

# Mel Casas papers: Press Kit, The Latin American Spirit: Art and Artists in the United States 1920-1970 Exhibition, 1989

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### THE LATIN AMERICAN SPIRIT ART AND ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1920-1970

#### SELECTED ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES

#### David Alfaro Sigueiros

David Alfaro Siqueiros was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1896. He studied at La Esmeralda in Mexico City, and in Europe on a scholarship from the Mexican government. Siqueiros enlisted in the Venustiano Carranza Constitutionalist Army, and at age 17 was a staff officer. As military attache at the Mexican delegation in Paris, he was exposed to contemporary artistic movements. Returning to Mexico in 1922, he organized the "Syndicate of Technical Workers, Painter, and Sculptors" and workers unions in Guadalajara. He also founded the magazine Machete, which expounded the principles of a new national "people's art"

After 1924, Siqueiros visited Moscow, Havana, Los Angeles, and New York, where he established the "Siqueiros Experimental Workshop, A Laboratory of Modern Art Technique." In 1930, he was jailed for political activities and exiled two years later. Siqueiros served in the Spanish Republican Army from 1937, 10 1939, the year he returned permanently to Mexico. Siqueiros' art often depicts violent social protest, featuring dynamic, swirling brushwork and dramatic contrasts of light and dark. Among his best works are frescocs in the National Preparatory School in Mexico City and murals at the Chouinard Art Institute and Plaza Art Center in Los Angeles, (which have since been destroyed). His work can also be seen in the Mexican School in Chile, The National Institute of Fine Arts and the Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City. Siqueiros died in 1974.

#### Jacobo Borges

Jacobo Borges was born in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1931. He studied at The School of Fine Arts in Caracas from 1949 to 1951. From 1952, to 1956, Borges travelled to Paris on a scholarship and studied at the Salone des Jeunes Artistes of Musee l'Art Moderne. He returned to Caracas a year later and studied at the Taller Libre de Arte. Borges' work was exhibited throughout the United States in the mid-1960's and is part of the permanent collection of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

#### Fernando Botero

Fernando Botero was born in Medellin, Columbia, in 1932. He travelled throughout Europe in the early 1950's, studying at the Academia de San Fernando in Madrid, the Academia San Marco, and University Degli Studi in Florence. He moved to Mexico in 1956. In 1958, Botero was appointed professor of painting at Escuela de Bellas Artes at the Universidad Nacional de Columbia in Bogota. Two years later he moved to New York City where he was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

Botero's immediately recognizable style often features a combination of obese, exaggerated, human figures; elaborately decorative costumes and rich colors of South American peasant art. His work is heavily influenced by the Spanish masters Goya, and Velasquez, and by the fresco techniques he studied in Italy. Botero's workis in the permanent collection of several museums.

## THE ATINAMERICAN SPIRIT

#### ART AND ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1920-1970

#### SPLECTED ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES

#### David Alfare Signaires

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#### Jambo Borge

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#### THE EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART

El Paro, Tenas 79902 (915) 541-4048

The arbitrious is organized by The Stone Measure of the Arts and sponsored by Philip Share's Companies Inc.

THE EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART 1211 Montana Avenue El Paso, Texas 79902 (915) 541-4040

The exhibition is organized by The Bronx Museum of the Arts and sponsored by Phillip Morris Companies Inc.
Presented in El Paso through the generous support of the El Paso Art Museum Association Members Guild.

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