

CUCA ARSUAGA

Pintora y Retratista

Trayectoria artística



Born in Cardona (Barcelona), drawing has been important since her childhood and has ended up becoming her profession.

From a very young age she experimented with **Portraits**, where the challenge was to find the soul of people in their gaze. Several years later she incorporated **Watercolour** into her work, perfecting her technique in a mainly self-taught way. Inspired by elements of Nature, she seeks with impressionistic airs the movement and invites the viewer to imagine. A little later she began to experiment with **Acrylic Painting**, which allowed her to experiment with other forms of expression. More recently he experimented with **watercolour on canvas**, a totally new medium for this technique, which he uses for portraits and other subjects. **Large Format Watercolour Portraits** and **Portraits in oil** are also taking centre stage in his new works. Since 2017 she has been teaching **Portrait Workshops** from time to time, thus starting in the world of teaching.

She has a degree in Science of Physical Activity and Sport, she has dedicated 15 years of her professional life to Sports Management, but life offered her the opportunity to change course and she opened her first exhibition as a professional in 2013 in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, the municipality where she lives. Since then, these are his most important achievements: a total of **35 solo exhibitions**, **13 group exhibitions**, **Finalist in the prestigious Reina Sofia National Prize for Painting and Sculpture (2015)**, **2 times Pre-Selected in the International Painting Competition of the European Museum of Modern Art (MEAM-Figuratives 2019 and 2021)**, **Selected in the Catalogue of Works in the International Competition ModPortrait 2019 (MEAM)**, **Finalist in the Realist Art Competition 2019 of the Spanish Association of Painters and Sculptors (AEPE)**, **Honourable Mention in the National Painting Competition of Villaviciosa (Gijón, Asturias), 2020**, a **Portrait in the Museum Adolfo Suárez y La Transición (Cebreros, Ávila)**, **Prize for the best Local Artist in the Speed Painting Competition of SL de El Escorial (2015)**, **Finalist in a National Watercolour Competition of the IWS (2015)** and **selected to participate in the International Watercolour Festival in Spain of the IWS (2016)**. Also **several collaborations** with institutions, associations, magazines, book editions, TV, etc.

Numerous works of different nature (watercolours and portraits) that are in private collections of clients in **Spain** (such as a portrait for the Suárez-Illana family of President Adolfo Suárez), **USA, Canada, Holland, Scotland, Ireland, Switzerland, Mexico and France**, endorse a career so far very satisfactory. Also the **Portraits of the Directors of the Gran Duque de Alba Institution** in the Portrait Gallery of the Diputación de Ávila.

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS:

- Sala Casa de Cultura, San Lorenzo de El Escorial (**Madrid**). March 2013
- Cocheras-Coliseo Bookstore, San Lorenzo de El Escorial (**Madrid**). August 2013
- Torreón de los Guzmanes Hall, Diputación de Ávila, **Ávila**. October, 2013
- Julio Escobar House Museum, Los Molinos (**Madrid**). December, 2013
- Zaca Gallery, La Granja de San Ildefonso (**Segovia**). May, 2014
- Cultural Center of Cercedilla (**Madrid**). August, 2014
- Civic Center of Torrelodones (Madrid). October 2014
- Itinerant individual exhibition in Municipal Exhibition Halls in the **Province of Avila**, promoted by the *Diputación de Ávila*:
 - Las Navas del Marqués, June 2014 - Sotillo de la Adrada, July 2014 - El Hoyo de Pinares, August 2014 - La Adrada, September 2014.
 - Arenas de San Pedro, October 2014 - Candeleda, November 2014 - Cebreros, December 2014.
- Euskaletxea, **Madrid**. From May 16 to 30, 2015
- Residencial La Vega, **Salamanca**. June 2015
- Zaca Gallery, La Granja de San Ildefonso (**Avila**). November and December 2015
- Espacio Ronda (cultural space), **Madrid**. April 2016
- Espai d'Art A. Lambert, Jávea (**Alicante**). May, 2016
- Hall of the Casa de Cultura, San Lorenzo de El Escorial (**Madrid**). July 2016
- Ronda Barcelona (cultural space), **Barcelona**. October 2016
- Torreón de los Guzmanes Hall, Diputación de Ávila, **Ávila**. May 2017
- Sala Lluïsa Franch Centre Cívic 'Cotxeres de Sants', **Barcelona**. February 2018
- Montsequi Gallery, **Madrid**. March 2019
- Zaca Gallery, La Granja de San Ildefonso (**Segovia**). October to December 2019
- Casa de Cultura Gallery, San Lorenzo de El Escorial (**Madrid**). June 2020
- Coliseum of Culture, Villaviciosa de Odón (**Madrid**). April, 2021

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS:

