

## **Optimistic expressionism**

*by Alberto del Castillo*

Ramón Lapayese, a native and resident of Madrid, son and brother of painters, studied as an independent student at Barcelona's School of Fine Arts from 1942 to 1949. He exhibited sculptures in Syra in 1963. He was also a painter, but he took some time before making this aspect of his work known. He presented sculptures and paintings in this same gallery in 1966. Since 1954 he has held several exhibitions in Spain and in foreign countries. He has earned several important awards in both aspects of his art. He is also an etcher and a poet.

His current exhibition consists of forty-six works, eight of which are unique sculptures and two in limited edition. The rest are large, medium and small paintings, the small ones on canvas and wood. From classicism he went on to expressionism. In Paris, where he lived from 1957 to 1963, he decided on abstraction but this little by little gave way to figuration and expressionism, although more moderate.

His sculpture is not based on the anecdote, but rather on the relationship between form and space. The rhythm and quality of the materials: hard, beautifully patinated African woods and wrought iron. The bronze sculptures on exhibit are from before 1974, which is the year the other pieces were created. All of them are testimony of the feeling he has for volume and of his love for the material, upon which he prints life, with representation and expression, helped by his command of the trade and the flickering textures.

In painting, his evolution has been similar. He likes to use loose strokes, making some of his works seem like sketches. In all of them the form of creation is through small spots that form reticles and give vibration. In a manner similar to the harsh surfaces of the bronze sculptures, in his paintings Lapayese tends towards a tactile appearance. He also tends towards stylization and a certain schematism, without rejecting his joyful and optimistic expressionism.

The concept is the same in sculpture and painting. His talents are at the same level. We are not talking about a sculptor and a painter, but rather about an artist who sculpts and paints at the same time.

*Alberto del Castillo, Diario de Barcelona, November 9, 1975.  
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