

# **FIRST FLOOR GALLERY HARARE**



## **THE SECRET GARDEN**

DAVID PALACIOS

# David Palacios: The Secret Garden

Art is often called upon to provide answers to the big questions of life. Conceptual art in many ways is a medium, which directly presumes a shared responsibility between artists and audiences to develop their own answers jointly and severally.

Seeing art and engaging with art is never and should never be a superficial experience and work of artists like David Palacios actively builds challenges to thought free engagement.

While giving us an option for reading the works in the exhibition conventionally, as individual pieces and installations and be seduced by the glossy slick surfaces, we are actively called upon to work a little bit harder. Palacios' practice is all about the push and pull, the seduction and the abstraction of the numerical approach to life. While statistics are used as a tool to help solve problems and understand the big picture, they equally reduce and even eliminate the tangible humanity of our lives.

In The Secret Garden, Palacios transposes this approach to the abstraction of a specific set of numbers, those, which speak to our fears and vulnerabilities most tangibly – the human and economic cost of violence. Like statistical reports presented to heads of governments and supra-national bodies, the works in The Secret Garden are polished to the point of decadence, concealing more than revealing. It takes an act of violence, to bring us back to human from the state of man-made.

**Valerie Kabov**

**David Palacios**

**The Secret Garden**

**(Economic Cost of Violence)**

"If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden."  
Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden* (1911).

The Secret Garden is a Solo Project by the cuban artist David Palacios made exclusively for the space of the First Floor Harare gallery, Zimbabwe.

**About Art-Report and Graphics-Painting**

**ART-REPORT Project**

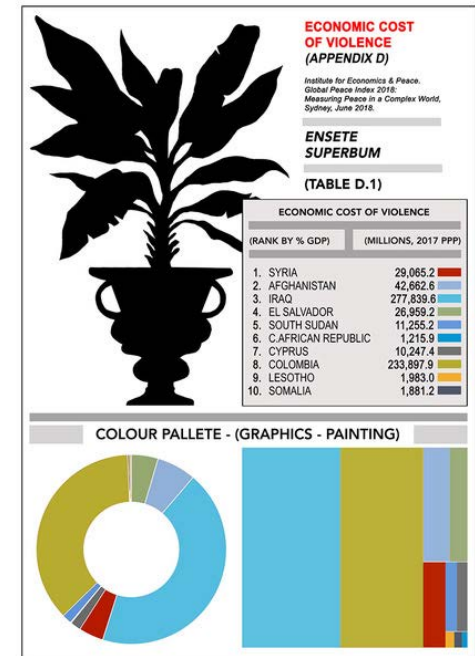
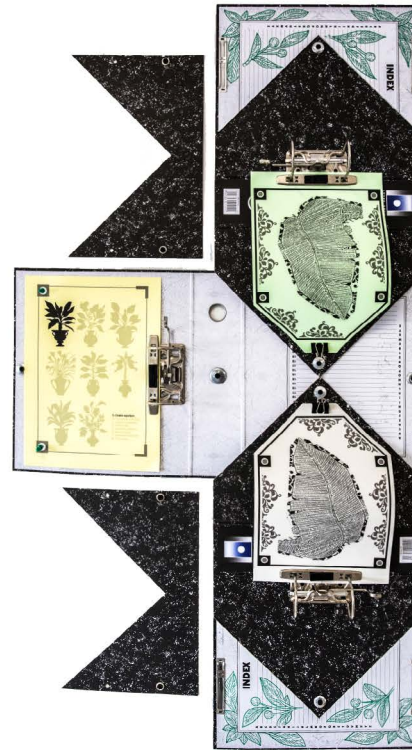
Art Report, is the name of the most recent project which I have been developing. The idea is to create a kind of visual news agency which by using the tools of art (in any of its forms or mediums), explains and illustrates to the public issues concerning our social reality. These issues fall into a number of different categories, including global economics, international investment, oil prices, spending on military defence, social issues, poverty levels.

The idea of this multi-disciplinary experience is to reference the different parts of the arts ecology, such as galleries, museums, exhibitions or events, as a geographical area, which underlies the way we live. Just like a work of art, we can understand and respond to these issues as both a social report which reveals itself to the viewer and as a subject of society in itself. Art, Report also sends reports by using all of today's available channels of communication, such as the classic fax, email, or the regular post, and in doing so systematically enacts the functions of a so-called visual news agency.

