

**IDB Cultural Center**

Inter-American Development Bank  
1300 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington DC 20577

# *A Century of Painting in Panama*

*An Exhibition that Celebrates the  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Republic of Panama*



**Roberto Lewis**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1874 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1949

*Tamarindos (Tamarind Trees)*, 1942

Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 122 cms.

Collection of the Embassy of the Republic of Panama to the United States, Washington, DC

Photo: Gregory R. Staley

Open November 6, 2003 to January 16, 2004

**The Cultural Center  
of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

announces the opening of the exhibition

***A Century of Painting in Panama***

*An Exhibition that Celebrates the  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Republic of Panama*

Open November 6, 2003 to January 16, 2004

This exhibition presents exceptional paintings by 25 outstanding artists selected from a survey of a wide-ranging group of art connoisseurs, historians, critics, professors and art dealers in Panama. The presentation gives the public an overview of the development of painting in Panama over the century.

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Washington, DC, October 16, 2003

*A Century of Painting in Panama*, an exhibition of 29 paintings by 25 artists from Panama, active throughout the century of its first centennial, will open to the public on **November 6**, at the Art Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The exhibition has been organized by the IDB Cultural Center as part of the Center's Exhibitions Program. Logistical support has been provided by the IDB Country Office in Panama and its Representative Mr. Jeremy S. Gould, with the collaboration of the Alternate Executive Director for Panama and Venezuela, Mr. Eduardo Linares.

Dr. Mónica E. Kupfer, Former Curator of the Panama's Museum of Contemporary Art, was invited as Associate Curator for this exhibition. She also wrote the text for the catalogue and will give a lecture on recent developments in the art of Panama on

November 6<sup>th</sup>, at 12.30 p.m. Please check calendar of events, in the IDB Cultural Center Website [www.iadb.org/cultural/](http://www.iadb.org/cultural/)

The works were selected by the Curator Félix Angel from private and public collections in Panama and Washington DC, including the Embassy of the Republic of Panama to the United States and the Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States; and from Panama, the Museum of Contemporary Art, LIMCA Foundation, Dr. César Pereira B., Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Alfaro, Mr. Adolfo Arias, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Claude Augrain, Mrs. Shirley Berger, Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigo Eisenmann, Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Eleta, Mr. and Mrs. José Fierro, Mr. Horacio Icaza, Mr. and Mrs. John Maduro, Dr. Juan David Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Rodríguez, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Mr. and Mrs. George Zelenka, and participating artists Guillermo Trujillo, Manuel Chong Neto, Teresa Icaza, and Tabo Toral.

Mrs. Mirna Liévano de Marques, IDB External Relations Advisor, has said that “To celebrate the century that Panama has been a nation is to celebrate the youngest of all the young republics of Latin America. Like all nations, Panama is a complex and collective creation, so what could better represent it than the dimension of creativity that is the freest of all: the arts.”

“We are most pleased to celebrate Panama’s first 100 years by presenting this exhibition that complements a previous Cultural Center exhibition in 1995 entitled “Crossing Panama,” (also curated by Félix Angel) which provided a history of the isthmus nation through its diverse artistic manifestations ranging from ancient ceramics to paintings from the country’s early history.”

Although the concept of art has broadened noticeably in recent years, painting has been and remains the principal means of aesthetic expression in Panama. A complete view of the development of art in Panama over its century as an independent republic would include, however, the names of several hundred painters.

In this exhibition the selection includes early 20<sup>th</sup> century artists such as **Roberto Lewis**, who practically became the “official” artist of the new republic after its secession from Colombia in 1903. Lewis was also an educator and influenced the first generation of Panamanian artists, among them **Humberto Ivaldi**, **Juan Manuel Cedeño** and **Eudoro Silvera**. An independent, eccentric figure and contemporary of Lewis, **Manuel Amador** is represented with two paintings which constitute a rarity since most of his work was not appreciated during his lifetime and deteriorated due to deficient conservation in the tropical climate of Panama.

