

SANDRA HIGGINS

Independent Art Advisor and Curator

Press Release

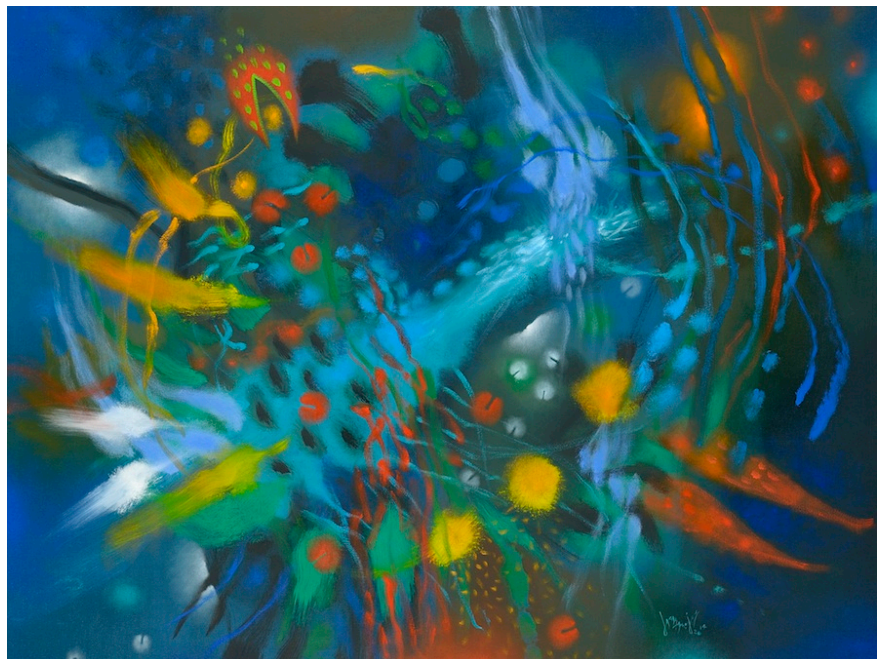
CARLOS JACANAMIJOY

Yellow wind and root of the wind tree

Sandra Higgins Art Salon,
Chelsea, London
25 June - 18 July 2014

Private view: Tuesday 24
June
6.30 - 8.30 pm

Image: *Hora de cosechar* (2014)
Oil on canvas 94 x 124 cm



Sandra Higgins is delighted to present the first solo exhibition in London by acclaimed Colombian painter Carlos Jacanamijoy, which will mark the launch of her Latin American Art salon programme. *Yellow wind and root of the wind tree* will bring together five recent paintings of medium and large format that follow Jacanamijoy's major retrospective at MamBo, Bogota's Museum of Modern Art, which took place in late 2013. Sandra Higgins will show several works from that exhibition, as well as new works never seen before.

Over the last 20 years, the "Maestro Jaca" (Master Jaca), as he is known in Colombia, has steadily built a strong reputation based on his abstract paintings, which depict landscapes inspired by the Colombian tropical rainforest where he grew up. The surreal and oneiric quality of Jacanamijoy's work is largely informed by the rites and spiritual beliefs of the Inga community, the indigenous ethnic group he belongs to. The paintings express the way in which a modern-day Inga envisions the mysterious interactions of the natural world with the spiritual powers of the indigenous world. His works, thus, beautifully connect ancient traditions with contemporary sensibilities.

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Jacanamijoy explores the specific questions of landscape and memory with vibrant colours and a shamanic view of nature, using native symbols to express a personal universe. These graphemes, which appear in each of his painting, constitute a large pictorial vocabulary that create a 'reading' experience that brings out the sensuality of his colours. Jaca's is an abstract art that is, in fact, realistic, since it evokes a particular experience, which the artist summons from inside himself. It is a non-figurative type of painting that represents the artist's vision and his universe, both material and intangible.

The complexity of Jaca's inner world is such that he has spoken of his need to 'shamanise' his work as a painter. This stance is, no doubt, indebted to the artist's father, which was a Inga shaman. Jaca has explained that in order to participate in the shamanistic ritual of the yajé, he experimented with ayahuasca, an hallucinogenic brew of various plants, from an early age. These psychedelic experiences strongly shaped his ability not just to see colours, but also to "feel" them, a synaesthetic experience that has been translating to his paintings since ever since and that confer his work a unique quality.

