Gustavo Vélez

Gustavo Vélez (b.1975) was born in Medellín, Colombia where he began his studies in art. After graduating from the Bellas Artes Institute and Eladio Velez Art School, Itaguí, he continued his education in the Lorenzo de' Medici Art Institute in Florence (Italy), and concluded his studies at the workshops in Pietrasanta, Italy. The artist currently divides his time between Pietrasanta, New York (USA) and Medellín (Colombia).

Vélez has achieved international acclaim, successfully entering all branches of the art market, including Asia, the Americas, and Europe. In the last ten years he's had various solo and collective exhibitions all over the world including Museum of the Imperial City of Beijing; Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama; Contemporary Museum of Guayaquil, Ecuador; Museum of Modern Art of Cuenca, Ecuador; Museum of Modern Art of Quito, Ecuador; and the Museum of Art of Tolima, Colombia. In 2013, the maestro was elected as the featured talent for the annual solo exhibit in Pietrasanta, Italy. The history of the event features artists such as Igor Mitoraj, Luciano Vanji, Fernando Botero, Kan Yasuda, among others.

He is the youngest artist to be honored in the history of this yearly event. The exhibit *Gustavo Vélez Scultore a Pietrasanta* ran for three months and it spread out over the iconic Piazza del Duomo and Chiesa di Sant'Agustino, with 34 sculptures, some with weights up to 9 tons and over 7 meters in height.

In 2013 Gustavo Vélez received "La Orden al Gran Caballero" from the Colombian Congress. In 2014 he was honored with "Orden de la Democracia Simón Bolívar" due

to his achievements as an artist and recognition he brought to his country from overseas.

For a third consecutive year, both Sotheby's and Phillips auction houses have included the sculptures of Vélez in their auctions of Latin American Art in New York, for which they have all attracted great interest and strong sales.

October 4th, 1975

Medellin, Colombia

Gustavo Vélez's passion for sculpture started at an early age. Ever since he was a little child, Gustavo was certain of what destiny had in store for him: Art. After finishing high school, which he alternated with sculpture studies at the Institute of Fine Arts and the Eladio Velez School in his hometown, he decided to travel to Florence as an existential choice. He attended the Lorenzo de Medici Academy in Florence (Italy) and concluded his training in the workshops of Pietrasanta (Italy), a place he has attended for over 20 years and where his sculpture studio is currently located.

Asia

Gustavo V.lez's work has been present in Asia for over 10 years. Exhibitions, participation in art fairs, as well as the installation of sculptures in public and private collections in China, Japan, Korea, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore talk about his broad career in this continent.

In Japan, he has exhibited in galleries in Tokyo, Utsunomiya, Iwaki and Yokohama. Gustavo has been a promoter of cultural exchange with artists from Japan and Korea

for several years now. For this reason, in 2008 he was invited to the exhibition on

the occasion of the centenary of bilateral relations between Japan and Colombia. One of his monumental sculptures (Flying, Korean White Marble) is part of the Art Valley Sculpture Park collection in Seoul, Korea.

In China, Velez has exhibited in renowned galleries and museums such as the Museum of the Imperial City of Zhengzhou and has monumental sculptures placed in cities like Shenzhen and Nanjing, among others.

Europe

His works have been exhibited in Fairs, Galleries and Museums in France, Italy and Spain.

In Italy, he has an already consolidated a solid trajectory as an artist present in Pietrasanta, region of the Italian Tuscany, where he arrived in 1996 and where he keeps most of his marble and bronze works.

In 2013 he was chosen for the individual exhibition of sculpture that takes place in this Italian town, home of worldwide renown sculptors and artists like Igor Mitoraj, Luciano Vanji, Novello Finotti, Gio Pomodoro, Fernando Botero, Manolo Valdez, among others. With this exhibition Gustavo became the youngest artist to intervene in the emblematic Piazza del Duomo and the Chiesa di Sant`Agostino with sculptures in bronze, steel and marble that were up to seven meters high and eight tons in weight.

In July 2015 he was invited, together with sculptors Igor Mitoraj and Fernando

Botero, to the "Homo Faber" exhibition, in which V.lez participated with monumental works that embellished the Parco della Versiliana during the warm Italian summer.

His works have been exhibited in solo shows at museums such as the Marino Marini in Pistoia, Italy and the Bernard Boesch in La Baule, France. His works are also part of the permanent collection of the Museo dei Bozetti in Pietrasanta, Italy.

America

In the American continent, he has participated in fairs and exhibitions in the United States, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela, Panama, Colombia and Peru.

In 2011 and 2012 his sculptures could be admired in the Archaeological and Contemporary Museum of Guayaquil, the Museum of Modern Art of Cuenca and the Museum of Modern Art of Quito, in Ecuador. As well as in the Museum of Art of Tolima (Colombia).

The sketch of his work "Hypercubes", which is part of the permanent collection of the Museo Dei Bozzetti in Pietrasanta, was showcased in the "How a Sculpture is born" exhibition, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, Alabama (USA).

