

# RECOVERING

*Beauty*

THE 1990S IN BUENOS AIRES

FEBRUARY 20 – MAY 22, 2011

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## The Blanton

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## Exhibition Description

*Recovering Beauty: The 1990s in Buenos Aires* presents for the first time in North America a group of late twentieth-century Argentine artists who created art inspired by personal notions of beauty. By working in a style that favored embellishment and ornamentation, they espoused the idea that art's primary role is to generate pleasurable aesthetic encounters rather than to communicate political statements. This spirit and the artwork to which it gave rise were well suited to a time of great social, political, and artistic transformation in Argentina.

The presidential election of Carlos Saúl Menem in 1989 marked the country's first democratic appointment in over six decades. In the same year, artist Jorge Gumier Maier became founding director of the recently opened Rojas Gallery, a space that served as a catalyst for the group of young artists who came to the fore during this era. Some members of this group defined their collective attitude as the recovery of beauty; their work may be viewed as an expression of the joy they shared over the long-awaited arrival of democracy and freedom to their country.

This exhibition seeks to illuminate the conditions that characterized the late twentieth century in Buenos Aires and to remind us of art's power to express a *joie de vivre*.

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The Rojas Gallery opened in 1989 under the auspices of the Universidad de Buenos Aires. The gallery's founding director and curator, artist Jorge Gumier Maier, defined a program to promote a generation of young artists. During the 1970s, Gumier Maier was an avid political activist and later became a fierce advocate for gay rights. When he wrote the series of essays that would serve as the guiding principles for the Rojas Gallery, he did not promote politically oriented art. Instead, he envisioned the space as a platform for work meant to provoke visual delight and generate pleasurable aesthetic encounters. The freedom and stimulating character that distinguished the Rojas Gallery during Gumier Maier's tenure fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas and a strong sense of

community among the artists who presented art there. This enabled them to create and contemplate art without associating it to a particular political situation. By invoking such concepts as beauty and joy, Gumier Maier offered a sophisticated proposal for the regeneration of spirit supplanting a long period of military repression.

The artists associated with the Rojas Gallery subscribed to a range of aesthetics and artistic techniques. Some adopted abstraction as a form of expression while others created figurative works using a variety of materials. Those who turned to geometry and non-representational visual language shared a profound interest in bright colors and playful forms inspired by the shapes of ordinary items.

The tradition of geometric abstraction in Argentina originated in the 1940s. At that time the artistic community played a pivotal role in the development of a style known as Concrete Art, a movement that began in Uruguay in the 1920s and spread across South America to dominate its art throughout the second half of the twentieth century. Concrete artists like Raúl Lozza and Juan Melé proposed an aesthetic that embraced reason and purity of form as a way of questioning the role of art in society. Decades later, the artists of the 1990s generation returned to abstraction, but contrary to their predecessors they pursued a decidedly lighthearted approach. They found inspiration in modernism as it applied to decoration and in the simple forms of colorful, everyday objects.

The transformations that swept Argentina during the 1990s ushered in an era of apparent economic stability enjoyed by many of the country's citizens. At the same time, most of the artists associated with the Rojas Gallery lived within limited means. Still, they found an enormous array of affordable materials circulating the newly opened market that served as the inspiration and basis for their art. Cardboard boxes, soda cans, bicycle tires, and scraps of paper made their way into the artists' work: Marcelo Pombo, Alfredo Londaibere, and Benito Laren altered label designs and containers of common manufactured goods by decorating and accentuating them with paint.

In addition, the Rojas artists placed a collective focus on craftsmanship: Omar Schiliro constructed highly ornamental lamps from plastic objects and light fixtures; Feliciano Centurión embroidered and painted blankets and pillows; Miguel Harte created extremely elaborate dioramas out of industrial materials; and Sebastián Gordín built intricate small-scale models using elements he found in medical supply stores. Regardless of their distinct sensibilities, the Rojas Gallery artists exploited humble materials and new techniques in their shared quest to create art that could uplift the spirit.

Much in the way they embraced manifestations of beauty within their artmaking, the Rojas Gallery artists also injected humor into their work. In an attempt to move beyond the harshness of the dictatorship under whose strictures they were raised, they turned to visual delight. With their newfound liberation came the opportunity to express spirited, personal stories, a mode of expression previously unavailable to them. The ornamental quality, lively palette, and playful motives of much of their art constituted a form of rebellion, a reflection of independence, and a call for celebration.

As a group, the Rojas Gallery artists had little interest in becoming spokespeople for a “new” Argentine society; instead they pursued their newfound freedom to independent creative ends. For example, Miguel Harte and Sebastián Gordín intertwined dark humor with satire to create visual stories, while Marcelo Pombo and Alfredo Londaibere depicted nature in outlandish ways, populating their settings with cartoon-like characters. Inadvertently, the Rojas artists’ lighthearted approach to art and unpretentious focus on visual delight deeply resonated with Buenos Aires’ citizens, given their recently encountered experiences with freedom.

The Rojas Gallery artists shared several key influences during their formative years. Among them, veteran Argentine artists Pablo Suárez and Roberto Jacoby served as mentors, both of whom emerged in Buenos Aires during the 1960s. Contemporaries of Rojas’ leader, Jorge Gumier Maier, Suárez and Jacoby confronted the repression of the ruling dictatorship by denouncing social injustice through their art. Later moving beyond politics, they influenced the next generation by promoting fine craftsmanship and

the development of individual artistic sensibilities among the young artists. The Rojas group also searched across geographic borders and back through art history to find inspiration in the work of such figures as Marcel Duchamp, Andy Warhol, and Keith Haring. Duchamp’s appropriation of found objects for use as “readymade” sculptures, Warhol’s reproductions of manufactured goods within his work, and Haring’s dynamic freestyle compositions informed each member of the Rojas group in different ways.

