

Art of Cuba

More than Classic Cars, but Those are Cool Too

Part 1

Art in Cuba

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gSKl7jQenc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAJQty1WpgY> (Driving classic cars)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy_5lBlgYfo (26 mins)
- <http://cubajournal.co/what-is-cuban-art/> (text)

Vanguardia

Cuban art is an exceptionally diverse cultural blend of African, South American, European, and North American elements, reflecting the diverse demographic makeup of the island. Cuban artists embraced European [modernism](#), and the early part of the 20th century saw a growth in Cuban [avant-garde](#) movements, which were characterized by the mixing of modern artistic genres. Some of the more celebrated 20th-century Cuban artists include [Amelia Peláez](#) (1896–1968), best known for a series of [mural](#) projects, and painter [Wifredo Lam](#) (December 8, 1902 – September 11, 1982), who created a highly personal version of modern [primitivism](#). The Cuban-born painter [Federico Beltrán Masses](#) (1885–1949), was renowned as a colorist whose seductive portrayals of women sometimes made overt references to the tropical settings of his childhood.

By the late 1920s, the Vanguardia artists had rejected the academic conventions of Cuba's national art academy. In their formative years, many had lived in Paris, where they studied and absorbed the tenets of surrealism, cubism, and modernist primitivism. They returned to Cuba committed to new artistic innovation and keen to embrace the heritage of their island.

These artists became increasingly political in their ideology, viewing the rural poor as symbols of national identity in contrast to the ruling elite of post independence Cuba. Modernism burst on the Cuban scene as part of the critical movement of national regeneration, which arose in opposition to American neo-colonial control, the dictatorship of Gerardo Machado, and the consequent economic crisis.

Pioneers of the Vanguardia movement include Antonio Gattorno, Eduardo Abela, Fidelio Ponce de León, and Carlos Enríquez Gómez. Gattorno's oil painting *The Siesta* represents the starting point of the surrealist cycle.

Born around the turn of the century, these artists grew up in turmoil of constructing a new nation and reached maturity when Cubans were engaged in discovering and inventing a national identity. They fully shared in the sense of confidence, renovation, and nationalism that characterized Cuban progressive intellectuals in the second quarter of the twentieth century.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CecAS-TCFyk> (Vanguardia movement)

Antonio Gattorno (1904-1980)

Antonio Gattorno was a Cuban painter. He was a distinguished member of the first generation of modern Cuban painters

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-6RkA1jWMQ&t=47s>







Eduardo Abela (1899-1965)

Eduardo Abela was a Cuban painter and comics artist. Born in San Antonio de los Baños, he studied at the San Alejandro Academy of Fine Arts, graduating in 1921. For the next decade he lived abroad, first in Spain and then in France.









Mario Carreño y Morales (1913-1999)

Mario Carreño y Morales was a Cuban painter. He studied painting at the Academia de San Alejandro, Havana, Cuba from 1925 until 1926. In 1934, he studied at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid, Spain.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cj3CHimqNcY>







Victor Manuel Garcia Valdes (1897-1960)

Víctor Manuel García Valdés was a Cuban painter. He was an early member of the "Vanguardia" movement of artists who, beginning in the 1920s, combined European concepts of Modern art with native Primitivism to create a distinctly Cuban.



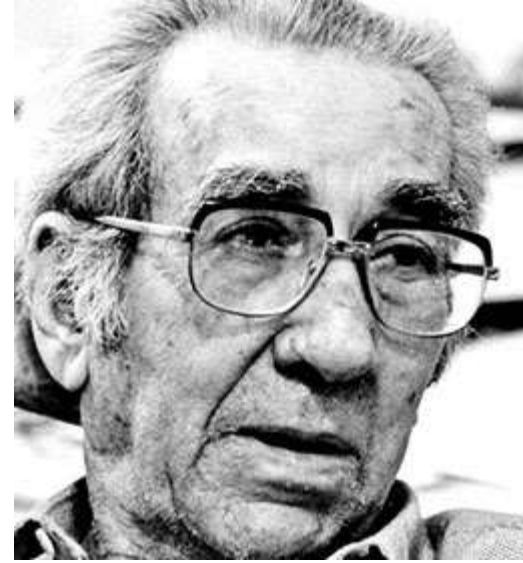




Mariano Rodríguez (1912-1990)

Mariano Rodríguez **Cuban painter characterized by cutting roosters paintings surreal and Fauve.** He was an early member of the "Vanguardia" movement of artists who, beginning in the 1920s, combined European concepts of Modern art with native Primitivism to create a distinctly Cuban aesthetic.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0qdWDRW5ldw>









