

JOSÉ GAMARRA

b. 1934, Tacuarembó, Uruguay; lives and works in Arcueil, France

CHRONOLOGY

- 2026 Mariane Ibrahim at Zona Maco, Mexico City, Mexico
2025 *The Earth, the Fire, the Water and the Winds: For a Museum of Errantry with Édouard Glissant*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil
6th Montevideo Biennial, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2024 *First Steps*, Departmental Museum of San José, San José, Uruguay
2023 *Antes de América*, Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain
Art Paris, Galerie Pauline Pavéc, Paris, France
Art fair at Galeria Sur Uruguay, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
MAPA Art Fair at Galeria Diana Saravia, Montevideo, in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2022 Montpellier Contemporain (MO.CO.), Montpellier, France
Rose Is a Rose, MAC VAL, Museum of Contemporary Art of Val-de-Marne, France
- 2021 *Art Solidarity*, Kunstnernes Hus, Oslo, Norway
Gamarra is declared Honorary Citizen by the City of Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2020 *Le vent se lève*, Museum of Contemporary Art of Val-de-Marne, France
11th Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany
- 2019 Contemporary Art Space "La Tannerie", Houdan, France
Sala Obscura, Centro Cultural Kirchner, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2018 *Salle Obscure, from Vietnam to Berlin*, Asia Culture Center, Gwangju, South Korea
2016 The French Senate awards the Senate Medal to Gamarra for his artistic trajectory and his contribution to relations between Uruguay and France.
- 2014 The Ministry of Education and Culture of Uruguay gives the name José Gamarra to the 56th National Prize for Visual Arts.
Sala Oscura, Art and Resistance in Cold War Latin America, Anya and Andrew Shiva Gallery, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY, USA
- 2012 *Convergency Paris*, Miami Biennale Foundation, Miami, FL, USA
2011 *Salle Obscure*, Legislative Assembly, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Salle Obscure, National Museum of the Republic, Brasília, Brazil
- 2008 The Museum of Contemporary Art of Santiago de Chile exhibits works by Gamarra that are part of its collection in the exhibition *Restaurar para difundir*.
Buenos Aires Art Fair, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland
Shanghai Art Fair, Galerie Trazos, Shanghai, China
- 2005 *Un Regard Continental*, FEMSA Collection, Museum of Contemporary Art of Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico
- 2004 *Peintres de Paris*, National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Kaohsiung, Taiwan
Art Paris, Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France
- 2003 Irvine Contemporary Art Gallery, Washington, D.C, USA
Salle Obscure, during the III World Social Forum, Rio Grande do Sul Museum of Art, Porto Alegre, Brazil
- 2002 *Collection Archives*, Reina Sofía Museum, Madrid, Spain
2001 Espace des Amériques at the Centre of Contemporary Art, Kingston, Jamaica
2000 Museum of the Americas of Martinique, France
Cultural Center of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima, Peru
- 1997 *I Inter-Parliamentary MERCOSUR Biennial*, Legislative Palace, Montevideo, Uruguay, and Porto Alegre, Brazil
Re-Aligning Vision, Alternative Currents in South American Drawings, Archer Huntington Art Gallery, The University of Texas at Austin, TX, USA
- 1993 *Triennial of the Americas*, Maubeuge, France
1992 Exhibits during the year of the 500th anniversary of the "Discovery" of America, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France.
Instituto de América, Santa Fe de Granada, Spain
- 1991 Art Chicago 91, Chicago, IL, USA
Dotternhausen Museum, Germany
Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya, Japan
- 1990 *Figuration-Fabulation*, Museum of Fine Arts, Caracas, Venezuela
Gutierrez Fine Arts Gallery, Miami, FL, USA
- 1989 Paints a mural commissioned by the Municipality of Arcueil, France.
1988 Gamarra receives the *Montrouge Prize 1976-1988* at the 34th Salon de Montrouge.
Art of Uruguay in Museums of the USSR, Museums of Moscow and Leningrad