In the spirit of community and collaboration promoted by the Rojas Gallery, the artists affiliated with the space came together in the struggle against AIDS when the pandemic hit Argentina in the 1990s. In North America, an already-powerful gay rights movement, born in the late 1960s, took up the fight. On the other hand, Argentina—a deeply Catholic country with a history of repressive governments—lacked an analogous force. The open battle against homophobia and the spread of AIDS did not launch in Argentina until the late 1980s, gaining force during the 1990s with the Rojas Gallery and other important activists joining the cause. Feliciano Centurión and Omar Schiliro, who both died from AIDS-related complications, saw art as a form of solace and as a celebration of life itself. Centurión turned to embroidery as a meditation on the vulnerability and imminent end of his life. Schiliro, a jewelry designer by trade, turned to art after being diagnosed. He transformed inexpensive objects into colorful sculptures with decorative details in an attempt to affirm the joy in life.

The Rojas Gallery united its young community in friendship through trying times by offering a place of nurture and support.

## Exhibition Timeline, 1989–1999

### 1989

#### CULTURE

- Disney releases *The Little Mermaid*, launching the Disney Renaissance era (1989–99), which is marked by the production of successful animated films based on classical stories; the films are then translated into different languages for distribution throughout Latin America and Europe.
- American Susan Sontag publishes *AIDS and Its Metaphors*, an influential study on the devastating effects of the illness and its stigma within society.
- American musician Madonna’s music video “Like a Prayer” attracts international criticism for its irreverent religious iconography, including the display of a burning cross and sexually explicit scenes involving an African-American man dressed as a saint.
- Raves, underground parties featuring techno music, reemerge in Europe and subsequently spread across Latin America and the US.
- *Baywatch* premieres on NBC and *The Simpsons* on FOX, two American shows that garner global viewers in record numbers.

#### ART

- The Rojas Gallery opens at the Universidad de Buenos Aires; Argentine artist Jorge Gumier Maier, director of the gallery, publishes his inaugural manifesto, outlining his vision for the exhibition space.
- *Harte-Pombo-Suárez I*, the first in a series of group shows featuring artists Miguel Harte, Marcelo Pombo, and Pablo Suárez, opens at the Rojas Gallery.
- Argentine artist Guillermo Kuitca participates in the 12th Bienal de São Paulo and presents work in the United States for the first time as part of the exhibition *New Image Painting: Argentina in the Eighties* at The Americas Society of New York.
- The I. M. Pei-designed Louvre Pyramid opens in Paris.
- Bienal of Arte Joven (Biennial of Young Art) begins in Buenos Aires.
- American artist Robert Mapplethorpe (born 1946) dies from AIDS-related complications.

#### POLITICS

- George H. W. Bush elected president of the United States.
- Carlos Saúl Menem elected president of Argentina concurrent to a significant currency devaluation that causes panic throughout Buenos Aires.
- Three hundred people die in Paraguay during a coup-d’état against the repressive military dictator General Alfredo Stroessner, who ruled for more than thirty years.
- Cuba leaves Angola after a thirteen-year occupation.
- The Berlin Wall falls after twenty-eight years.
- The Soviet Union withdraws from Afghanistan after a nine-year occupation.

#### SOCIOECONOMICS

- The *Exxon Valdez* tanker spills crude oil off the coast of Alaska, precipitating a massive environmental disaster.
- Time Inc. and Warner Communications Inc. merge, forming the world’s largest media and entertainment conglomerate.

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### 1990

#### CULTURE

- A massive tribute concert is held at Wembley Stadium for recently freed anti-apartheid activist Nelson Mandela.
- British singer Elton John dedicates “Candle in the Wind” to nineteen-year-old AIDS patient Ryan White during a Farm Aid IV performance in Indiana. Due to his expulsion from school, White

- becomes a national symbol of the discrimination faced by those suffering with the illness.
- American series *Beverly Hills, 90210* premieres on FOX and is subsequently dubbed for distribution around the world.
- Real-time computer graphics are used for the first time to create a character in a motion picture (*RoboCop 2*), revolutionizing animation, movies, and the video game industry.

## ART

- American artist Jenny Holzer becomes the first woman to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale.
- Mexican artist Gabriel Orozco presents work at the Bronx Museum in New York as part of the exhibition *Video D.F.*, marking his first appearance in a United States institution.
- Activist group ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) organizes its first action in Washington, DC to protest the federal and state governments' inadequate response to the AIDS epidemic.
- American artist Keith Haring (born 1958) dies from AIDS-related complications.

## POLITICS

- Argentine President Menem pardons former president and military leader General Jorge Rafael Videla for crimes against humanity perpetrated during his dictatorship.
- Panama's leader, General Manuel Noriega, surrenders to US military troops to face drug trafficking charges.
- Violeta Barrios de Chamorro elected president of Nicaragua, becoming the first female head of state in Latin America.
- Patricio Aylwin is sworn in as the first democratically elected president in Chile following General Augusto Pinochet's twenty-year dictatorship.
- Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide elected president of Haiti, bringing to end thirty years of military dictatorship.
- Germany reunifies after forty years of division.
- Nelson Mandela released from prison in Cape Town, South Africa after twenty-seven years of imprisonment.