Wifredo Lam (1902–1982)

Wifredo Óscar de la Concepción Lam y Castilla, better known as Wifredo Lam, was a Cuban artist who sought to portray and revive the enduring Afro-Cuban spirit and culture.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VchFg7qYRX4>







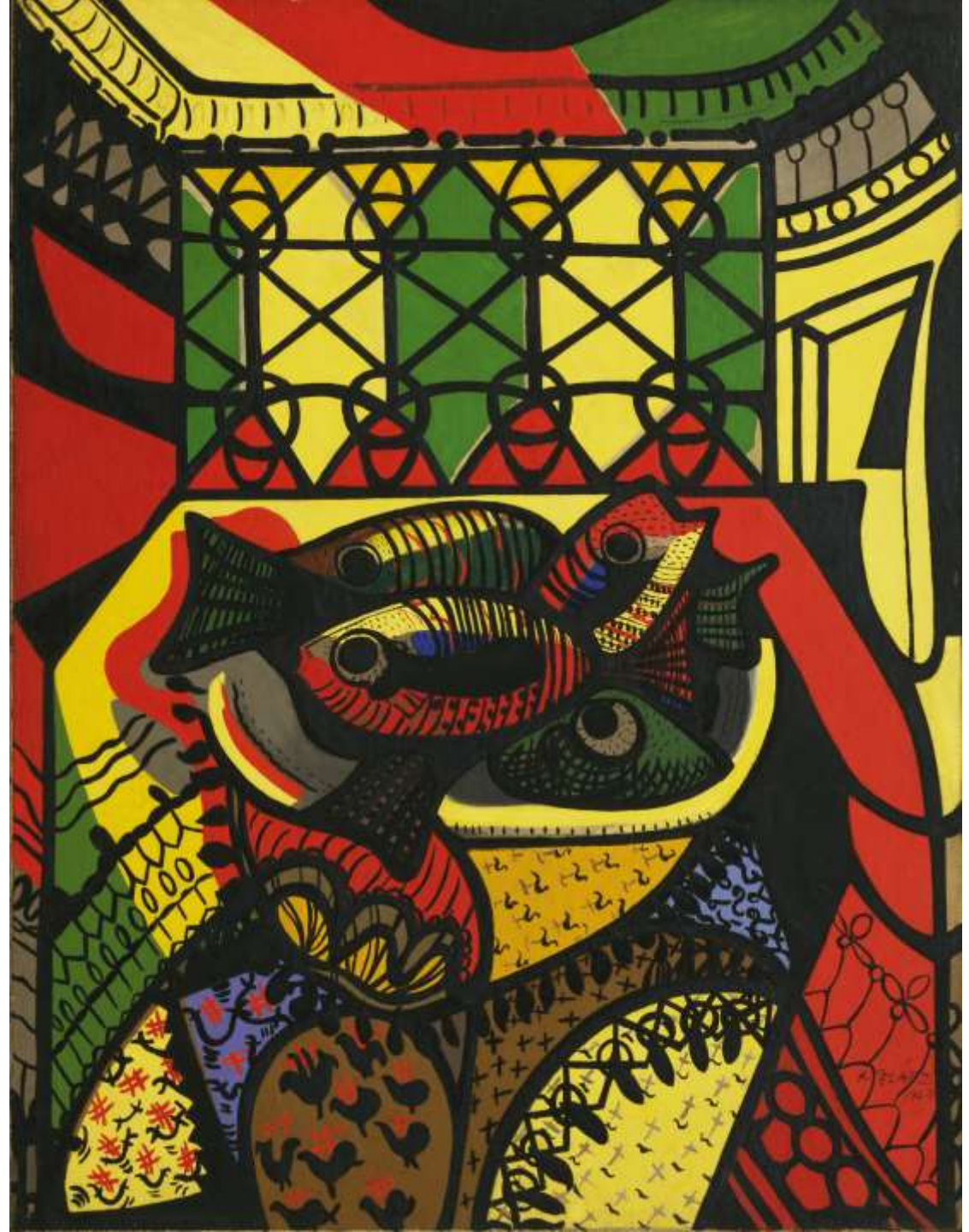


Amelia Pelaez(1896-1968)

Amelia Peláez del Casal was an important Cuban painter of the Avant-garde generation.