MARIANE IBRAHIM

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- 1987 Luis Ángel Arango Library, Bogotá, Colombia
La Tertulia Museum of Art, Cali, Colombia
- 1986 FIAC, Paris, France, Galerie Albert Loeb
Los Angeles International Art Fair, Donald Morris Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA
- 1985 After thirteen years of absence, Gamarra travels to Uruguay.
International Figurative Exhibition, Mitsukoshi Gallery, Tokyo and Osaka, Japan
- 1984 Gamarra receives the *Candido Portinari Painting Prize* at the 1st Havana Biennial, Cuba.
The General Council of Val-de-Marne, France, commissions the artist to create a drawing for lithographs for the Departmental Rose Garden.
- 1983 For Gamarra, 1983 is a particularly intense year, rich in success and international recognition. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA, acquires the work *Urutau*, which later becomes part of traveling exhibitions organized by the Metropolitan Museum, including the Museum of Art of Fort Lauderdale, USA, and exhibitions in Italy. The work is identified and acquired thanks to the renowned Galerie Albert Loeb, a prestigious Parisian institution that has worked with the artist for several years.
- 1980 He founds the Latin American Space, created with the specific purpose of supporting young Latin American artists arriving in Paris, France. Gamarra is appointed director. The Space is composed of 12 Latin American artists from diverse backgrounds, José Gamarra, Alberto Guzmán, Rodolfo Krasno, Julio Le Parc, Fernando Maza, Gontran Guanaes Netto, Luis Felipe Noé, Leopoldo Novoa, Arthur Luiz Piza, Juvénal Ravello, Luis Tomasello, and Jack Vanarsky. It is the first time that a group of artists with diverse aesthetics creates an association of this kind. They take initiatives to promote and disseminate, as much as possible, various aspects of Latin American creation.
- 1977 Participates in *the 12th World Theatre Festival*, Nancy, France, directed by Jack Lang, the iconic future Minister of Culture under François Mitterrand. Gamarra creates murals with the International Brigade of Painters.
- 1975 The *Parma 75 Prize* is awarded to Gamarra in Parma, Italy. Gamarra meets Gabriel García Márquez, Nobel Prize in Literature, who acquires one of the artist's works.
- 1972 Joins the *Denuncia Group* against torture in Latin America, alongside Gontran Guanaes Netto, Julio Le Parc, and Alejandro Marcos. They produce seven works that travel to different countries and are presented together in a Black Chamber of Torture.
- 1970 From Paris, he finds a new creative dynamic, his gaze toward the American continent changes, he observes and penetrates Latin American nature. The painter evokes various eras, events, characters, and objects, conquistadors of the discovery of America, Indigenous peoples, the armed conflicts of the 1970s with helicopters, airplanes, and tanks. The deep green of the landscapes, the precision of the details, the incognito characters in positions of defense, attack, or anguish, surrounded by animals and objects, create drama and lyricism within a perfect aesthetic. They testify to his immense talent for constructing true scenes and eliciting the full range of emotions. The exuberant vegetation is a kind of novel in which magical jungle landscapes describe an entire aesthetic and social universe. They have infused his phenomenal creativity for several decades. Social engagement and concern for the preservation of nature have long been central themes of his intense artistic activity. Gamarra has always believed it was possible to live in harmony with nature. The ecological message is an integral part of his art. "There is always a story to develop," he confesses.
- 1963 *Brazilian Embassy Prize* and Bronze Medal at the 18th National Salon of Plastic Arts, Montevideo, with the work *Painting M.63721*. Curiosity, the need to see original works, and confrontation with other artists lead him to Europe. The European experience is fundamental from his arrival in France in 1963. Artists in Uruguay were influenced by the Torres García school, a very rigid school with a very dark palette. "In Europe, I saw the explosion of colors," Gamarra recounts.
- 1962 Participates in the 3rd Biennial of Young Painters of Montevideo and the 3rd Biennial of Young Painters of Paris, where he receives the Painting Prize and a scholarship from the French government.
- 1960 He is appointed professor of painting and fresco at the Álvares Penteado Foundation in São Paulo. The four years he lived in Brazil, 1959 to 1963, were fundamental to his artistic consolidation.
- 1959 With a refined technical training, he receives an Itamaraty scholarship from the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to study printmaking at the Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro with Johnny Friedlaender, and painting at the Institute of Fine Arts of Praia Vermelha with Iberê Camargo.
- 1958 Receives the *3rd Council Prize* at the *3rd Autumn Salon of Plastic Artists of the Interior*, Uruguay.
- 1957 Receives the *3rd Painting Prize* at the *2nd Autumn Salon of Uruguayan Plastic Artists*, Bronze Medal, and the *Senate Chamber Prize* for the painting *Still Life*. The creation of a highly personal abstract plastic language composed of monochrome signs, calligraphy, reliefs, sophisticated textures with dark colors and strong visual impact marks for several years the highly recognizable Gamarran style of this period. Gamarra explores creative possibilities through still life, develops forms and new techniques, adopts innovative materials such as rubber on canvas allowing relief. With a curious and meticulous spirit, within a dark tonal range, he creates quasi-monochrome compositions while preserving aesthetics. He expresses himself through a wide variety of techniques, watercolor, Chinese ink, gouache, oil, acrylic, and mixed media.