## SOCIOECONOMICS

- Hubble Space Telescope sends back first photographs from space.
- McDonald's Corporation opens its first fast-food restaurant in Pushkin Square, Moscow.

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## 1991

### CULTURE

- Canadian Douglas Coupland publishes the novel *Generation X: Tales for an Accelerated Culture*, popularizing the term "Generation X."
- Freddie Mercury (born 1946), lead singer of the British band Queen, reveals he has AIDS and dies from health-related complications.
- American singer Michael Jackson releases his worldwide hit album *Dangerous* and premieres the video "Black or White" in twenty-seven countries simultaneously.

### ART

- The exhibition *Harte-Pombo-Suárez II* opens at the Centro Cultural Recoleta in Buenos Aires.
- After his partner, Ross Laycock, is diagnosed with AIDS, Cuban-American artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres creates "Untitled" (Perfect Lovers), a piece that features two identical, adjacent clocks set to the same time initially, with the understanding that they will eventually fall out of sync.
- British media magnate Charles Saatchi commissions British artist Damien Hirst to create *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*, a work featuring a tiger shark preserved in formaldehyde within a vitrine.
- The Norman Foster-designed Sackler Galleries at the Royal Academy of Arts open in London.
- Lyon Biennale of Contemporary Art begins in France.

## **POLITICS**

- Coalition forces launch Operation Desert Storm in Kuwait to oust occupying Iraqi troops from the country; of the thirty-four participating nations, Argentina is the only Latin American country to get involved in the first Gulf War.
- The Soviet Union dissolves; Boris Yeltsin becomes the first democratically elected president of Russia.
- War erupts in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; the United Nations Security Council initiates peacekeeping operations.

## **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- British engineer Tim Berners-Lee launches WorldWideWeb, the first Internet browser.
- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay establish the free trade agreement Mercosur.
- BBC World Service Television begins broadcasting to Asia via satellite.
- Clothing retailer Benetton begins a controversial international advertising campaign showcasing images related to global politics, multiculturalism, sexual orientation, race, and the AIDS pandemic.

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## **1992**

### **CULTURE**

- Argentine Martín Rejtman releases *Rapado (Skinhead)*, marking him as a precursor to the influential film movement Nuevo Cine Argentino (New Argentine Cinema).
- Cuban Reinaldo Arenas publishes *Antes que anochezca (Before Night Falls)*, a biographical novel about homosexual repression in Cuba.
- American artist Dr. Dre releases his debut album, *The Chronic*, revolutionizing hip-hop.
- British band Radiohead releases its first single, “Creep,” which becomes a worldwide hit.
- American John Cage (born 1912), internationally influential avant-garde composer, artist, and theorist, dies.

### **ART**

- Jorge Gumier Maier and Argentine curator Magdalena Jitrik organize *El Rojas presenta: Algunos artistas (The Rojas Presents: Some Artists)*, an exhibition of the Rojas Gallery’s four-year history, at the Centro Cultural Recoleta in Buenos Aires.
- *Harte-Pombo-Suárez III* opens at the Fundación Banco Patricios in Buenos Aires; the show concludes in its fourth iteration at Galería Ruth Bencazar in 2001.
- Charles Saatchi opens *Young British Art* at his gallery, the first in a series of exhibitions featuring emerging artists from the United Kingdom.
- InSite biennial, a bi-national collaborate project, premieres in the border area between San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico; Caribbean Biennial begins in the Dominican Republic; Dakar Biennale, in Senegal, Africa.

### **POLITICS**

- Bill Clinton elected president of the United States.
- A bomb explodes at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires.
- Peru’s President Alberto Fujimori suspends the constitution and dissolves Congress.
- The signing of the Maastricht Treaty establishes the European Union.

### **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- President Bush (during his final months in office), Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, and Mexican President Carlos Salinas sign the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), establishing the world’s largest free trade region.
- Argentina enters the Brady Plan, named after US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, to consolidate and restructure its foreign debt.
- Los Angeles riots claim fifty-eight dead and \$1 billion in damages in the aftermath of Rodney King’s beating by two policemen, who were later found to be not guilty of civil rights violations.

## 1993

### CULTURE

- American Jonathan Demme releases *Philadelphia*, one of the first mainstream Hollywood films to confront homosexuality, homophobia, and the social stigma of AIDS/HIV.
- Argentine Félix Luna publishes *Breve historia de los Argentinos (A Short History of Argentines)* recounting the destruction of his house during the deadly 1992 Israeli Embassy attack in Buenos Aires.
- Palestinian-American Edward Saïd publishes his essay collection *Culture and Imperialism*, a sequel to his acclaimed book *Orientalism* (1978), in which he traces the impact of western culture on colonialism and imperialism.
- The original members of American band Guns N' Roses perform for the last time together during the *Use Your Illusion Tour* in Buenos Aires.

### ART

- American curators Elisabeth Sussman, Thelma Golden, and Lisa Philips organize the Whitney Biennial, including a culturally diverse pool of artists that features a majority of women.
- Argentine artist Roberto Jacoby produces the activist advertising campaign “Yo tengo SIDA” (I have AIDS), an attempt to de-stigmatize the disease by publishing the slogan throughout national newspapers.
- Mexican artists Eduardo Abaroa and Abraham Cruz Villegas found Temistocles 44, an alternative exhibition space in Mexico City.
- American art critic Dave Hickey publishes *The Invisible Dragon: Four Essays on Beauty* in which he argues for beauty as the key issue of the 1990s.
- Manifesta, the first itinerant European Biennial for Contemporary Art, opens in Rotterdam, Netherlands; Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art begins in Brisbane, Australia.

