

Poletti Fine Art

Agustín Bejarano

Agustín Bejarano began his artistic education at the Escuela Elemental de Artes Plásticas in his hometown of Camagüey, which he attended from 1976-1980. Immediately thereafter he came to Havana to attend the Escuela Nacional de Arte de la Habana, completing a degree in Painting in 1984. From 1984-1989 he furthered his studies in Plastic Arts and Printmaking at the Instituto Superior de Arte de la Habana.

Bejarano has held several teaching posts, as a professor of Printmaking at both the Escuela Nacional and La Academia de San Alejandro in Havana, and as a professor of Graphic Design at Universidad de Monterrey, Mexico. His love of teaching led him to become the Founder and Director of the Printmaking Workshop of Camagüey in 1989.

Bejarano is the recipient of numerous honors for his output of paintings and prints,, including a National Culture Distinction, and most recently, a Diploma of Artistic Merit from Instituto Superior de Arte de la Habana. His work is found in the permanent collections of Museo Nacional, Palacio de Bellas Artes de La Habana, Cuba, and the Ludwig Collection in Cologne.

The earthy, muted palette of Bejarano's paintings appear almost as a natural result of the materials he utilizes—oil paints mixed with kaolin clay, often “burnt” with a blowtorch, creating a highly textured, crackled surface that conjures associations with the ancient. A key subject is the solitary figure in an barren, Surrealistic setting. Despite their figurative nature, Bejarano's paintings remains open to a variety of interpretations, and his subdued treatment of his subject matter gives the work an almost minimalistic aura.

The artist continues to live and work in Havana. Most recently, he was featured in a solo exposition in conjunction with the 2015 Havana Biennial, one of many solo exhibitions dedicated to his work in Cuba and abroad over the last two decades.