**Graphics-Painting**

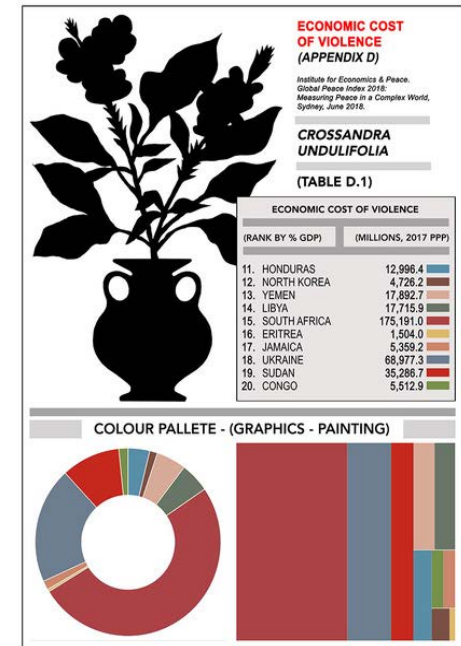
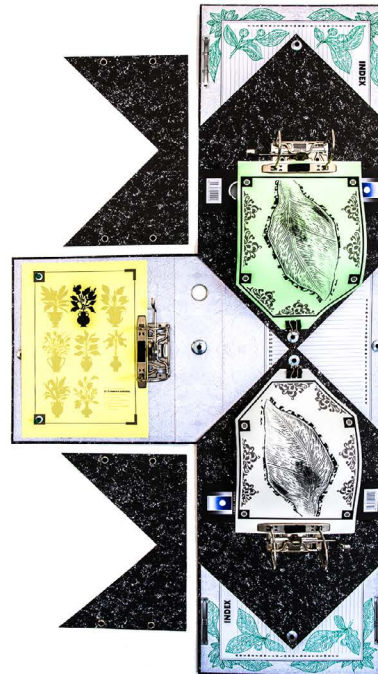
The methodology in question reproduces the facts and figures by converting the percentage measures (percentage bars) into an equivalent quantity of paint. This means that the measures of pigment in the painted image (whether abstract or figurative) actually contain this information, rather than simply representing it. The process of making these images is unlike how traditional computer graphics normally literally illustrate these facts that the chart refers to. Instead, these images represent this information in their own paint content. The final image is a visual trick for the viewer's eyes. To do this I use the same mould (containers of equal size), which are each equally numbered from the base to the top from 0 to 100.

**David Palacios - The Secret Garden**



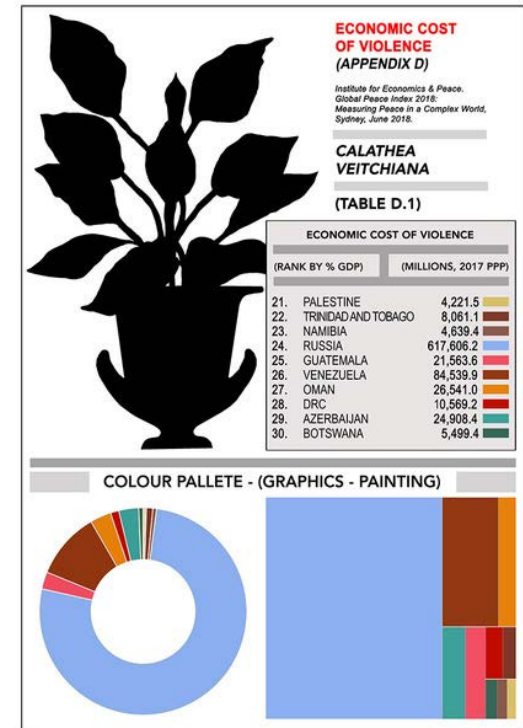
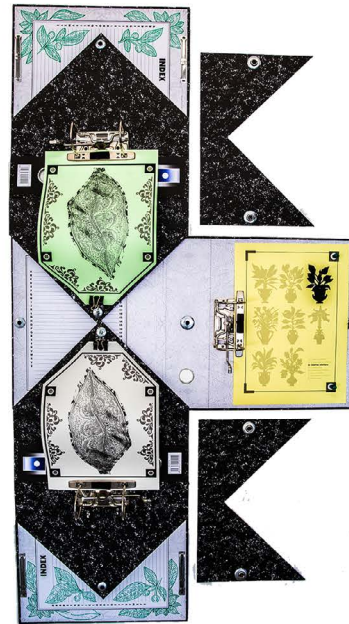
Ensete superbum, (Appendix D).  
 (Graphics painting Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.