Fact Sheet

Artist: Carlos Jacanamijoy

Exhibition Title: *Yellow wind and root of the wind tree*

Exhibition Dates: 14 May - 6 June 2014

Private view: Tuesday 13 May, 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Location: Sandra Higgins Art Salon, Chelsea, London. Full address available on request

Opening Hours: By appointment

For all enquiries, high resolution images and further information contact sandra@sandrahiggins.com or phone 077721 741107

CARLOS JACANAMIJOY

1964 Born in Santiago, Colombia **1983-84** BA Fine Arts, Universidad de La Sabana, Bogotá, Colombia **1984-85** BA Fine Arts Universidad de Nariño, Pasto, Colombia **1986-90** MFA Fine Arts, Universidad Nacional de Colombia **1989-90** BA Philosophy, Universidad de La Salle, Bogotá, Colombia **1999** Commemorated with the "Orden de la Democracia" cross, given by Representatives of the Congress of Colombia.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

1994 *Paintings*, Museo de Arte Moderno La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia **1995** *Entre luz y sombra, Paintings*, Galería de Artes Contemporáneas Jenni Vilá, Cali, Colombia **1996** *Kuichi Sacha, Paintings*, Galería del Museo de Arte Moderno, Bogotá, Colombia **1999** *Caminos de Agua*, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, China **2002** *Paintings*, Museo de la Nación, Lima, Perú / *Paintings*, Colombian Embassy in Washington D. C., USA **2003** *Paintings*, Fabien Frys Gallery, Marbella, Spain / *Como Contar un Sueño*, United Nations Palace, Geneva, Switzerland **2005** León Tovar Gallery, New York, USA **2007** *Off The Map*, Smithsonian Institution, New York, USA **2008** *La otra Mirada*, Latin American & Caribbean Studies

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Gallery at Stony Brook University, New York, USA **2012** Caldas Art Museum, Manizales, Colombia
2013 *Magia, memoria, color*, Major retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art of Bogotá, Colombia.

Selected Group Exhibitions

1983 *Natalicio del Libertador*, Universidad de La Sabana, Bogotá, Colombia **1987** *Dibujo cuatro pretextos*. Facultad de Artes, Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia **1990** *Arte joven itinerante*. Área Cultural Banco de la República, Villavicencio, Colombia **1995** *XXII Salón Nacional de Arte Joven*, Museo de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia **1996** *XXXVII Salón Nacional de Artistas*, Corferias, Bogotá, Colombia / Galería La Cometa, New York, USA **1997** *Contemporary Colombian Art* at the Contemporary Art Museum of Tel Aviv, Israel **1999** *Arte en centímetros*, Galería El Museo, Bogotá, Colombia **2000** *Palm Beach Art Fair*, Galería El Museo, Florida, USA **2003** *90s Desplazamientos*, Museo de Arte Moderno Bogota, Colombia **2004** *Paintings*, Palazzo Santa Croce, Instituto Italo Latinoamericano, Rome, Italy / *The Spring of Mambo*, Museum of Modern Art, Miami, USA **2005** *Arteaméricas Art Fair*, León Tovar Gallery Miami, USA **2007** *PINTA Latin American Art Fair*, New York, USA **2008** Leon Tovar Gallery, Art Miami, USA / Leon Tovar Gallery, ArtBo, Bogota, Colombia **2010** *Vantage point: The contemporary Native Art Collection*, Smithsonian, Washington, DC **2011** *Despertares*, Galería Léopold Sedan Senghor, Bucaramanga, Colombia.

Public Collections

National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian, Washington D.C USA/ Luis Ángel Arango Library, Banco de la República, Bogotá, Colombia / MamBo, Museum of Modern Art of Bogotá, Colombia / Museum of Modern Art La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia / Art Museum of Pereira, Colombia / Museo de Arte de la Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, Colombia / Planetario Distrital de Bogotá, Colombia.

Notes to editors

Sandra Higgins is an Independent Art Advisor and Curator based in London. She collaborates with many international artists working in a wide range of media such as Joan Edlis (Conceptual), Jeanne Masoero (Abstract Painting), Marc Blane (Sculpture), Barrie Cook (Op Art) and Richard Walker (Pop Art). She shows them at an art salon within her home in Chelsea which she began in 2011 with an exhibition of Colombian artist Ofelia Rodriguez. She also organises pop-up exhibitions at other locations and owned a Mayfair gallery in the 1990s, where she showed abstract painters and sculptors in an atelier-like atmosphere. That intimate context encouraged an active dialogue between artists and public, which is a format she continues to pursue today at her art salons. She has been giving specialised tours at Tate Modern since its opening in 2000 and continues to do so.

Higgins' most recent project is *Discover Art Now*, a platform to showcase Latin American art, a long-held interest since she first worked with art patron Delfina Entrecanales CBE to establish her renowned *Delfina Studios Trust* foundation in 1987. After two years of ongoing research and travels around Latin America, which she documents in her [Discover Art Now blog](#), Higgins is now using her expertise to promote Latin American art within the London scene, currently focusing on Colombian and Brazilian artists. The booming interest in Latin American art, accompanied by a proliferation of new galleries, art fairs, biennials and museum shows, reflects Latin America's thriving artistic scene, as well as a buoyant market with a great potential for growth and investment.