Mid-century painters, probably the first international generation of Panamanian artists, include **Alfredo Sinclair**, **Alberto Dutary**, **Manuel Chong Neto**, **Coqui Calderón**, **Trixie Briceño**, **Antonio Alvarado**, **Julio Zachrisson** and **Guillermo Trujillo**. The last two are probably the best known internationally from their generation. All of them have exhibited at one time or another at the Organization of American States, in Washington, D.C.

The end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century boasts a number of interesting artists, many of whom have joined the international art scene, such as **Tabo Toral**, **Teresa Icaza**, **Isabel de Obaldía** (who was born in Washington, D.C) and **Brooke Alfaro**. In the last few years, Alfaro has been working with video after dedicating twenty years to painting (he won First Prize at the First Latin American and Caribbean Video Art Competition and Exhibition organized by the IDB Cultural Center in 2002). His two paintings selected for the exhibition represent his style very well.

Panama has a long association with the Inter-American Development Bank, having been one of the Bank's founding members in 1959. The country also has several characteristics that distinguish it from other Latin American nations. Panama is a historic point of hemispheric transit, a crossroads between north and south and the Pacific and the Caribbean, which is the Mediterranean Sea of the Americas. Its unique history is linked to Spain, Colombia and the United States. For many years Panama was considered a South American nation, while in more recent times it has become closer to the countries of Central America, with which Panama shares aspirations for economic integration.

The construction of enormous public works in transportation and communications during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – particularly railroads and the inter-oceanic canal – produced migrations that transformed Panama's social and political topography and enriched its religious, cultural and linguistic patrimony. Today, the country's diverse population includes not only indigenous groups but also people of European, African, Caribbean and Asian origin.

The IDB has long supported not only economic and social development in Panama, but also its integration initiatives with the Central American countries. With this exhibition, the Bank has the opportunity to celebrate Panama's culture, that subtle dimension of a society that liberates the mind, spurs the imagination, and strengthens a nation's identity and social fabric.

## *Artists and Works in the Exhibition*

- **Roberto Lewis**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1874 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1949  
*Tamarindos (Tamarind Trees)*, 1942  
Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 122 cms.  
Collection of the Embassy of the Republic of Panama to the United States, Washington, DC.

- **Manuel E. Amador**

b. Santiago de Veraguas, Panama, 1909 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1952  
*Fesuuhes, N.Y.*, 1912  
Oil on wood  
38.10 x 48.26 cms.  
Collection of Dr. César Pereira B., Panama

*Maternidad (Maternity)*, c.1945

Oil on wood, 62 x 54 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo Trujillo, Panama

• **Humberto Ivaldi**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1909 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1947

*Tambor de Orden*, n/d

Oil, 57 x 42 cms.

Collection of the LIMCA Foundation, Panama

• **Eudoro Silvera**

b. David, Panama, 1917

*Bodegón con Piña (Still Life with Pineapple)*, 1951

Oil on canvas, 37 x 44 cms.

Collection of Mr. Adolfo Arias, Panama

• **Juan Manuel Cedeño**

b. La Villa de Los Santos, Panama, 1914 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1997

*Las Celestinas (The Procuresses)*, 1968

Oil on canvas, 145 x 98 cms.

Collection of Mrs. Shirley Berger, Panama

• **Isaac Benítez**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1927 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1968

*Mar Revuelto (Stormy Sea)*, c.1961

Industrial paint on wood

58.42 x 74.93 x 5.08 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. John Maduro, Panama

• **Alfredo Sinclair**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1915

*Sin Título (Untitled)*, 1960

Mixed media on canvas

87.63 x 121.92 x 5.08 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. George Zelenka, Panama

*Mancha (Stain)*, 1971

Oil on canvas, 43.18 x 46.36 cms.

