Kong; "Tresors d'Art", 1993, in Singapore—, he has exhibited his work in several galleries and museums in the United States and has prepared various shows for European galleries. Ramón Lapayese has works in over twenty Spanish and foreign museums, and in private and public collections.

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El Punto de las Artes Magazine, November 19 - 25, 1993.
Translation: Lisa Twomey*



Matador, 1978. Bronze

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