

## Nano Lopez

(b. 1955, Bogotá, Colombia)

Nano Lopez is one of the few magical-realist sculptors working today who enjoys an international reputation. He is famous for his richly colored-and-textured, lost-wax bronzes, unrivalled for their fascination to the eye. He was a child prodigy, who won his first *national* art prize at age five!

Magical Realism is an art style, whose subject matter is 'readable' -- but then executed in a dream-like, hallucinatory style that conjures feelings of the afterlife, the heavens, and/or cosmic connections "beaming down" upon its subjects. The style is often confused with Surrealism, but it does not share the Freudian dark-side of surrealist art, nor its tendency toward antiestablishmentarianism. Magical Realism is whimsical, fantastical, other-worldly. In fact, much of Magical Realism is informed by the innocence of children, exploring the world as *they* see it -- with exploration, wonder, creativity.

Lopez was a friend of fellow Colombian Gabriel García Márquez, the magical-realist author of *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (over 30 million copies sold) and Nobel Prize Winner in Literature (1982). At a certain point in his career, Lopez became determined to re-interpret Magical Realism into sculpture! He accomplishes this with bronze castings of extraordinary energy, flow, and movement, finished in a dazzling array of colorful patinas that echo the folkloric arts of Latin America. Viewing them, one can just imagine a stunning hike in the mists and landscapes of the Andes or the Patagonian ranges. Márquez' characters, alike, are given to flights of fancy and hallucinatory revelation in the course of the book's text. As with Nano's characters, both seem barraged by messages and symbologies from the heavens, as they go about their daily 'lives.'

Finally, Nano is one of the few sculptors to affix found objects to the surfaces of his clay models. The objects range from typographic, cartologic, scientific, and numeric notation, to symbols and textures from the decorative and mechanical arts, geography, IT, natural history, and multicultural symbology. As the artist says, "With my colors, forms, and appliqués of found art, I aspire to achieve a borderless imagination, allowing for nature, science, folklore, and modern industrialism to exist as an homage to the rich interconnections of our lives. The human-made objects I incorporate in my models create works of art that reflect the depth and richness I see in the world, Colombia, and all of Latin America."

Nano's animal collections have been fondly entitled *The Nanimals*. They may be acquired in sized versions: life-size, large, medium, small -- although not *all* sizes in all cases, depending on the aesthetics of each.

### EDUCATION

*La Universidad de Bogotá*, painting studies with famous Colombian artist David Manzur  
Studio Assistant for important Spanish sculptor Francisco (Paco) Baron, Madrid  
*L'École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts*, Paris, France, 1980-'81  
Bronze fabrications for Spanish sculptor Manuel Izquierdo, Dept. Chair, Northwest Art School

### PRIZES, HONORS & AWARDS

1960	1st Place, <i>Concurso Nacional de Pintura</i> (at age 5)
1976	"Fiberglass Bull" commissioned by the cattle industry, edition of 20, installed across Colombian highways.
2001	<i>Nike Corp.</i> , commission of soccer hero 'Ronaldo,' 1-½-X life-size, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil & Beaverton, OR

### **SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 1980 Solo Show, Chasky Cultural Center, Burdeos, France  
1981 Solo Show, *Museo de Arte Moderno*, Bogotá  
Solo Show, Latin-American Cultural Center, Paris  
Group Show, *La Maison des Beaux-Arts de Paris*  
1982 Group Show, *Galería San Diego*, Bogotá

### **CAREER**

- 1983 *Walla Walla Bronze Foundry*, sculptor-enlarger, WA  
1987 *Nano Arts*, enlargements, reductions, model-making, Walla Walla  
Establishes first painting studio in the U.S., Walla Walla  
2001 Establishes first personal bronze studio in the U.S., Walla Walla  
2006-'09 Signs to join international galleries, including Dennis Rae Fine Art

### **MONOGRAPH**

*Bronze and Beautiful Nano Lopez*, (with 'Introduction' by Glenn Greenwalt, Professor/Author)