

An abstract painting with a textured, impasto style. The composition is dominated by dark, earthy tones like brown and black, with a large, light-colored circular shape at the top. Below it, there are various geometric shapes: a yellowish-green oval, a red shape on the left, and a greyish-blue shape at the bottom. Numbers are scattered throughout: '6' and '5' are on the white circle, '7' is on the left, and '11' is on the red shape. The overall mood is complex and layered.

# ALVAR

*An Atmosphere in Which to Breathe*



# A L V A R

*An Atmosphere in Which to Breathe*

Featuring 50 Original Works



## *Fifty Years of Excellence*

Alvar Suñol, generally known throughout the art world as Alvar, is perhaps Spain's foremost known living artist. His work is currently in the permanent collections of 11 museums worldwide.



*The Crusader*, 1962

Since 2001, he has been honored with four museum exhibitions of his works. Dr. Betty Jean Craig, University of Georgia Director of the Center for Humanities and Arts, has authored two books on Alvar and his art, plus numerous other books, catalogs, and articles have been published on his works.

In 2006 a one-hour documentary film titled *Alvar: His Vision and His Art* was written and directed by Dr. Craig and retired UGA professor Alan Stecker. This film was awarded first place as Best Documentary at the 2006 Indy Film Festival. The film has since aired on public television.

Early on, Alvar clearly distinguished himself from other artists through the creation and development of his original lithographs, which he produced with the use of individual zinc plates – often 10 to 16 plates were required in creating a single lithograph. During a span of forty years Alvar has produced over 100 individual lithographs.

Along with his lithographs Alvar has mastered the art of sculpture, drawing, and painting.

Although always drawn to the art of painting, throughout his career the demand for his lithographs along with his rigorous exhibition schedule allowed him very little time to focus on his paintings, which often require one to six months to complete.

With his unique style and symbolism, many consider Alvar to be one of Spain's most important living artists and an artist that will be praised by art historians for generations. Now in his seventies and realizing his time may be limited, Alvar is completely dedicated to producing original works that consist of mostly oil paintings.



*Oda A Los Frutos*, 2008

This collection represents 50 original works that have been created during the past three years and provides a unique opportunity for collectors to acquire an original Alvar. ♦

## *An Atmosphere in Which to Breathe*

“Art gives me a motivation for living and an atmosphere in which to breathe.” These are the words of Alvar Sunol, one of Spain’s most internationally acclaimed and collected living artists.