- Torreón de los Guzmanes, Diputación de Ávila, **Ávila**. March 2014.
- Zaca Gallery, La Granja de San Ildefonso (**Segovia**). January and February 2015
- Exhibition Hall 'El Águila', **Madrid**. Selected Works in the **50th Queen Sofia Award for Painting and Sculpture** of the Spanish Association of Painters and Sculptors. February 2015
- Casa del Reloj Exhibition Hall 'La Lonja', Madrid. Selected Works in the Contest of the **70th Spring Salon of the Spanish Association of Watercolor Painters**. April 2015
- House of Culture, SL of El Escorial (**Madrid**). Group Exhibition '8 eyes see more than 2'. July 2015
- Zaca Gallery, La Granja de San Ildefonso (**Segovia**). December 2017 and January 2018
- House of Culture, El Escorial (**Madrid**). Group Exhibition 250th Anniversary Leal Villa de El Escorial, August 2015.
- House of Culture, SL of El Escorial (**Madrid**). Collective Exhibition Selected XXIX Contest of Fast Outdoor Painting "Manuel Viola", August 2015.
- Casa de Cultura, 'Passion for Watercolor', SL of El Escorial (**Madrid**). August 2016
- Euskal Etxea, 'Eight Eyes see more than Two', **Madrid**. April 2017
- Zaca Gallery, La Granja de San Ildefonso (**Segovia**). Dec 2017 - Jan2018
- Espacio Ronda (Cultural Space), **Madrid**. Apr2018
- Casa de Cultura, San Lorenzo de El Escorial (**Madrid**). Feb, 2019

PERMANENT WORK:

- **Museo Adolfo Suárez y La Transición**, Cebreros (Ávila). Portrait room. Portrait of President Adolfo Suárez given to the Museum.
- **Diputación de Ávila, Portrait Gallery of the Directors of the Gran Duque de Alba Institution**. Portrait of all the Directors.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

- *Finalist, 50th Queen Sofia Award for Painting and Sculpture of the AEPE* (Spanish Association of Painters and Sculptors). Madrid, February 2015.
- *Pre-selected* in the MEAM (European Museum of Modern Art) **International Painting Competition 'Figurative 2019'**.
- *Selected* for the **Catalogue of Works of the International Contest ModPortrait 2019** (MEAM).
- *Pre-selected* in the **International Painting Competition of the MEAM** (European Museum of Modern Art) **'Figurative 2021'**.
- *Honorable Mention, National Painting Contest of Villaviciosa* (Gijón, Asturias). November 2020
- *Finalist, Realist Art Competition 2019 of the AEPE* (Spanish Association of Painters and Sculptors).
- *Finalist, Contest of the 70th Spring Salon of AEDA* (Spanish Association of Watercolorists). Madrid 2015
- *Award for Best Local Artist, XXIX Contest of Fast Outdoor Painting "Manuel Viola"*. SL de El Escorial, August 2015
- *Selected Finalist* in the **International Watercolor Festival (International Watercolour Society)** in Úbeda (Spain) 2016.
- *2nd Runner-up, International Watercolour Society Contest in Toledo* (Spain) 2017.
- *Honorable Mention* in the **International Small Format Watercolor Competition**, Alda&Limón, Madrid 2017.

COLLABORATIONS:

- *'Apuntes de la Sierra'* (magazine distributed throughout the municipalities of the Sierra de Madrid). Collaboration in numerous issues since April 2013. **Program 'Hunting and Fishing' of Canal+**. Collaboration painting in a 'fake live' during interviews in several TV programs. June 2015, April and May 2016
- **Majadahonda Watercolorists Association** (Madrid). Watercolor demonstration.
- **Center for the Diffusion of Innovation of the City Council of SL de El Escorial**. Talk and Networking 'Examples of entrepreneurship and transformation' in the business meetings. May 2019
- **Illustrations for the covers of two volumes dedicated to the Memory of Don Carmelo Luis Gómez**, published by the Diputación de Ávila.
- **Magazine of the Agrup. de Acuarelistas de Majadahonda**. Article about my process in the Portrait. April 2020.
- **Plataforma San Lorenzo se Mueve** (SL de El Escorial, Madrid). Interview about the process of reinvention as an artist and adaptation during the pandemic. December 2020.
- **Seventh and last book of the Luy y Arte Collection, by Amparo Ruiz-Palazuelos**. Portrait of King Alfonso XIII for its cover. September, 2022.

COURSES GIVEN:

- Watercolor Portrait Course at the ART41 Academy in Seville. November 2017.
- Watercolor Portrait Course at Montsequi Gallery in Madrid. June 2019
- Watercolor Portrait Course in Cantabria, Santander. October 2019
- Watercolor Portrait Course at Montsequi Gallery in Madrid. December 2019
- Watercolor Portrait Course at Montsequi Gallery in Madrid. March 2020
- Watercolor Portrait Course at Montsequi Gallery in Madrid. September 2020
- Watercolor Portrait Course at Montsequi Gallery in Madrid. April 2021