### POLITICS

- Paraguay holds its first presidential and parliamentary elections in fifty years.
- Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, head of the Medellín Cartel, is killed.
- Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) sign the Oslo Accords.
- A truck bomb detonates beneath the World Trade Center in New York City, killing six and injuring over one thousand.

### SOCIOECONOMICS

- A march for gay rights takes place in Washington, DC; President Clinton enacts the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy for homosexuals serving in the US military.
- Microsoft’s market value reaches \$26.78 billion, making it the highest valued publicly traded company in the computer industry.
- The peso-dollar parity in Argentina prompts an avalanche of imported goods and triggers the collapse of domestic industries.

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## 1994

### CULTURE

- American Quentin Tarantino releases *Pulp Fiction*, changing the face of independent cinema with its critical and commercial success.
- American band Nirvana, who popularized grunge and alternative rock, plays its final concert in Munich; lead singer Kurt Cobain (born 1967) commits suicide.
- The American sitcom *Ellen* premieres on ABC, making television history in 1997 when the title character “comes out” as a lesbian.

### ART

- Argentine curator Carlos Basualdo organizes the exhibition *Crimen & Ornamento (Crime & Ornament)* at the Rojas Gallery, featuring artists from the Rojas group.

- Jorge Gumier Maier curates the exhibition *Frenesí*, a retrospective of Argentine artist Liliana Maresca (born 1951), at the Centro Cultural Rojas; the show opens nine days before Maresca's death from AIDS-related complications.
- Cuban-American artist Coco Fusco and Mexican-American artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña perform *The Year of the White Bear* at Fundación Banco Patricios in Buenos Aires; placing themselves in a cage outfitted as "specimens representative of the Guatinaui people," they challenge the objectification of non-Western cultures.
- American artist Matthew Barney begins work on the *Cremaster Cycle*, which culminates in a 2002 exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum, New York.
- Mexican artists Yoshua Okón and Miguel Calderon found the alternative exhibition space La Panaderia (The Bakery) in Mexico City.
- The Zaha Hadid-designed Vitra Fire Station museum opens in Weil am Rhein, Germany.
- Rojas Gallery artist Omar Schiliro (born 1962) dies from AIDS-related complications.

## **POLITICS**

- A terrorist attack at the Argentine Israelite Mutual Aid Society kills eighty-five and injures more than three hundred.
- The Zapatista Army of National Liberation initiates an uprising in Chiapas, Mexico.
- Armando Calderón Sol becomes El Salvador's first democratically elected president following a twelve-year civil war.
- The United Nations evacuates Rwanda; ethnic genocide ensues.
- South Africa's apartheid ends; Nelson Mandela elected President.

## **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- Mexico devalues the peso, resulting in a catastrophic financial crisis that reaches across Latin America.
- Web browser *Netscape Navigator 1.0* is released.

# **1995**

## **CULTURE**

- Argentine Lucrecia Martel, a member of the New Argentine Cinema, releases *Rey muerto (Dead King)*.
- Danes Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg announce their Dogme 95 manifesto, revolutionizing avant-garde filmmaking.
- American film *Kids*, directed by Larry Clark, stirs up considerable controversy due to its portrayal of unrestrained sexual behavior and substance abuse among teenagers during the AIDS/HIV pandemic.
- American rapper Eazy-E (born 1963) dies from AIDS-related complications.
- Mexican-American Tejano singer Selena (born 1971) is shot and killed by her former personal assistant.

## **ART**

- American Bill Arning curates the exhibition *Maricas (Faggots)* at the Rojas Gallery, which features the work of thirty-seven gay artists living in the United States.
- British curator David Elliott organizes the exhibition *Art from Argentina 1920-1994* at the Centro Cultural Borges; it first opened at Modern Art Oxford in 1994.
- The Johannesburg Biennale begins.

## **POLITICS**

- A bomb attack at the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City kills 168 people.
- The Yugoslav Wars end; a United Nations tribunal on human rights violations charges twenty-one Bosnian Serb commanders with genocide and crimes against humanity.
- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (born 1922) is assassinated at a peace rally in Tel Aviv.



## **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- O.J. Simpson is found not guilty of murdering his former wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and Ronald Goldman.
  - *Yahoo!* website is launched.
  - Microsoft releases the first commercial *Windows* operating system.
  - Online auction company eBay launched.
  - *ROX* and *Computer Chronicles* become the first television programs to be broadcast across the Internet.
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## **1996**

### **CULTURE**

- English director Alan Parker releases *Evita*, attracting controversy for casting Madonna in the starring role as Eva Perón.
- American political scientist Samuel P. Huntington publishes *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, postulating that differences in cultural and religious identity will be the primary source for conflict in the post-Cold War era.
- British pop group Spice Girls releases its debut single, “Wannabe,” which hits #1 in more than thirty countries.
- The first *Big Brother* broadcast premieres in the Netherlands on Veronica TV channel.
- The popular Argentine rock band Soda Stereo plays live for the first time on American TV on MTV’s *Unplugged*, a series showcasing pop artists playing acoustic sets.