- <https://www.latinartcore.com/artist/amelia-pel%C3%A1ez/221/video-gallery/>









Carmen Herrera (1915-2022)

Carmen Herrera was a Cuban-born American abstract, minimalist visual artist and painter. She was born in Havana and lived in New York City from the mid-1950s. Herrera's abstract works brought her international recognition late in life.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-ufCj5iW1w>

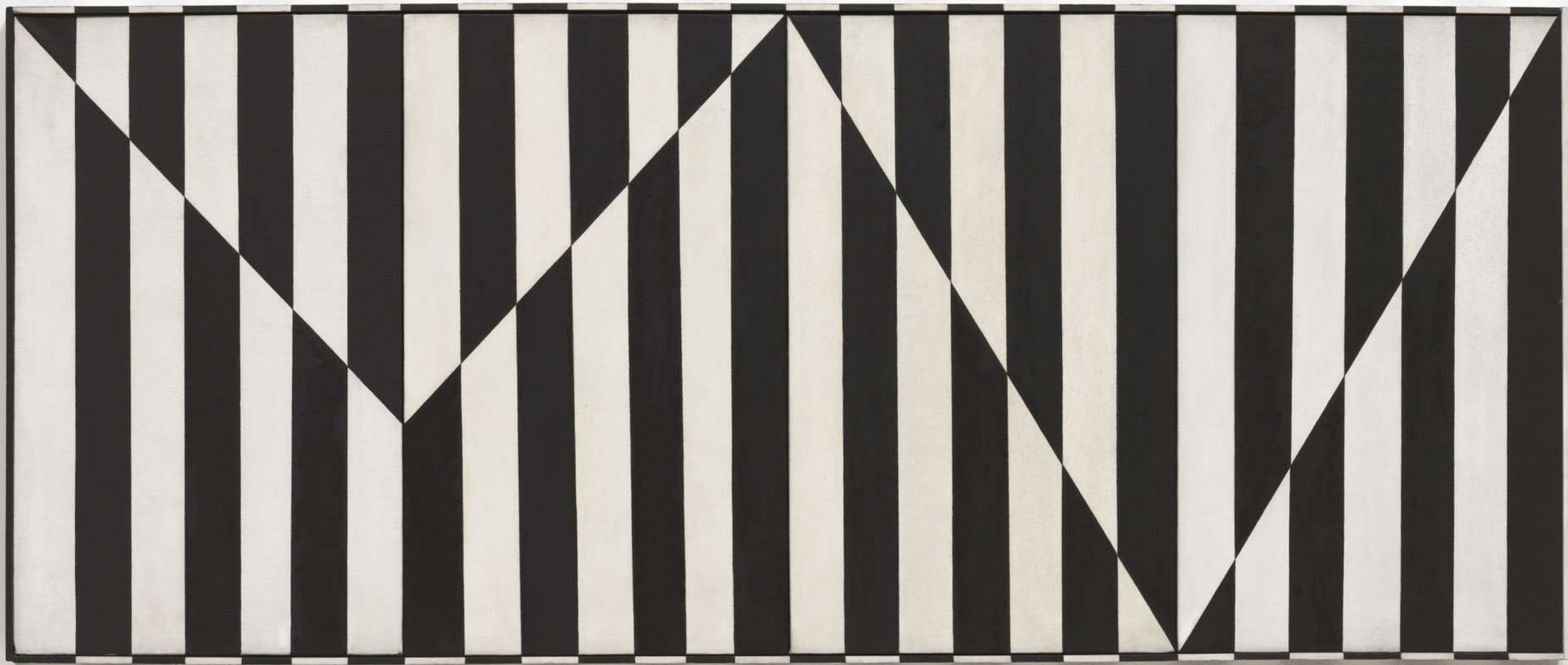
<https://americanart.si.edu/artist/carmen-herrera-29892>











Contemporary Cuban Art

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZd9yYy3iBs> (contemporary)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_t7NscIWVs (studio tour)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBMn2GvzwjU> (Cuban Biennial)

Roberto Fabelo

Roberto Fabelo is a contemporary Cuban painter, sculptor, and illustrator. Born in Guáimaro, Camagüey, Fabelo studied at The National Art School and at the Superior Art Institute of Havana. He was a professor and a jury member for very important national and international visual arts contests.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2mMcC9Yp9s>





Humberto Ochoa

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDIm-5GF1qQ&list=TLGGES-tlF4sz-0yMjAyMjAyMg&t=21s>



Tomas Sanchez

Tomás Sánchez is a Cuban painter and engraver, known for his landscapes.

