

El Excelsior Carlos Jacanamijoy's burst of Colombian colours

By Posonia Ávila, August 21, 2017.



Photo: Courtesy of the artist

The explosion of colour that permeates the paintings produced by Carlos Jacanamijoy (Putumayo, Colombia, 1964) is a manifestation of nature. They are the animals, plants and landscapes that surrounded the painter in his childhood, which he has now extracted from his memory and transferred to oil paintings. They are an abstraction of his indigenous origins and, above all, a reminder of the relationship between human beings and nature; a link that has disappeared in cosmopolitan cities.

'The memories come back to me when I am in my workshop. I try to show the people of today these other paradigms. When I paint, I feel and think about Quechua; I feel and think with all my senses about nature as an introspection and then rationalisation and, although I am not directly a political being, at the end of the day, we are all politicians because the outlook I offer in my paintings tells the world about what I have seen, and what they say is that they long for nature,' says the artist. This creative process is covered in 'Jacanamijoy Seen By Luis-Martín Lozano', a Cangrejo Editores book which addresses the painter's trajectory over the last 15 years. The bilingual publication includes just over 300 works of art; a selection produced between 2000 and 2015. Under the curatorship of Luis-Martín Lozano, the book, which will reach this country under the framework of the Mexico-Colombia Dual Year, delves into the pictorial and cultural depths of the artist with exhibitions in the USA, Spain, Switzerland and China.

Jacanamijoy has been drawing for as long as he can remember. Then, as now, his first ever sketches were of nature, of the forest surrounding Santiago in Putumayo where he was born. The painter is the son of indigenous parents and, from a young age, he learnt to talk to animals and plants. Not in a sentimental sense, but as a means of establishing a relationship of respect with Earth. This is what he embodies in his large-format works of art. When he chose painting as his profession, the artist found his main raw material in his childhood memories.