Crossandra undulifolia, (Appendix D).  
(Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.



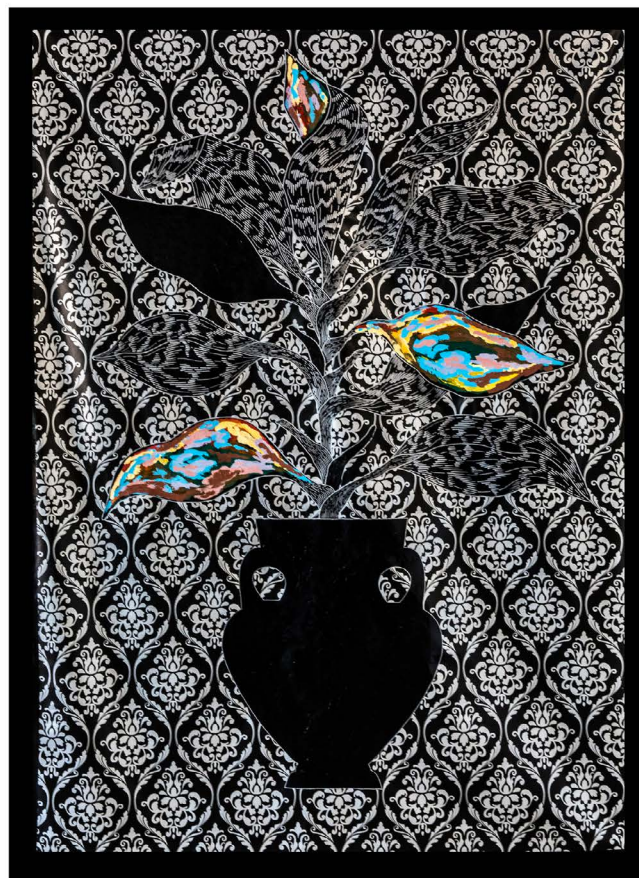


Calathea veitchiana, (Appendix D).  
 (Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.

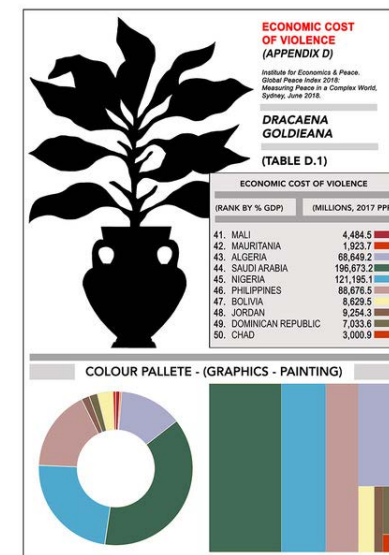
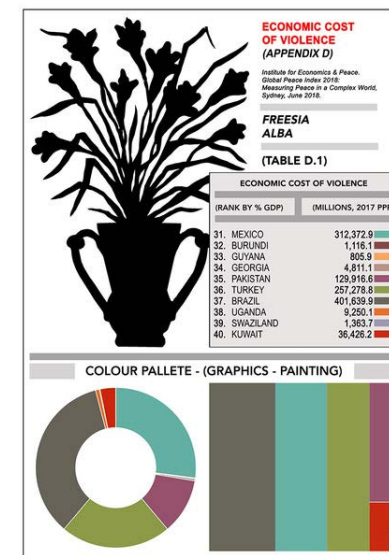
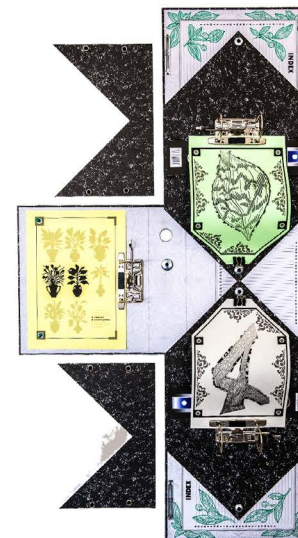