Permanent Collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Panama

• **Guillermo Trujillo**

b. Horconcos, Panama, 1927

*Iconografía del Cantoral Chocoe (Iconography of the Chocoe Hymnal)*, 1972

Oil on canvas, 87 x 93 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Panama

*Tres Maestros (Three Masters)*, 1988

Oil on canvas, 76.20 x 91.44 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Panama

• **Alberto Dutary**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1932 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1998

*Personajes al Crepúsculo (Figures at Twilight)*, 1960

Oil and collage on canvas

96.52 x 119.38 cms.

Collection of the Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States, Washington, DC, Gift of Joseph Cantor

• **Manuel Chong Neto**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1927

*Personajes con Buitre, Perro y Bufón (Characters with Vulture, Dog and Buffoon)*, 1970

Oil on canvas, 91.44 x 121.92 cms.

Collection of the artist, Panama

• **Adriano Herrerabarría**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1928

*Balseros en el Tiempo (Rafters Through Time)*, 1995

Tempera and oil on canvas

58.42 x 76.20 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Fernando Eleta, Panama

• **Trixie Briceño**

b. London, England, 1911 - d. Sun City, Arizona, 1985

*País Incógnito (Incognito Nation)*, 1970

Oil on canvas, 109.22 x 91.44 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Claude Augrain, Panama

- **Julio Zachrisson**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1930

*Alucinado (Hallucinated)*, 1976

Mixed media on wood

100 x 80 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigo Eisenmann, Panama

- **Coqui Calderón**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1938

*Countdown (Cuenta Regresiva)*, 1967

Acrylic on canvas, 102 x 102 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Claude Augrain, Panama

- **Olga Sánchez**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1921

*Larga Espera (Long Wait)*, 1961

Oil on canvas, 92 x 65 cms.

Permanent Collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Panama

- **Antonio Alvarado**

b. Le Havre, France 1938

*Gotama No. 3 (Gotama No. 3)*, 1983

Acrylic, 107.95 x 107.95 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Alfaro, Panama

- **Mario Calvit**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1933

*Cabalgando con Viento Norte (Riding with the North Wind)*, 1984

Mixed media on paper, 30 x 40 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. José Fierro, Panama

- **Tabo Toral**

b. Boquete, Panama, 1950

*Pata Milkshake II (Pata Milkshake II)*, 2001

Oil on canvas, 149.86 x 149.86 cms.

Collection of the artist, Panama

- **Teresa Icaza**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1940

*Navegante (Voyager)*, 2003

Oil and collage on canvas

101.60 x 101.60 cms.

Collection of the artist, Panama

- **Amalia Tapia**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1949

*Bahía (Bay)*, 2002

Oil on canvas, 121.92 x 152.40 cms.

Collection of Dr. Juan David Morgan, Panama

- **David Solís**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1953

*Segunda Ronda (Second Watch)*, 2002

Oil on canvas, 119.38 x 119.38 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Eloy Alfaro, Panama

- **Olga Sinclair**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1957

*Naturaleza Muerta (Still Life)*, 2000

Oil on canvas, 76.2 x 99.06 cms.

Private collection, Panama

- **Raúl Vásquez**

b. La Villa de Los Santos, Panama, 1954-

*El Juego Conejos (The Rabbit Juggler)*, 1989

Oil on canvas, 115.57 x 115.57 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Panama

- **Isabel de Obaldía**

b. Washington, D.C., 1957

*Aguas Turbias (Muddy Waters)*, 1989

Oil on canvas, 101.60 x 152.40 cms.

Collection of Mr. Horacio Icaza, Panama

- **Brooke Alfaro**

b. Panama City, Panama, 1949

*Brindis (Toast)*, 1991

Oil on canvas, 101.60 x 76.20 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Marcelo Narbona, Panama

*Tres (Three)*, 1996

Oil on canvas, 101.60 x 76.20 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Rodríguez, Panama



## Complementary Lecture



Photo: Iraida Icaza

“Breaking Barriers: Panamanian Art since 1990,” by Mónica E. Kupfer, Ph.D.  
e-mail [mkupfer@cableonda.net](mailto:mkupfer@cableonda.net)