### **ART**

- Colombian artist Doris Salcedo displays for the first time in a museum *La Casa Viuda*, a piece featuring memorials to the victims of the Colombian Civil War (1964–present), opening at Le Creux de l’Enfer Centre d’Art Contemporain, Their, France.
- Argentine curator Carlos Basualdo organizes the exhibition *Rational Twist* at Apex Art in New York, featuring artists from the Rojas Gallery with seminal Argentine Concrete artist Raúl Lozza.
- Argentine artist and AIDS patient Alejandro Kuropatwa organizes the exhibition *Cóctel* for Galería Ruth Benzacar in Buenos Aires; the show displays a group of photographs depicting the drugs used to fight AIDS.
- Brazilian artist Ernesto Neto presents work in a US museum for the first time as part of the exhibition *Defining The Nineties, Consensus-making in New York, Miami and Los Angeles* at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Miami.
- The Shanghai Biennale begins; it includes international artists until 2000.
- Cuban-American artist Felix Gonzalez-Torres (born 1957) and Rojas Gallery artist Feliciano Centurión (born 1962), both die from AIDS-related complications.

### **POLITICS**

- Bill Clinton is reelected president of the United States.
- A bomb explodes at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Guatemala’s thirty-six-year civil war ends.
- Yasser Arafat elected president in the first open Palestinian elections.
- Osama bin Laden allegedly writes “The Declaration of Jihad on the Americans Occupying the Land of the Two Holy Places,” his first open-call for war.

### **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- Al-Jazeera, the first Arabic news satellite channel, begins broadcasting across the Arab world.
  - Dolly the sheep becomes the first living animal generated through cloning.
  - E-mail service hotmail founded as “HoTMaiL.”
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## 1997

### CULTURE

- *Titanic* becomes the first film to gross \$1 billion at the box office.
- Belgian director Alain Berliner releases *Ma vie en rose (My Life in Pink)*, a film about a boy struggling with gender identity.
- Elton John performs “Candle in the Wind” at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales (born 1961).
- Irish band U2 performs a concert in Bosnia and Herzegovina during their *PopMart Tour*, becoming the first major band to perform in Sarajevo since the end of the Bosnian War (1992–95).

### ART

- Jorge Gumier Maier curates the exhibition *El Tao del Arte (The Tao of Art)*, a retrospective of his work as Rojas Gallery director, at the Centro Cultural Recoleta in Buenos Aires.
- American artist Robert Colescott becomes the first African-American to represent the United States at the Venice Biennale.
- Mercosul Biennial begins in Porto Alegre, Brazil.
- The Richard Meier-designed Getty Center opens in Los Angeles.
- The Frank Gehry-designed Guggenheim Museum Bilbao opens.

### POLITICS

- President Clinton bars federal funding for research on human cloning.
- Six Islamic militants kill sixty-two people in Luxor, Egypt.

### SOCIOECONOMICS

- Thailand devalues its currency, triggering a global crisis that impacts Argentina the following year.
  - CNN begins Spanish-language broadcasts.
  - Diana, Princess of Wales (born 1961) is killed in an automobile accident.
  - Mother Teresa (born 1910) dies.
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## 1998

### CULTURE

- Chilean Roberto Bolaño (1953–2003) publishes *Los detectives salvajes (The Savage Detectives)*, which is viewed as the continuation of the literary legacy of Argentines Jorge Luis Borges and Julio Cortázar.
- American Britney Spears releases her debut single, “...Baby one more time,” launching a career as an international sensation.
- American series *Sex and the City* premieres on HBO and becomes widely popular across the globe.

### ART

- Argentine artist collectives Etcétera and Grupo de Arte Callejero (Street Art Group) organize street actions demanding justice against those who participated in state-sanctioned terrorism between 1976 and 1983, were subsequently pardoned, or never brought before a court of law.
- Berlin Biennial for Contemporary Art begins.
- Japanese artist Takashi Murakami presents work at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Connecticut as part of the exhibition *Pop Surrealism*, marking his first appearance in a US museum.

### POLITICS

- President Clinton testifies before a grand jury, acknowledging an extramarital affair with Monica Lewinsky.
- The bombings of US embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya, which together

- kill 224 people and injure over 4,500, are linked to al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.
- Hugo Chávez Frías elected president of Venezuela.
- Catholics and Protestants sign a peace agreement in Northern Ireland.
- European Central Bank founded in Brussels.

### **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- American Larry Page and Soviet-American Sergey Brin found Google, Inc.
- Citicorp and Travelers Group merge to form Citigroup, the largest financial services conglomerate in the world.
- Argentina's foreign debt triples to \$160 billion, leading to a financial crisis in 2001.
- British television network BBC America launched in the United States.

## **1999**

### **CULTURE**

- American director Stanley Kubrick (born 1928) dies; his last film, *Eyes Wide Shut*, is released posthumously.
- American Noam Chomsky publishes *Profit Over People: Neoliberalism and Global Order*, in which he argues against the harmful effects of pro-corporate systems of economic and political policies, especially in developing countries.
- American DJ Moby releases his album *Play*, which influences the electronic music movement around the world.
- The international TV sensation *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* premieres in the United States on ABC.

### **ART**

- The Rojas Gallery organizes the exhibition *Colección Bruzzone*, featuring the art collection of Argentine collector Gustavo Bruzzone.
- Argentine artist Fernanda Laguna and Argentine writer Cecilia Pavón found the alternative exhibition space and publishing house *Belleza y Felicidad* (Beauty and Happiness) in Buenos Aires, which is seen as the continuation of the Rojas Gallery legacy.
- Puerto Rican curator Mari Carmen Ramírez organizes the exhibition *Cantos Paralelos: Visual Parody in Contemporary Argentine Art* at the Blanton Museum of Art, the first museum to present the work of influential Argentine artists from the 1970s generation.
- The British exhibition *Sensation* tours from the United Kingdom to the Brooklyn Museum, generating controversy over the provocative nature of some of the works, including Chris Ofili's portrayal of a black Virgin Mary and Marcus Harvey's depiction of child killer Myra Hindley.
- The Cesar Pelli-designed Petronas Towers open in Kuala Lumpur to become the tallest structures in the world.
- The Daniel Libeskind-designed Jewish Museum Berlin is completed and opens to the public in 2001.

