

Interview with Ramón Lapayese in "La Gaceta del Norte":

"I am the eternal displeased"

Ramón Lapayese was born in Madrid in 1928 and studied in Barcelona's School of Fine Arts. On Tuesday his painting and sculpture exhibition opened in the Uranga Gallery of Bilbao, and it will remain open until July 5.

—What would Lapayese say about himself?

—I don't know. I can't say anything about myself. I practice various trades: painting, sculpture, engravings, etchings, in short, almost all the plastic arts.

—Let's talk about painting.

—They say that I am neofigurative, expressionist, and I agree with this.

—Have you always been neofigurative?

—Well, no. I began in an academic studio, afterwards I continued with the neofigurative and when I was in Paris I did abstract art for four years.

—Give us a self-criticism of your pictorial work.

—There are works that I finish and I am happy with them; however there are others that I create and then I break down in order to do them over again. I have an endless feeling of dissatisfaction. I am the eternal displeased.

—Let's turn now to sculpture.

—For sculpture it is the same as for painting. At any time either form of expression can be employed.

—But there must be works that are thought up for sculpture and others for painting.

—Yes, evidently there are works that are more suited for sculpture and others for painting, but when I think about a work, I think about it without considering the form of expression.

"I interpret the natural, I don't like to copy it"

—When you have a work in mind, what determines if you will create it in sculpture or in painting?

—It depends on my state of mind. I need a more favorable state of mind for sculpture than for painting.

—What themes do you deal with?

—Everything that surrounds me: people, dogs, cars, bugs, cyclists, everything that I see. I reflect life, more or less interpreted. My works are impressions of what is around me.

—Why have you gone from the neofigurative to the abstract and from the abstract back to the neofigurative again?

—In both cases it was a feeling of dissatisfaction, followed by a saturation of what I was doing.

What I do today, tomorrow I might find to be on the wrong track. I interpret the natural; I don't like to copy it.

—What materials do you use in sculpture?

—All of them. Everything that is material is useful to me. I have used lava from the Teide and even tar from the road, and then plaster, wood, bronze, etc.

—Is this the first time that you exhibit your work in Bilbao?

—No, it's the second. The first time was in 1966, when I had an exhibition in the Modern Art Museum.

Ramón Lapayese has held numerous painting and sculpture exhibitions –sometimes also with works of other plastic arts– in Spain and in other countries, as well as in many other collections. He also holds several awards and is a member of the British Association of Painters and Sculptures. From yesterday until July 5, in the Uranga Gallery of Bilbao.

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