

Biography

José Luis Cuevas was born in 1934 in Mexico City. His learning was self-taught and he mainly covered engraving, drawing and sculpture. He became internationally known from his exhibitions in Washington D.C in 1954 (Pan American Union Gallery), Paris (Galerie Edouard Loeb) 1955 and in New York (De Aenlle Gallery) in 1957. In 1959 he won First Prize in Drawing at the V Biennial in Sao Paulo, the First International Prize for Engraving at the I Triennial of New Delhi 1968.

He was one of the leaders of the so-called generation of rupture with Mexican muralism; the generation that was in opposition to art that presented political programs focused on promoting nationalist ideas. Constantly, he defended his position against official culture, academic teaching and muralism. During the 1970s, he exhibited dozens of self-portraits at the UNAM University Cultural Center, and organized exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in Mexico City, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Caracas, the San Francisco Museum of Art, the Phoenix Art Museum, and the Paris Museum of Modern Art. His lithography, *La Maga*, was awarded at the III San Juan Biennial of Latin American Engraving.

In 1991 he was awarded the Order of Knight of Arts and Letters by the French government and in Mexico he was named Creator Emeritus in 1993. José Luis Cuevas represented the change that occurred in Mexican art in the second half of the century. XX. In 1976, the Museum of Modern Art in Paris dedicated a large retrospective of his work. In 1982, he held the exhibition *March the Month of José Luis Cuevas* that could be seen simultaneously in galleries in Paris, Mexico City and Barcelona. From 1984 to 1988, a series of drawings called *Intolerance* toured universities and museums in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Europe.

In 1992, the José Luis Cuevas Museum was inaugurated in the former Santa Inés monastery in the historic center of Mexico City. In 1998, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía dedicated a *Retrospective of drawing and sculpture* to him to which he added a series of small sculptures called *Impure Animals*. In 1999, the Pablo Picasso Foundation (with whom he was compared on several occasions) presented *José Luis Cuevas exhibition. Graphic work*. In 2000, he participated in group exhibitions at the Miró Foundation, in Palma de Mallorca and at the Picasso Museum, in Malaga.

He died on July 3, 2017, at age 83, in Mexico City.