Tomás Sánchez was born on May 22, 1948 in Aguada de Pasajeros, Cienfuegos, Cuba. Trained at the San Alejandro National Academy of Fine Arts and the National School for the Arts, he is one of Cuba's most prolific and multifaceted artists whose work runs the gamut from painting and engraving to sculpture and photography. A deeply-committed environmentalist whose landscape practices have been linked to spirituality and meditation, he is known as much for his lyrical, sublime landscapes as he is for his "majestic" landfills.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCHTJH_KpCQ

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YiOG6Fq9I4>







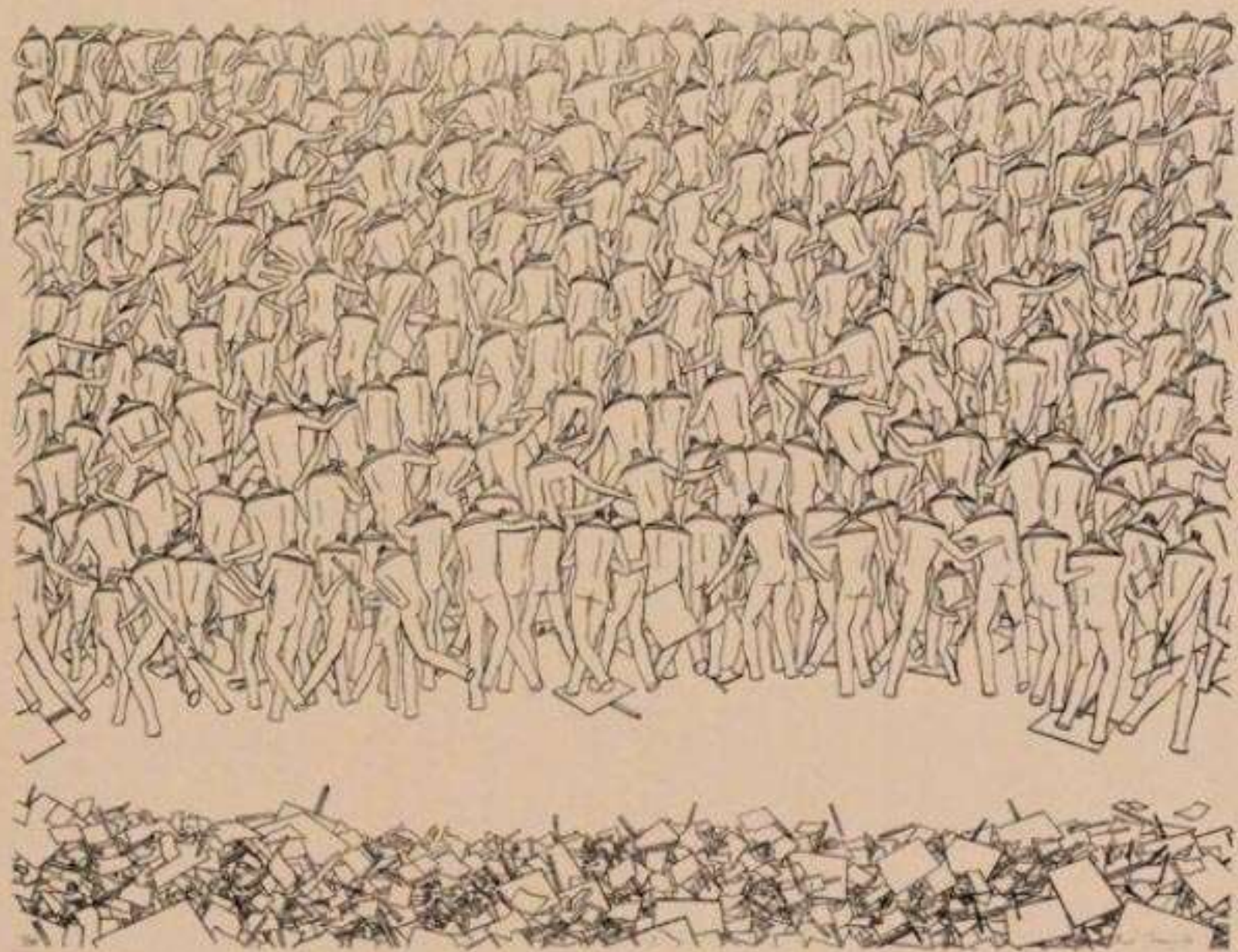


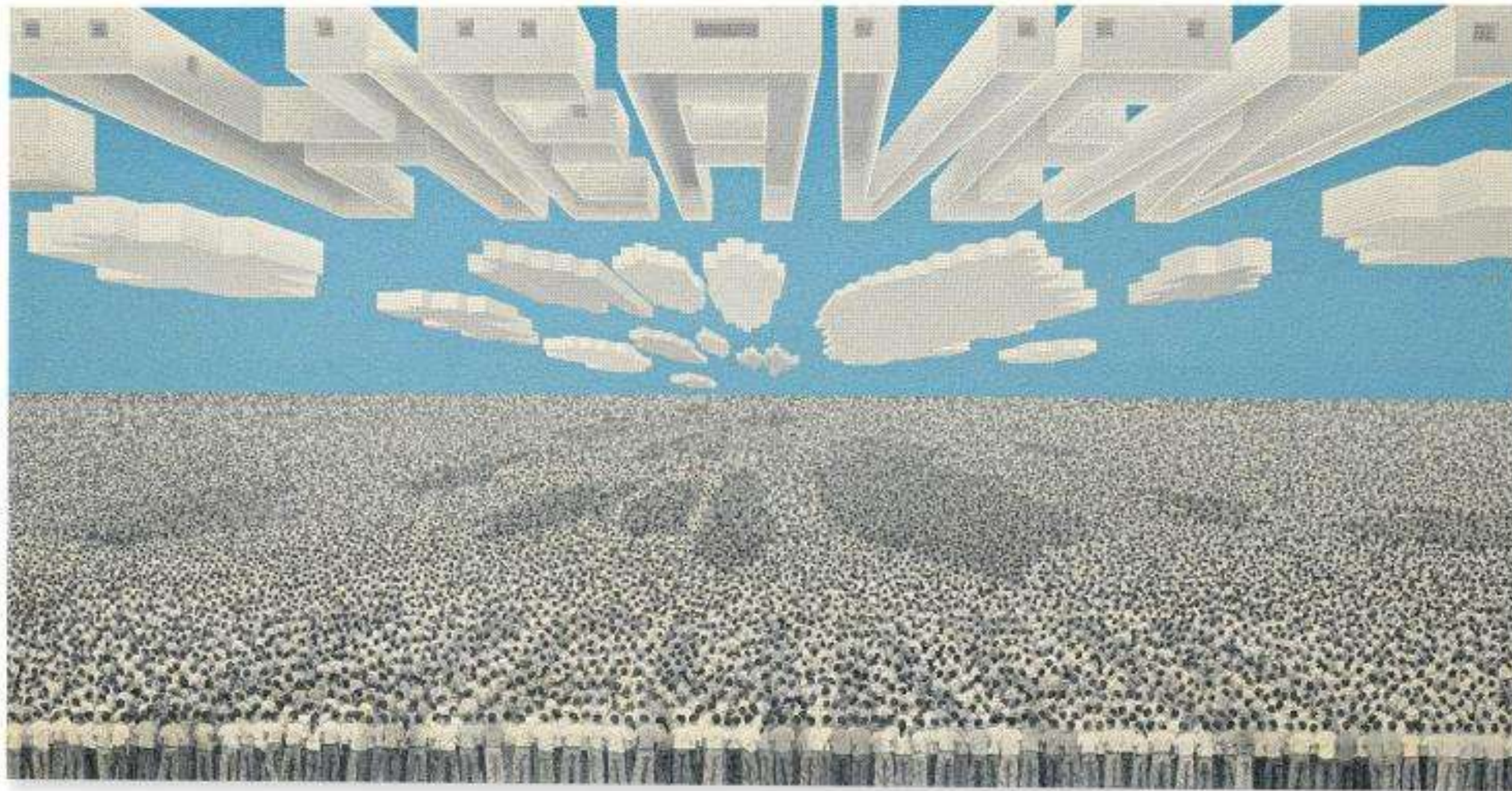
René Francisco

René Francisco is a contemporary artist in Havana. He entered the ISA as a student in 1977, graduated in 1982, and studied until 1989, when he became a professor. He is very popular due to his unorthodox teaching methods, he sometimes leaves the Institute and the classes happen outside.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCo70vKtss&t=16s>









Alicia Leal

Alicia Leal Veloz is a Cuban painter. She was born in Sancti Spíritus, Cuba.

ALICIA LEAL (1957) is an artist, who's work oscillates between dream and reality. With carefree Caribbean color intensities she leans her narrative, surreal paintings towards Cuban folk art. Her subjects are fables, mysteries, visions, myths and life itself.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Huhb5N71Ik>







Assignment Suggestions...

- Think Roosters