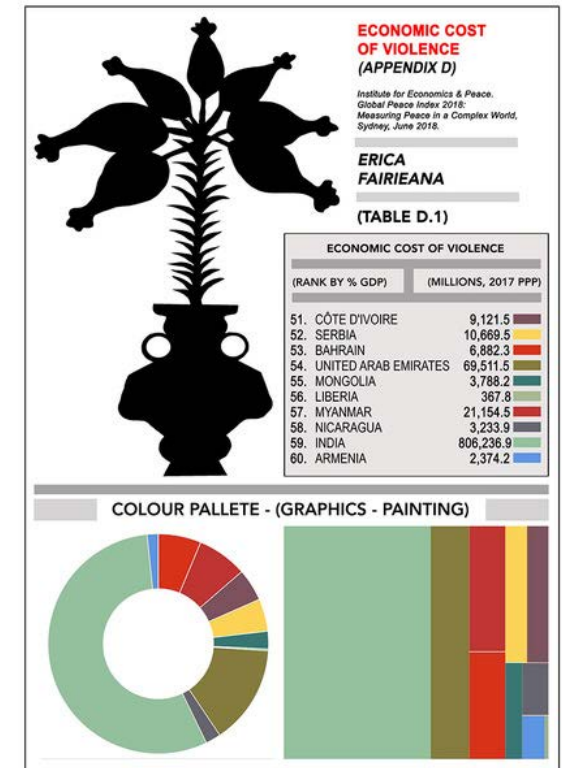
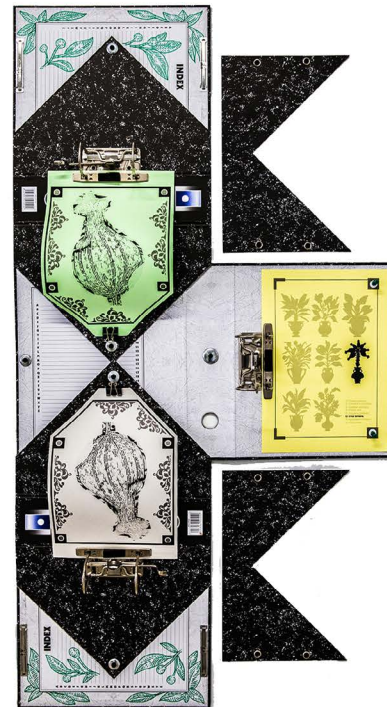
Freesia alba, (Appendix D).  
(Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.



Dracaena goldieana, (Appendix D).  
(Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.

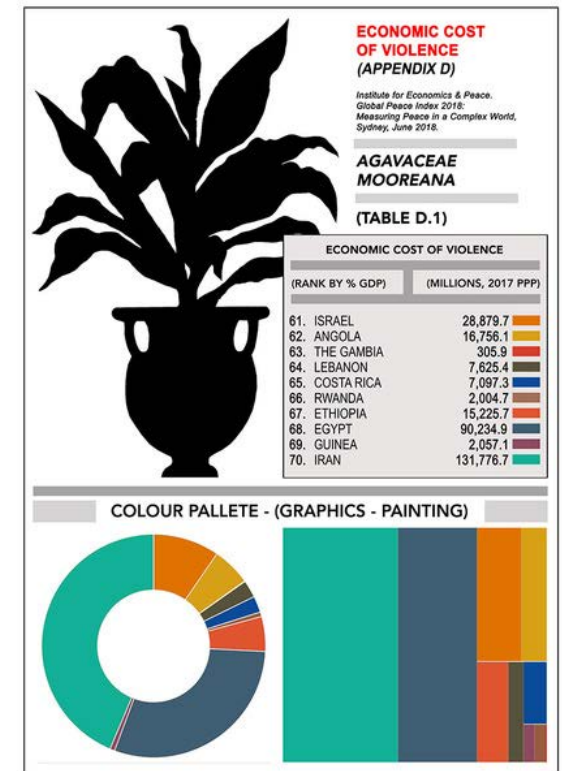
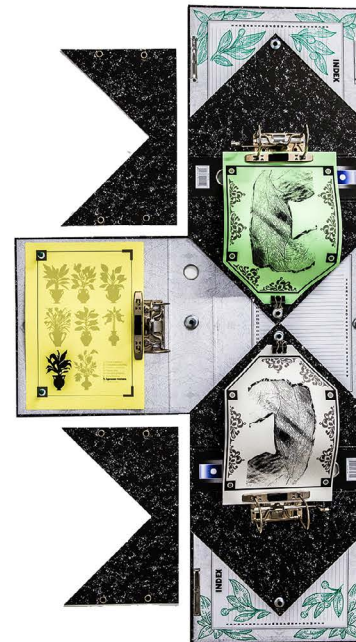