**Thursday, November 6, 2003**, at 12:30 p.m., at the Andrés Bello Auditorium, main IDB Building.

For information please call (202) 623-3558

Panamanian art historian **Mónica E. Kupfer**, will present *Breaking Barriers: Panamanian Art since 1990*. Art in Panama has changed dramatically, as has the country, since the end of the military dictatorship in late 1989. The 1990s were years during which Panama had to redefine its national identity, as its citizens worked towards the fulfillment of the Canal Treaty, which mandated the handover of the waterway at the end of the millennium. On the cultural front, it was a time of revitalization during which art grew in novel directions as artists experimented with innovative ideas and techniques, enjoying the freer environment afforded by democracy. As of 1992, a major impetus was provided by the Panama Art Biennials, forward-looking juried shows that promoted the development of a more diversified group of artists. In addition to a great number of painters, the past decade has witnessed an upsurge of creators coming to the world of art from other professions. Increasingly, many of these young figures, as well as older artists who have joined the renewal, have gone beyond esthetics to focus on urban, ecological and sociopolitical issues. In works ranging from paintings to computer and video art, they have broken the barriers of tradition and provincialism, introducing Panamanian audiences to a more progressive concept of contemporary art.

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### Exhibit

The exhibition will run from November 6, 2003 through January 16, 2004. A 40-page full color catalogue reproducing all works in the exhibit will be available in English to the public.

The Art Gallery is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge.

Photographs of the artwork on exhibit are available upon request, please call (202) 623-1213. For guided tours of groups of 10 or more (in English or Spanish) and for additional information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, please call (202) 623-3774.

## Lecture

Lectures are held at the Andrés Bello Auditorium, IDB main building, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor. Free admission and limited seating. For more information please call (202) 623-3558.

The IDB Cultural Center is located at 1300 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The nearest Metro station is Metro Center (13th Street exit). All the events are free of charge.

The Cultural Center home page is located at: [www.iadb.org/cultural/](http://www.iadb.org/cultural/)  
E-mail address: [IDBCC@iadb.org](mailto:IDBCC@iadb.org)

## **IDB Cultural Center contacts:**

- Félix Angel, General Coordinator and Curator (202) 623-3325
- Soledad Guerra, Assistant General Coordinator (202) 623-1213
- Anne Vena, Concerts and Lectures Coordinator (202) 623-3558
- Elba Agusti, Cultural Development in the Field  
Program and Administrative Assistant (202) 623-3774
- Susannah Rodee, IDB Art Collection  
Managing and Conservation Assistant (202) 623-3278



# *A Century of Painting in Panama*

*An Exhibition that Celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Republic of Panama*

Selection of works in the exhibition



**Manuel E. Amador**

b. Santiago de Veraguas, Panama, 1909 - d. Panama City, Panama, 1952

*Maternidad (Maternity)*, c.1945

Oil on wood, 62 x 54 cms.

Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Guillermo Trujillo, Panama

Photo: Ricardo Rodaniche

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b. Horconcos, Panama, 1927

*Tres Maestros (Three Masters)*, 1988

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Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wiznitzer, Panama

Photo: Ricardo Rodaniche

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**Alberto Dutary**

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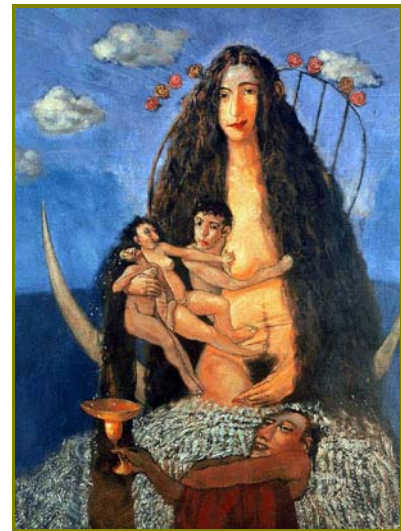
*Personajes al Crepúsculo (Figures at Twilight)*, 1960

Oil and collage on canvas, 96.52 x 119.38 cms.

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Photo: Ricardo Rodaniche