### **POLITICS**

- Fernando de la Rúa elected president of Argentina and promises to revive the economy.
- An International Criminal Tribunal indicts former Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic for crimes against humanity committed in Kosovo.

### **SOCIOECONOMICS**

- Students Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold murder thirteen people at Columbine High School in Colorado and then kill themselves.
- Opening ceremonies of the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, Washington, are cancelled due to riots by anti-globalization protesters.
- The Euro is introduced as the common currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Portugal, and Spain.

## Exhibition Checklist

### Fabián Burgos

*Untitled*, 1995

Oil and acrylic on canvas

101.6 × 224.8 cm (40 × 88 1/2 in.)

Colección Delmiro Méndez e Hijo, S.A.

*Untitled*, 1996

Oil and acrylic on canvas

91 × 140 cm (35 3/4 × 55 1/8 in.)

Colección Delmiro Méndez e Hijo, S.A.

### Feliciano Centurión

*Pulpo blanco [White Octopus]*, ca. 1993

Acrylic on polyester blanket

241.3 × 213.4 cm (95 × 84 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Donald R. Mullins, Jr., 2004.176

*Cordero sacrificado [Sacrificed Lamb]*, 1996

Acrylic on polyester blanket

236.2 × 130.8 cm (93 × 51 1/2 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Donald R. Mullins, Jr., 2004.173

*Me adapto a mi enfermedad*, parte de la serie *Flores del mal de amor [I Adapt to My Illness]*, part of the series *Flowers of Lovesickness*, 1996

Hand-embroidered blanket

54 × 36.5 cm (21 1/4 × 14 3/4 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Donald R. Mullins, Jr., 2004.175

*Luz divina del alma [Divine Light of the Soul]*, ca. 1996

Hand-embroidered pillow

22 × 31 cm (8 3/4 × 12 1/4 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Donald R. Mullins, Jr., 2004.174

*Soy el alma que no muere [I Am the Soul that Does Not Die]*, ca. 1996

Hand-embroidered blanket

49 × 51.5 cm (19 1/4 × 20 1/4 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Donald R. Mullins, Jr., 2004.179

*Sueña [Dream]*, ca. 1996

Hand-embroidered pillow

22 × 31 cm (8 3/4 × 12 1/4 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Donald R. Mullins, Jr., 2004.180

*La muerte es parte intermitente de mis días [Death Is an Intermittent Part of My Days]*, 1996

Hand-embroidered blanket

50 × 70 cm (19 5/8 × 27 1/2 in.)

Collection Donald R. Mullins, Jr.

*Untitled*, n.d.

Acrylic on polyester blanket

232 × 193 cm (91 1/4 × 76 in.)

Collection Don R. Mullins, Jr.

### Beto de Volder

*Mordisquito [The Bite]*, 1993

Acrylic on canvas

200 × 130 cm (78 3/4 × 51 1/4 in.)

Colección Bruzzone

*Orgia [Orgy]*, 1993

Acrylic on canvas

200 × 150 cm (78 3/4 × 59 1/8 in.)

Collection of the artist

*Orgia II [Orgy II]*, 1993

Acrylic on canvas

200 × 150 cm (78 3/4 × 59 1/8 in.)

Collection of the artist

*Orgia III [Orgy III]*, 1993

Acrylic on canvas

200 × 150 cm (78 3/4 × 59 1/8 in.)

Collection of the artist

### Sebastián Gordín

*Que cosa tan horrible y espantosa [What a Horrible and Creepy Thing]*, 1992

Plastic, epoxy putty, and acrylic on a wooden box

17 × 17 × 4 cm

(6 3/4 × 6 3/4 × 1 5/8 in.)

Colección Orly Benzacar

*Untitled*, 1992

Wooden box, 0.5 mini-ampere light

bulbs, epoxy putty, and acrylic

9 × 14 × 12 cm

(3 1/2 × 5 1/2 × 4 3/4 in.)

Colección Bruzzone

*El libro de oro de Scoop [Scoop's Golden Book]*, 1993

Enameled epoxy putty, wood, cardboard, and aluminum

25 × 45 × 36 cm

(9 3/4 × 17 3/4 × 14 1/4 in.)

Private collection

*El infierno de Dante [Dante's Inferno]*, 1993

Wood, acrylic, epoxy putty, wax pencils, and plastic

18 × 18 × 7.5 cm

(7 1/8 × 7 1/8 × 3 in.)

Colección Bruzzone

*Las últimas consideraciones [The Last Considerations]*, 1993

Wood, aluminum, cardboard, and lights

48 × 50 × 50 cm

(18 7/8 × 19 3/4 × 19 3/4 in.)

Colección Silvia y Hugo Sigman

*Lo encontraron con el pichicho en sus manos y sangre en la boca. ¿Cómo probar su inocencia? [They Found Him with the Doggy in His Hands and Blood in His Mouth. How Can His Innocence Be Proven?]*, 1995

Watercolor and wax pencils on paper

16 × 24 cm (6 1/4 × 9 3/8 in.)

Colección Bruzzone

*Biznikke*, 1995

Siliconed foam rubber, glass globe, and light

36 × 45 × 27 cm

(14 1/4 × 17 3/4 × 10 5/8 in.)