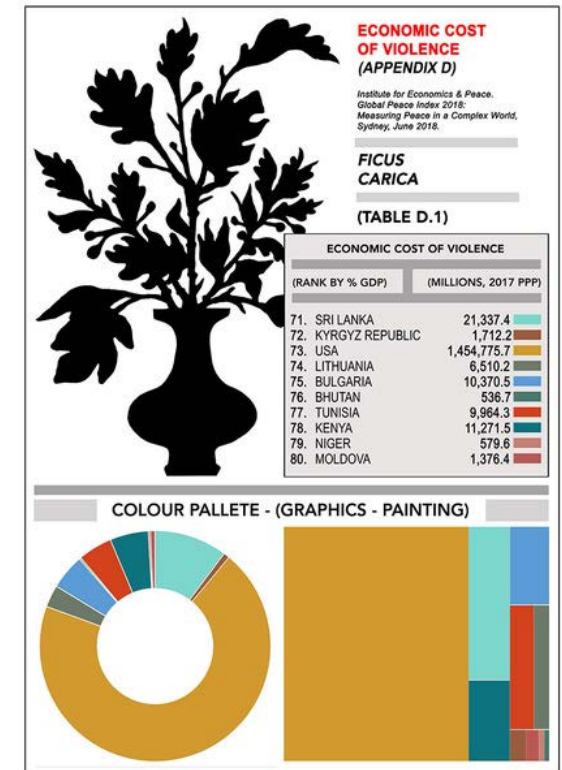
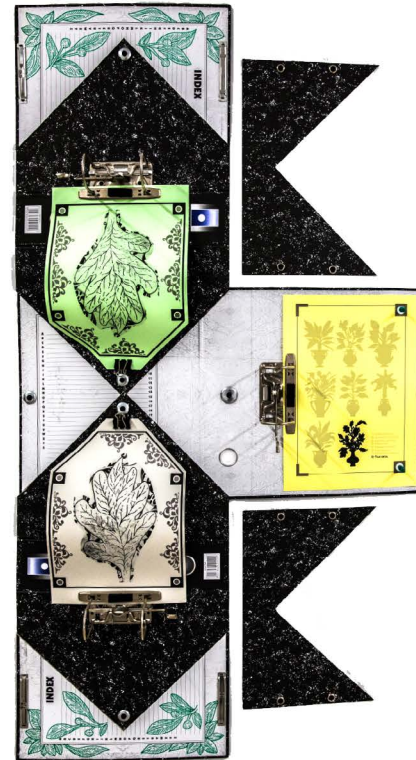
Erica fairieana, (Appendix D).  
(Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.





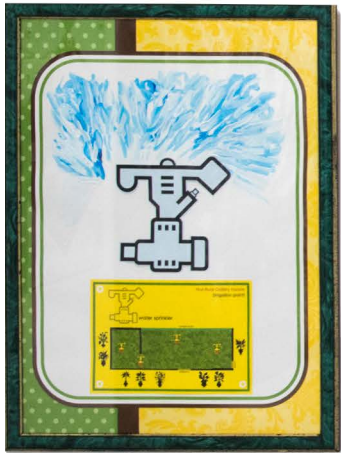
Agavaceae mooreana, (Appendix D).  
(Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.





Ficus carica, (Appendix D).  
(Graphics painting): Drawing and acrylic painting on PVC Vinyl.











# David Palacios

(1967) • Born in Havana, Cuba.

- (2017) • lives and works in Harare, Zimbabwe, and London, UK.
- (2013-2017) • lived and worked in Abuja, Nigeria., and London, UK.
- (2007-2013) • lived and worked in London, UK.
- (1991-2007) • lived and worked in Caracas, Venezuela.

## Education

- (1987) • Graduated from Fine Art Academy “San Alejandro”, Havana, Cuba.
- (1988) • Graduated from Polytechnic Institute for Industrial Design, Havana, Cuba.