His inclination towards monumentality and an invitation to exhibit in his native country, led him to create the exhibition "Gustavo Velez Cartagena de Indias" inaugurated in December 2015, with 17 monumental sculptures, mostly made by the artist in Italy, and 30 medium format works. The exhibition was open for three months in the main squares of the Historical Center and museums such as the Museum of Modern Art of Cartagena, the Historical Museum and the Museum of Fortifications, becoming the largest exhibition of monumental sculpture ever seen in the city.

In the last two years he has had solo shows such as "Poetics in Three Dimensions" at the Duque Arango Gallery in Medellin, "Geometric Abstraction" at the Art of the

World Gallery in Houston, Texas and "Origin" at the Enlace Arte Contempor.neo gallery in Lima, Peru. This year he installed a 4 meter high sculpture in the new office complex of the Apple technology company located in San Diego, California.

Auctions

Over the past five years the auction houses Sotheby´s and Phillips have included Velez's sculptures for Latin American art auctions in New York and his works have been successfully auctioned.

Awards

In 2013 Velez received the "Order to the Great Knight", distinction granted by the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and in April 2014 he was awarded the "Order of Democracy Simon Bolivar" in the grade of Official Cross, for his achievements as a sculptor and the worthy representation he has made of Colombian art abroad.

He has also been honored with the "Golden Star of Antioquia Culture" and the "Order of Merit don Juan del Corral" Gold Degree for his contributions to culture and the plastic arts.

The last recognition made to his artistic career is the "Medal of Educational and Cultural Merit Porfirio Barba Jacob" Gold Category awarded by the Mayor's Office of Medellin, Colombia.

Selection of works in Collections

Gustavo Velez's works are part of collections around the world at notable locations like the Hiki Hospital in Utsunomiya and the Akasaka Palace bldg in Tokyo, Japan; the Raffles Hotel in Shenzhen and the Ritz Carlton in Nanjing, China; the Museum

of Contemporary Art in Guayaquil (Ecuador), Casa de Campo (Dominican Republic), Art Valley (Seoul, Korea); Dei Bozzetti Museum (Pietrasanta, Italy), the Trump Ocean Club in Panama City and the Apple headquarters in San Diego (California, USA), among others.

In Colombia, his sculptures can be seen at Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, the Sabaneta Metro Station and the Santo Domingo MetroCable Station in Medellin, in the main parks of municipalities such as Bello and Fredonia, as well as in the Tolima Governor's Office and the Tolima Art Museum in Ibagu.

Exhibitions:

Solo exhibitions

2019

Galería Ansorena, Madrid, Spain

2018

Galería Enlace, Lima, Perù

2016

Galería Duque Arango, Medellìn, Columbia
Gustavo Vélez, Cartagena de Indias 2015 – 2016, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

2015

Museo Marino Marini, Pistoia, Italy

2013

“Gustavo Vélez, Scultore a Pietrasanta”, Piazza Duomo and Chiostro di S. Agostino, Pietrasanta, Italy

2012

Memories of Pietrasanta", Promoarte Gallery, Tokyo

Luz Botero Fine Art en Trump Ocean Club, Ciudad de Panama, Panama

Monumentalis en: Museo de Arte del Tolima, Tolima, Columbia

2011

Monumentalis Ecuador, Museo Antroplogico y de arte Contemporaneo de

Guayaquil. Museo de arte Moderno de Cuenca. Museo de arte Contemporaneo de Quito. 2012/

Monumentalis Colombia, Museo de arte de Tolima, Colombia.

Memories of Pietrasanta, Promoarte Gallery , Tokio, Giappone.

Luz Botero Fina Art, Trump Ocean and Tower Panama City, Panama.

2010

Guan Xiang Art Galllery- Zhengzhou Museum, Zhengzhou, China

2009

Promoarte Gallery. Tokyo, Giappone

2008

Genkan Gallery. Tokio, Japón

2007

Gallery I. Iwaki, Japan

2005

Promoarte Gallery. Tokyo, Japan.

2003

Government Building Hall of Medellín City. Medellín, Colombia

2002

Olaya Herrera Airport. Medellín, Colombia.

2001

Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana Exhibition Hall. Medellín, Colombia.

1999

South Aburrá Chamber of Commerce. Medellín, Colombia.

Open air exhibit. Fredonia, Colombia.

Selected collective exhibitions

2019

MACO, LGM Arte Internacional, Ciudad de México

2018

Art Lima, LGM Arte Internacional, Lima, Perú

Context Art Fair, LGM Arte Internacional, Miami, USA

MACO, LGM Arte Internacional, Ciudad de México

Estampa Madrid, Galería Ansorena, Madrid, Spain

KIAF, Art of the World Gallery, Seúl, Corea

Galleria Marco Rossi, Pietrasanta, Italia

2017

Art Lima, LGM Arte Internacional, Lima, Perú

Context Art Fair, LGM Arte Internacional, Miami, USA

MACO, LGM Arte Internacional, Ciudad de México

2016

Art Stage Singapore, LGM Arte Internacional, Singapur

Art Lima, LGM Arte Internacional, Lima, Perú

"Three Dimensional Art Work", Gallería PromoArte Tokio, Japan

"Latin American Art Modern & Contemporary", Subasta de Arte Sothebys, Nueva York, USA