Colección Gabriel Guilligan

*Estación central de Rotterdam*

*[Rotterdam Central Station]*, 1996

Wood, metal, plastic, glass panes, and lights

Box: 45 × 60 × 100 cm

(17 3/4 × 23 5/8 × 39 3/8 in.)

Museum purchase with funds provided by Fundación Arte BA, Buenos Aires, and contributions from the Blanton Latin American Circle, 2006.326

*Piscina de la calle Pontoise [Pontoise Street Pool]*, 1996

Wood, metal, plastic, glass panes, and lights

Box: 45 × 60 × 100 cm

(17 3/4 × 23 5/8 × 39 3/8 in.)

Colección Subastas Roldán

*Edificio administrativo de Johnson e hijo [Johnson and Son Administrative Building]*, 1996–2010  
Wood, metal, plastic, glass panes, and lights  
Box: 45 × 60 × 100 cm  
(17 3/4 × 23 5/8 × 39 3/8 in.)  
Collection of the artist

*Sala de fiestas Lyon [Lyon Party Room]*, 1996  
Wood, plastic, glass panes, and lights  
Box: 45 × 60 × 100 cm  
(17 3/4 × 23 5/8 × 39 3/8 in.)  
Collection of the artist

### **Jorge Gumier Maier**

*Untitled*, 1993  
Acrylic on carved plywood  
184 × 73 cm (72 3/8 × 28 3/4 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Untitled*, 1999  
Acrylic on wood  
70 × 70 × 2 cm  
(27 1/2 × 27 1/2 × 3/4 in.)  
Private collection

*Untitled*, 2000  
Acrylic on carved wood  
Larger panel: 192 × 95.5 cm  
(75 9/16 × 37 5/8 in.)  
Smaller panel: 150 × 90 cm  
(59 1/16 × 35 7/16 in.)  
Museum purchase with funds provided by the generosity of the Blanton Latin American Circle, 2005.173.1/2-2/2

*Untitled*, n.d.  
Acrylic on wood  
149 × 160 cm (58 3/4 × 63 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

### **Miguel Harte**

*Huevos [Eggs/Eyes]*, 1990  
Eggshells and glass eyes on wood  
94 × 51 × 16 cm  
(37 × 20 × 6 1/4 in.)  
Colección Andreussi Guzmán

*Jardín de las delicias [The Garden of Delights]*, 1993  
Formica, Martilux, insects, snails, plastic plants, polyester resin, and lights  
120 × 110 × 30 cm  
(47 1/4 × 43 1/4 × 11 3/4 in.)  
Colección Delmiro Mendez e Hijo, S.A.

*El gordiplan hártico [The Gordiplan Hártico]*, 1995  
Acrylic hemisphere, textured paint, glass, liquid Vaseline, silicone sealer, insect, cold air fan, and light  
39.4 × 78.7 cm (15 1/2 × 31 in.)  
Museum purchase with funds provided by Michael Chesser, 2008.59

*Como una piedra que sueña [As a Dreaming Rock]*, 1997  
Formica, epoxy putty, wood, polyester resin, and lacquer  
30 × 30 × 28 cm  
(11 3/4 × 11 3/4 × 11 in.)  
Colección Juan y Patricia Vergez

*La intrusa [The Intruder]*, 1998  
Iron, glass, epoxy putty, quartz geodes, putty, insects, and light  
294.6 × 208.3 × 322.6 cm  
(116 × 82 × 127 in.)  
Blanton Museum of Art, Susman Collection, 2007.84

*El jardín filosófico [The Philosophical Garden]*, 1998  
Iron, acrylic, epoxy putty, Formica, expanded polyurethane, Vaseline, purpurin, and light  
110 × 110 × 170 cm  
(43 1/4 × 43 1/4 × 66 7/8 in.)  
Colección Zelmira Peralta Ramos

*Sin título (Homenaje a Fontana) [Untitled (Homage to Fontana)]*, 1998  
Polyester painting on embroidery frame, polyester resin inclusions  
100 × 220 cm (39 3/8 × 86 5/8 in.)  
Colección Alejandro Bengolea

### **Graciela Hasper**

*Untitled*, 1994  
Acrylic on canvas  
145 × 86 cm (57 1/8 × 33 7/8 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Untitled*, 1996  
Acrylic on canvas  
144 × 145 cm (56 3/4 × 57 1/8 in.)  
Private collection

*Untitled*, 1996  
Acrylic on canvas  
145 × 145 cm (57 1/8 × 57 1/8 in.)  
Collection of the artist

*Untitled*, 1999  
Acrylic on canvas  
175 × 175 cm (68 7/8 × 68 7/8 in.)  
Colección Magdalena Cordero

### **Fabio Kacero**

*Omar Schilliro*, 1994  
Wooden stool, foam rubber, decorative fringe, and embroidered velvet  
15 × 32 × 20 cm  
(5 7/8 × 12 5/8 × 7 7/8 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Untitled*, 1996  
Wood, Polifan, foam rubber, stickers, faux leather, and PVC  
5 circles: 50-60-50-70-80 cm diameter  
(19 3/4–23 5/8–19 3/4–27 5/8–31 1/2 in.)  
Colección Mauro y Luz Herlitzka

*Untitled*, 1999  
Wood, Polifan, foam rubber, plastic material, stickers on P.V.C.  
200 × 95 cm  
(78 3/4 × 38 3/8 in.)  
Colección Lucio Oscar Méndez

*Untitled*, n.d.  
Superimposed plastic transparencies and light  
Entire piece: 10 × 115 cm  
(3 7/8 × 45 1/4 in.)  
Colección Delmiro Mendez e Hijo, S.A.