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

- (2018) • The Secret Garden (Appendix D), First Floor Gallery, Harare, Zimbabwe.
- (2017) • Domestic Violence (Photo-Graphics Report), African Artists Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria.
- (2016) • Save the data, Omenka Gallery / Ford Foundation / African Artists Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria.
- Breaking View, Permanente Residency Program, Bogota, Colombia.
- La Situación / arte por-venir, University of Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM), Cuenca, Spain.
- (2015) • Hold for Release, International Institute for Creative Development, Abuja, Nigeria.
- (2013) • Breaking News, P.S.H Projects, Miami, USA.
- Reconstruction of the facts, Periférico Caracas-Art Centre, Venezuela.
- (2012) • Art-Report, El Anexo Arte Contemporáneo Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela.
- (2010) • Statistically Speaking, (Solo Project), Pinta London, Latin American Art Fair, London, UK.
- (2006) • Nos/Otros, Periférico Caracas Art Centre, Caracas, Venezuela., Cu4rto Nivel Foundation, Bogota, Colombia.
- An extension of, Alejandro Otero Museum, Caracas, Venezuela.
- (2004) • Infografías, Sala Alternativa Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela.
- (2002) • Zona de Distensión, Sala RG Gallery, CELARG, Caracas, Venezuela.
- (2000) • Art-Porcentual, Sala Mendoza Gallery, Caracas, Venezuela.

## Selected Group Exhibitions

- (2017)
  - Lagos Biennial (Living on the Edge), Lagos, Nigeria.
  - In Conflict, Fondazione Studio Marangoni, Florence, Italy.
- (2015)
  - Pinta Miami, Latin American Art Fair, Miami, USA.
- (2014)
  - Playgrounds, (Collective story catalogue), National Museum Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain.
- (2013)
  - BALTIC Artist's Book (BABF), BALTIC, Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, UK.
- (2012)
  - The Last Book, National Library of Argentina, Buenos Aires, Argentina., Aguilar Branch Public Library, New York, USA., Zentral Bibliothek, Zurich, Switzerland., Carl Von Ossietzky Staats., Universitäts Bibliothek, Hamburg, Germany.
- (2011)
  - FAX, South London Gallery, London, UK., San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, San Francisco, California, USA; Salt Lake Art Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA., University of Hawaii Art Gallery, Honolulu, Hawaii; DeVos Art Museum, Marquette, Michigan, USA.
  - Without Borders, The Point Gallery, Eastleigh, UK.
  - Cuban Gold, London Print Studio, London, UK.
- (2010)
  - Pulgar, MUSAC, Contemporary Art Museum, Castilla y León, Spain.
- (2008)
  - Human Traces, Essex Collection of Latin American Art, University of Essex, Colchester, UK.
  - B\*\*K, London print studio Gallery, London, UK.
- (2007)
  - V Biennale SIART, La Paz, Bolivia.
  - Jump Cuts / Venezuelan Contemporary Art, Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, CIFO, Miami, USA., Americas Society Art Gallery, New York, USA.
- (2006)
  - MDE07, International Encounter of Medellín (Biennale), Museum of Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia.
- (2006)
  - Rising Stars: North Latin Americans, Art Basel Miami, USA.
- (2005)
  - Place / No place, Luis Angel Arango Museum, Art Collection of the Bank of the Republic, Bogotá, Colombia.
  - Occurrences: Artists Crossroads, Sydiart Studio 2201 S, Cultural Affairs of Chicago, Chicago, USA.
- (2003)
  - XX Century Venezuelan Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Caracas, Venezuela.
- (2002)
  - Il Biennale Digital Gravat, Centre Catòlic Olot y Pigment, Catalunya, Spain, Häsinglands Museum, Hudiksvall, Sweden.
  - Policies of difference, Museo de Valenciana.; Centro de Convencoes de Pernambuco, Recife, Brasil.; Museo de Bellas Artes de Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- (2000)
  - X Edition Eugenio Mendoza Award, Sala Mendoza, Caracas, Venezuela.
  - Pulpa, Wifredo Lam Contemporary Art Center, Havana, Cuba.
- (1999)
  - 48th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy.
- (1991)
  - Born in Cuba, Valencia, Venezuela.
- (1990)
  - Biennale of Graphic Design, Prague, Czechoslovakia.
  - Warsaw Graphic Design Biennale, Warsaw, Poland.





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