Context Art Fair, LGM Arte Internacional, Miami, USA

MACO, LGM Arte Internacional, Ciudad de México

2015

Art Stage Singapore, LGM Arte Internacional, Singapur

Art Lima, LGM Arte Internacional, Lima, Perú

Art Cartagena, LGM Arte Internacional, Cartagena, Colombia

Summa Madrid, LGM Arte Internacional – Madrid España

Kiaf Art Fair, Art of The World Gallery – Seúl, Corea

Homo Faber, Parque de la Versilia, Pietrasanta, Italia

International Sculpture Group 2015, Gallería Seiho, Tokio, Japón

How a Scultpure is born, Museo de Bellas Artes de Montgomery, Alabama, USA

Latin American Art Modern & Contemporary, Subasta de Arte Sothebys, Nueva York, USA

Latin American Art Modern & Contemporary, Subasta de Arte Phillips, Nueva York, USA

2014

Art Stage Singapore, LGM Arte Internacional, Singapore

Art Monaco, Mónaco, Francia

Art Madrid, Ansorena Gallery, Madrid, Spain.

Subasta de Sothebys "Latin American Art Modern & Contemporary, Nueva York, USA

2013

Promoarte Gallery, Tokio, Japón

Kiaf, Seúl, Corea

Musa Museo, Pietrasanta, Italia

Scuderie del Palazzo Mediceo, Seravezza, Italia

FIA, Feria de Arte Caracas, Venezuela. LGM Arte Internacional, Venezuela

Bienal del Sur, Panamá

2012

Art fair of Houston- Art of The World Gallery , Houston USA

Museo di arte della città imperiale, Bejing, China (Museum of Arts oft the imperial city, Bejing, China)

Fiera d'arte Kiaf, LGM Arte Internationale, Seul, Corea (Korea International Art Fair(KIAF) , LGM International Art, Seul, Korea)

Fiera d'arte Swab, Barcelona Spagna (art fair swab, Barcelona, Spain

Art Shanghai 2012- LGM Internationale, Shanghai, China (Art Shanghai 2012-

LGM International, Shanghai, China Musa Museum, Pietrasanta, Italy

Scuderie del Palazzo Mediceo, Seravezza, Italy

Art fair Fia. LGM Arte International Caracas, Venezuela.

Biennale of Art Panama, Panama City

2011

El Realismo Magico, l'universo dell'arte Latinoamericano (The magical realism, the universe of latinamerican art)

Guan Xiang Galleria d'Arte- Museo di Zhengzhou (GuanXiang Art Gallery-Museum of Zhengzhou) Zhengzhou,China

Art Shanghai 2011,LGM Arte Internationale, Londra, Inghilterra (International Art, London, UK)

Luz Botero Fine Art in Trump Ocean Club and Tower, Panama City

2010

10th. Latin American Contemporary Art. Today 2010, Promoarte Gallery, Tokio, Giappone.

Art Shanghai 2010, LGM International Art, Shanghai, China.

2009

JK Sculpture Exhibition. Silk Gallery, Seul, Corea.

Art Shanghai 2009, LGM International Art, Shanghai, China. Gallery Canart, Shanghai

Tomorrow, The 17th seoul international Art Festival 2009, Seul, Corea.

2008

“Incontro a Pietrasanta III”. Ciel Gallery. Utsunomiya, Japan

Incontro a pietrasata IV, Galeria Mundo, Bogota, Colombia.

Incontro a Pietrasata IV, Casa de la Cultura de Sabaneta, Antioquia, Colombia

Artbo, Feria International de Arte . Mundo Gallery , Bogota, Colombia.

Colombia x Japan Contemporary Art Today. Promoarte Gallery, Tokio, Giappone.

Colombia x Japan Today, Gallery I, Iwaki, Giappone.

Quiroz 108 Gallery –LGM Arte International, Miami, USA.

.2007

“Incontro a Pietrasanta II”. Duque Arango Gallery. Medellín, Colombia.

“Incontro a Pietrasanta II”. Tolima Museum of Art. Tolima, Colombia.

“Artbo, Internacional Art Exhibit”. Bogota, Colombia

2006

“Incontro a Pietrasanta”. Promoarte Gallery. Tokyo, Japan.

Kanagawa Museum. Yokohama, Japan.

Shiodome Art Extravaganza. Tokyo, Japan.

2003

Government Building Hall of Medellín City. Medellín, Colombia. El Castillo Museum. Medellín, Colombia.

2002

Government Building Hall of Medellín City. Medellín, Colombia.

2001

Palace of Culture. Medellín, Colombia

JP Fine Art - Art Dealer. Miami, U.S.A.

International Art Export. New York, U.S.A.

1998

Delle Belle Donne Gallery. Florence, Italy.

1997

Collective Workshop Exhibit. Pietrasanta, Italy.

1996

Julio César García Culture House. Fredonia, Colombia. 1996 / Lorenzo di Médici Art School. Florence, Italy.