- 1953 Visits the *2nd São Paulo Biennial*, Brazil, one of the most important in the art world. It takes place in Ibirapuera Park, whose buildings were designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, future architect of the capital Brasília and of the headquarters of the French Communist Party in Paris. Gamarra is impressed by the number of works and famous artists exhibited, particularly Picasso's emblematic *Guernica*, around sixty works by Paul Klee in a room dedicated to him, the Cubists Braque, Delaunay, Marcel Duchamp, Juan Gris, Fernand Léger, Marie Laurencin, Piet Mondrian, and the Uruguayans José Cuneo, Julio Alpuj, Costigliolo, Gonzalo Fonseca, María Freire, Torres García.
- 1950 From the age of 16, he participates in National Salons and enters the School of Fine Arts of Montevideo, where he studies painting and printmaking with solid technical mastery.
- 1947 Exhibits at the Ateneo of Montevideo and at the School of Fine Arts even before being formally admitted as a student.
- 1945 Exhibits drawings and portraits in a group exhibition in Montevideo, Uruguay.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Mariane Ibrahim, Mexico City, Mexico (forthcoming)
- 2025 *The Jungle Theater*, Galerie Xippas, Punta del Este, Uruguay
Whispers in the Forest, Galerie Xippas, Geneva, Switzerland
XXVIII Premio Figari: José Gamarra, Museo Figari, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2024 *Le théâtre de la jungle*, Xippas, Paris, France
Entre Mundos 1980-2023, Meta Gallery, Miami, FL, USA
Primeros Pasos, Museo de San José, San José, Uruguay
Museo Figari, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2023 *José Gamarra - Antología*, Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales, Montevideo, Uruguay
José Gamarra - Antología, Iberê Camargo Museum, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Antes de América, Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain
- 2013 *Pinturas 1960-1971*, Museum of Visual Arts, Tacuarembó, Uruguay
- 2012 *Pinturas Paris 1964-1971*, Galería de las Misiones, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2011 Brandi Trazos Gallery, Shanghai, China
- 2010 Galería de las Misiones, José Ignacio, Maldonado, Uruguay
- 2009 Brandi Trazos Gallery, Shanghai, China
 Galería de las Misiones, Montevideo, Uruguay
 Museum of Contemporary Art, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 2008 Galerie Julio González, Arcueil, France
- 2004 Galerie Albert Loeb, Paris, France
- 2001 Galerie Albert Loeb, Paris, France
- 1999 Legacy Fine Art Gallery, Panama City, Panama
- 1998 Quintana Gallery, Coral Gables, FL, USA
- 1992 Galerie Albert Loeb, Paris, France
- 1990 Galería Minotauro, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1987 Donald Morris Gallery, Birmingham, MI, USA
- 1985 Galerie Albert Loeb, Paris, France
- 1984 Casa de las Américas, Havana, Cuba
- 1983 Casa del Pueblo, Granada, Spain
- 1982 FIAC at Galería Minotauro, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1981 Galerie Hermelin, Stockholm, Sweden
- 1980 Galerie Le Balcon des Arts, Paris, France
 Galería Minotauro, Caracas, Venezuela
 Galerie Origráfica, Malmö, Sweden
 FIAC at Galerie Delta, Paris, France
- 1979 National Foundation for Graphic and Plastic Arts, Paris, France
- 1978 Galerie Delta, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 1977 Galerie Harry Jancovici, Paris, France
- 1976 Galerie L'Œil de Bœuf, Paris, France
 Galerie T, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 1973 Galerie Liroley, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1972 Galerie U, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1971 Southern Vermont Art Center, Manchester, VT, USA
- 1968 Redmark Gallery, London, UK
- 1967 Galería Amigos del Arte, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1966 *Gamarra Paintings and "Computer Women"*, Daché Gallery, New York, NY, USA
 Galerie Peron, Paris, France
 Galería Minotauro, Caracas, Venezuela
- 1964 Galería Amigos del Arte, Montevideo, Uruguay
- 1963 *7th São Paulo Art Biennial*, São Paulo, Brazil
 Galería Martha Faz, Santiago, Chile

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1962 Galería Nueva, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1961 Galería América, Montevideo, Uruguay
1960 Galería Antigo Novo, São Paulo, Brazil
 Galería Arte Bela, Montevideo, Uruguay
1959 Piccola Galeria, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

COLLECTIONS

Artothèque de la Ville d'Arcueil, Arcueil, France
Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris, France
Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX, USA
Braniff International Collection, Dallas, TX, USA
Collection Capriles, Caracas, Venezuela
Collection Banque Rothschild, Zurich, Switzerland
Collection Cérés Franco, Montolieu, France
Container Corporation of America, New York, NY, USA
Fonds national d'art contemporain, Paris La Défense, France
Fundación Mario Benedetti, Montevideo, Uruguay
Fundación Ortiz Gurdíán, León, Nicaragua
Fundación Pepino y Marqués, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Fundación Torcuato di Tella, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes y Literatura, Mexico City, Mexico
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY, USA
Musée d'Art Contemporain du Val-de-Marne, Vitry-sur-Seine, France
Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France
Musée Hyacinthe Rigaud, Perpignan, France
Parliament of South Africa Art Collection, Cape Town, South Africa
Casa de las Américas, Havana, Cuba
Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Santiago, Chile
Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Museo de Artes Visuales, Tacuarembó, Uruguay
Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
Museo Departamental de San José, San José, Uruguay
Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo, Badajoz, Spain
Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende, Santiago, Chile
Museo Juan Manuel Blanes, Montevideo, Uruguay
Museo de Arte Moderno La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia
Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales, Montevideo, Uruguay
Museo Provincial de Bellas Artes Emilio Caraffa, Córdoba, Argentina
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA
Presidencia de la República, Mexico City, Mexico
Rockefeller Foundation, New York, NY, USA
Window South Collection, Glendale, CA, USA