*Untitled* (three boxes), 1996–1998  
Superimposed plastic transparencies  
Each box: 7 × 7 cm (23/4 × 23/4 in.)  
Collection of the artist

### **Benito Laren**

*Buscando Precios [Searching for Prices]*, 1991  
Holographic paper, mirror, and acrylic on glass  
83.2 × 178.3 cm  
(32 3/4 × 70 1/4 in.)  
Blanton Museum of Art, gift of the artist, 2007.15

*Circulación monetaria [Currency Circulation]*, 1992  
Acrylic and holographic paper under glass and tire  
51 × 6 cm (20 1/8 × 2 3/8 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Plato volador [Flying Saucer]*, 1992  
Acrylic and holographic paper  
under glass  
40 × 50 cm (15 3/4 × 19 3/4 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*A la hora señalada [High Noon]*, 1996  
Acrylic and holographic paper under  
glass and tire  
51 × 6 cm (20 1/8 × 2 3/8 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*El día de la independencia de los  
elipses [Independence Day for the  
Elipses]*, 1998  
Acrylic and holographic paper  
under glass  
45 × 50 cm (17 3/4 × 19 3/4 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Stradivarius*, 1998  
Acrylic, glass, and cut panel  
60 × 26 cm (23 5/8 × 10 1/4 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone  
Alfredo Londaibere  
*Untitled*, 1991  
Acrylic on canvas  
48 × 72 cm (18 7/8 × 28 1/4 in.)  
Colección Subastas Roldán

**Alfredo Londaibere**  
*Untitled*, 1994  
Enamel-collage on wood  
70 × 92 cm (27 5/8 × 75 5/8 in.)  
Colección Gabriel Guilligan

*Untitled*, 1994  
Enamel-collage on wood  
57 × 72 cm (22 3/8 × 28 1/4 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Untitled*, 1994  
Acrylic and enameled inclusions on  
wood and metal  
50 × 35 × 5 cm  
(19 3/4 × 13 3/4 × 2 in.)  
Colección Proyecto A

*Untitled*, 1995  
Enamel-collage on wood  
35 × 50 × 5 cm  
(13 3/4 × 19 3/4 × 2 in.)  
Colección Patricia Rizzo

**Marcelo Pombo**  
*Untitled*, 1990  
Cardboard and enamel on wood  
veneered in Formica  
55.6 × 47 × 4.1 cm  
(21 1/2 × 18 1/2 × 1 5/8 in.)  
Collection of the artist

*Navidad en San Francisco Solano  
[Christmas in San Francisco Solano]*,  
1991  
Cardboard, nylon, and synthetic  
enamel on wood  
80 × 120 cm (31 1/2 × 47 1/4 in.)  
Colección Mauro y Luz Herlitzka

*Vitreux de San Francisco Solano  
[Stained Glass from San Francisco  
Solano]*, 1991  
Waste bags, packing tape, and  
enamel on wood  
100 × 180 cm (39 3/8 × 70 7/8 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Guirnalda con frutos podridos  
[Garland with Rotted Fruit]*, 1993  
Appliqués and enamel on wood  
100 × 150 cm (39 3/8 × 59 1/8 in.)  
Colección Carlos R. Luis

*Skip Ultra Intelligent*, 1996  
Stickers and acrylic on cardboard box  
15 × 19 × 9 cm  
(5 7/8 × 7 1/2 × 3 1/2 in.)  
Private collection

*El niño mariposa [The Butterfly Boy]*,  
1996  
Enamel on wood  
95 × 100 cm (37 3/8 × 43 1/4 in.)  
Colección Gabriel Guilligan

*Cae la noche sobre el río [Night Falls  
on the River]*, 1996  
Appliqués, nylon, and acrylic on  
stamped canvas  
132 × 124 cm (52 × 48 3/4 in.)  
Colección Mauro y Luz Herlitzka

*Casper*, 1998  
Mixed media on canvas  
110 × 220 cm (43 1/4 × 86 5/8 in.)  
Blanton Museum of Art, gift of Michael  
Chesser, 2010

**Cristina Schiavi**  
*Te Invito [I Invite You]*, 1993  
Mixed media (diverse plastic and  
synthetic materials)  
70 × 42 cm (27 5/8 × 16 1/2 in.)  
Colección Bruzzone

*Cinta rosa [Pink Ribbon]*, 1997  
Zinc and enamel  
147 × 118 × 36 cm  
(57 7/8 × 46 1/2 × 14 1/4 in.)  
Collection of the artist

**Omar Schiliro**  
*Untitled*, n.d.  
Plastic and glass elements with light  
65 × 43 cm (25 5/8 × 16 7/8 in.)  
Colección Ignacio Liprandi

*Untitled*, 1992  
Plastic and glass elements with light  
190 × 80 cm (74 3/4 × 31 1/2 in.)  
Colección Gabriel Guilligan

*Batato te entiendo [Batato I Understand  
You]*, 1993  
Plastic and glass elements with light  
190 × 60 cm (74 3/4 × 23 5/8 in.)  
Private collection

*Untitled*, 1993  
Plastic and glass elements with light  
98 × 38 × 38 cm  
(38 5/8 × 15 × 15 in.)  
Blanton Museum of Art, Fran Magee  
Fund, 2005.155

*Untitled*, 1992  
Plastic and glass elements  
113 × 110 × 23 cm  
(59 3/8 × 74 3/4 × 9 1/8 in.)  
Colección Ignacio Liprandi

**Exhibition catalog will be available for purchase  
after March 30, 2011 at The Museum Shop**

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