

MAI 36 GALERIE

Flavio Garciandía

Opening: Thursday, 13 October 2016, 6–8 p.m.
Exhibition: 14 October – 24 December 2016
Opening hours: Tues–Fri 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., Sat 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mai 36 Galerie presents new works by Cuban artist Flavio Garciandía. Having previously included this artist in the 2012 group exhibition *IB 6621* alongside Michel Pérez Pollo and Raúl Cordero, the gallery is now hosting a solo exhibition of his work for the first time.

Flavio Garciandía (born 1954 in Caibarién, Cuba) is one of Cuba's leading and most influential artists and is regarded as one of the fathers of Central and South American conceptual art. Garciandía, who lives and works in Mexico City, was a key figure on the vibrant Cuban art scene of the late 1970s and 1980s. In 1984 he was a co-founder of the Havana Biennial and in 1986 he was a participating artist at the Biennale di Venezia. In his capacity as a professor at the prestigious Instituto Superior de Arte (ISA) in Havana, Garciandía became a teacher and mentor to a new generation of Cuban artists.

In his works, Garciandía cites the history of modern art: his colourful compositions adapt a variety of stylistic directions, from cubism to conceptualism and abstract expressionism. The resulting artistic signature is one that the artist himself describes, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, as New Tropical Abstraction – playing on the meteorological term Tropical Depression, which refers to a group of thunderstorms under a closed cloud cover.

In his paintings, Garciandía makes a profound connection with his native Cuba: through the way his works unite a range of postmodern styles, his creative output indirectly adapts and reflects Cuban culture as a fusion of diverse influences and terms of references.

The latest works by Garciandía, presented at Mai 36 Galerie, combine colours and forms in compositions of great complexity. The two-part *LULALIAS* (2016), for instance, opens up a multi-faceted realm of discovery in which forms and organic patterns in gentle pastel hues flow together harmoniously. The large-format *TRASTALIA (and-sweet-dreams)* (2016), by contrast, is more surrealistic, with strong colours and dynamic brushwork conveying an expressionist effect. Such diversity bears witness to the broad creative spectrum of the artist Flavio Garciandía.

The opening is on Thursday, 13 October 2016, from 6 – 8 p.m. The artist will be present.
On request, we are happy to provide visual material (office@mai36.com).

We look forward to seeing you at the gallery and thank you for your interest.

Mai 36 Galerie

Victor Gisler

October 2016