

Miquel Barceló

Miquel Barceló Artigues (born 1957) is a Spanish painter.^[1]

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Career

Barceló was born at Felanitx, Mallorca.^[1]

After having studied at the Arts and Crafts School of Palma for two years, he enrolled at the Fine Arts School of Barcelona in 1974. A year later he returned to Mallorca to participate in the happenings and actions of protest of the group "Taller Llnàtic", a conceptual avantgarde group. He also took part in the creation of their artist periodical *Neon de Suro* (21 issues from 1957–1982).

A year after his return to Mallorca he had his first one-man show at the Palma Museum. Initially the Avant-garde, Art Brut and American abstract Expressionism (e.g. Pollock had a big impact on him) influenced Barceló's work, on the other hand he was always particularly interested in the Baroque paintings of Diego Velázquez, Tintoretto and Rembrandt. Jean Dubuffet inspired Barceló in adopting an experimental attitude.

Throughout the 1980s, he travelled extensively across Europe, the United States and West Africa – always returning to Paris which became a second home and where he set up a second studio. The time Barceló spent in different countries, his nomadism or peripatetic habits essentially influenced and inspired his work, most strongly the impressions of West Africa.

His participation at the "Documenta 7", Kassel, Germany, in 1982 gained him international recognition.

In 1983 he moved to Naples for five months. Here he realized some works made with volcanic cinder, for an exhibition at the Lucio Amelio's atelier.^[2] In this occasion he also answered the international call of the Neapolitan gallerist, after the 1980s earthquake, in which he asked the major contemporary artist of that time to create a work for the Terrae Motus collection.^[3] His work *L'ombra che tremo*, now exhibited at the Royal Palace of Caserta, as he declared: "It's a self portrait: i made myself in the painting act. the shadow seems to reflect the other part of myself and at the same time is the destruction of the orde^[4]



Miquel Barceló in 2011.



Miquel Barceló decorated the ceiling of the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, used by the United Nations Human Rights Council, in the Palace of Nations (Geneva).



Sculpture in the cathedral La Seu, Palma, Mallorca.

In 2004 Barceló's watercolours, illustrating Dante's *Divine Comedy*, were shown at the Louvre Museum in Paris. For Palma Cathedral's Chapel of Sant Pere, Barceló covered the entire chapel with terracotta, decorating it with images related to the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John, the miracle of the multiplication of bread and fish, a theme chosen because the chapel is dedicated to the Last Supper. In 1990 he designed the costumes and stage sets for Manuel de Falla's opera *El retablo de maese Pedro* at the Opéra-Comique in Paris, and in 2006 at the Festival d'Avignon he was part of a performance with choreographer Joseph Nadj.

On 18 November 2008 the Spanish government officially presented Miquel Barceló's latest immense work of art in the United Nations Palace of Nations in Geneva. The work of art is a massive sculptural installation located on the domed ceiling of the building's newly created Chamber XX of Human rights and Alliance of Civilizations. The work consists of 1500 m² of multi-coloured stalactite forms for which the artist used 100 tons of paint, that appear to be dripping from the ceiling.

Barceló's work (paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics) is nowadays represented by Tobias Mueller Modern Art in Zürich, Galerie Bruno Bischofberger in Zürich and Acquavella Galleries in New York City.

In 2017, Miquel Barceló has been elected a vice-president of CISAC at the 2017 General Assembly in Lisbon.

In 2017 he was invested Doctor Honoris Causa by the University of Salamanca, as part of the commemoration of the VIII centenary of this University.



"Gran elefant dret" ("Great elephant standing") 2009, Barcelona

Exhibitions

- 2011 : Les Rencontres d'Arles Festival, France.

See also

- Neo-expressionism

References

1. "Famous Spanish Artist - Miquel Barceló"(<http://www.donquijote.org/culture/spain/art/painters/miquel-barcelo>) *donQuijote*. Retrieved 2015-12-28.
2. Velani, Coen, Tecce (2001). *Terrae Motus, la collezione Amelio alla Reggia di Caserta*. Milano: Skira. pp. 149–150. ISBN 88-8491-066-8
3. "Terrae Motus L'ombra che trema"(<http://caserta.arte.it/guida-arte/caserta/da-vedere/opera/l-ombra-che-trema-5234>).
4. Fondazione Amelio (1984). *Terrae Motus*. Napoli: Electa Napoli. p. 41. ISBN 88-435-1066-5

External links

- Official website
- The U.N. Geneva Ceiling- slideshow by *The First Post*
- Room XX by Miquel Barceló: The Spanish Artist's Colourful Ceiling Installation at the UN in Geneva
- Miquel Barceló's Ceramics at Elvira González GalleryMadrid, 2013 - Article by Patricia Mato-Mora
- Vivarium: Textile Works by Francisca Artigues, After Drawings by Her Son Miquel Barceló

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