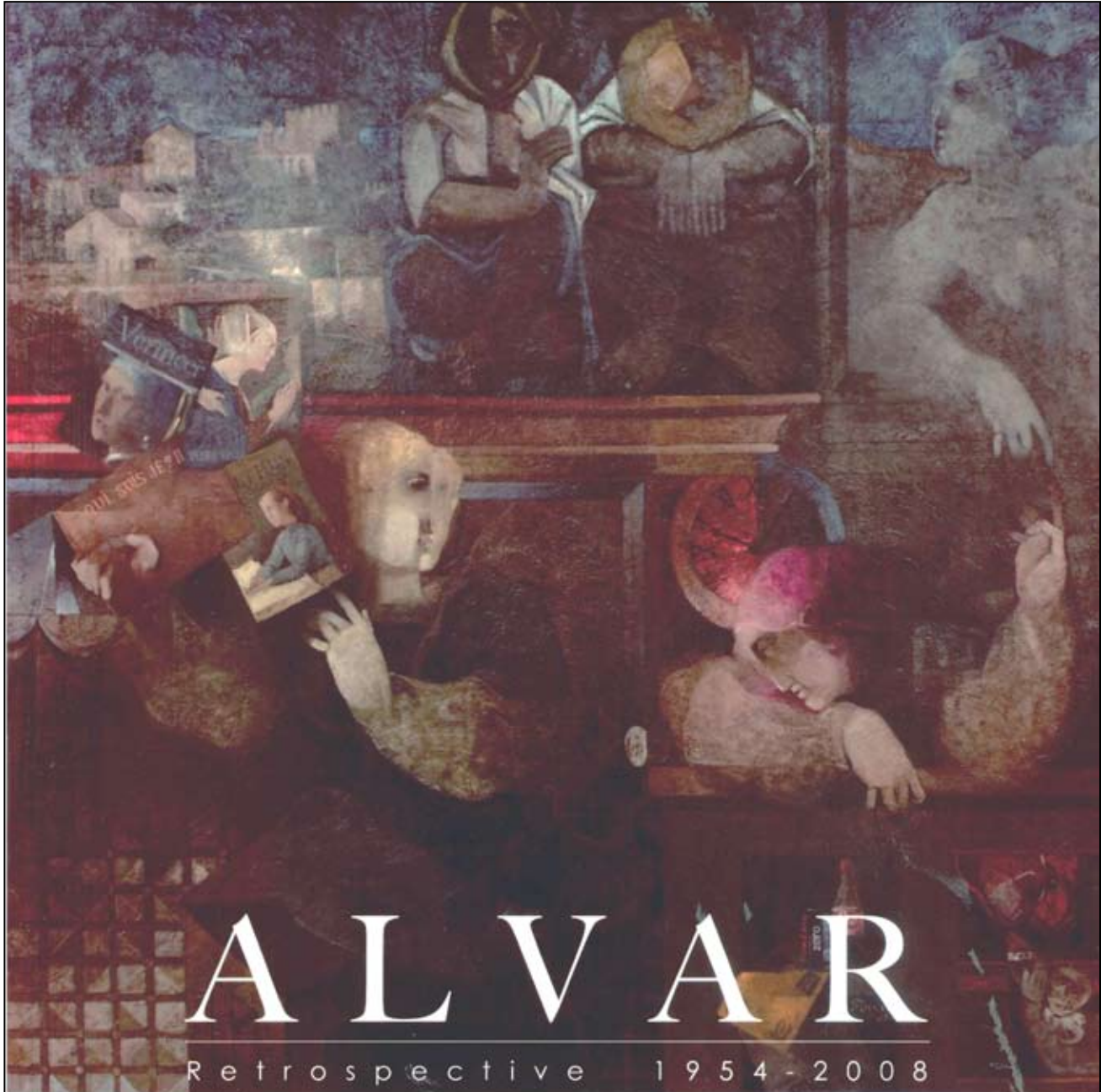
No matter which medium the multifaceted contemporary artist employs, he speaks from his soul about what is important to him: peace, family, love, beauty, nature, art, music and humanity. His works are peopled with strong figures, feminine or androgynous, who embody an earthiness and solidity, yet have an ethereal quality. Women are prominent in his pieces, and they represent life, family and generations. The symbolism in Alvar’s art entices the viewer into an artistic treasure hunt to find and identify the iconography he uses to share his messages and his thoughts about life — thoughts that people around the globe relate to and share.

Alvar was born in 1935 in a Catalan fishing village on the Mediterranean coast near Barcelona, Spain, and lives in the region today. Captured in his works are images of the cultural inheritance he embrace — flowers, local architecture, Spanish lace, tiled floors, checkered tablecloths and bowls overflowing with fruit. As in “Dialec de Contrastos,” it is a depiction of life’s pleasures — a table set with bread and wine — and a nostalgic celebration of Mediterranean life. Doves, symbolizing peace, appear throughout his works, as in “Modelos Para el Pintor”. This oil painting pays homage to art and past masters whom Alvar, a contemporary of Picasso, Chagall and Dali, admires, especially those of the Renaissance. “The art of the Renaissance is most sublime,” said Alvar, who began painting as a child and is classically trained. He added, “Everything we know today we have learned from our ancestors.” You can find clues with names like Vermeer and Balthus on book bindings in Alvar’s paintings, and a fragment of a 15th-century painting by Piero della Francesca (1416/17- 1492) whose perspective and proportion influenced artists of the Renaissance. Alvar incorporates vignettes of masterpieces in many of his works. In “Modelos del Pintor,” one of the figures holds small paintings, recognizable as details of works by master artists.

Look closely and you may find the familiar red and white Coca-Cola logo in Alvar’s paintings. Surprised? To him, the ubiquitous soft drink, found in virtually every corner of the world, is a symbol of globalization. And, in more recent works, there are clocks, often accompanied by a metronome. “...it seems we have lost respect for time,” he has said. “We are always in a hurry, running against time. In my opinion, time is absolutely indispensable to create work without rush, (work that is) mature and honest.”

At 73, the artist considers time on many levels with a mature perspective and ongoing creative and life energy: “I want to do so many things; I do not know if I will have the time.” Alvar’s work is rich with layers of texture, form, color and meaning. No matter how often you may study his art, there is always something more to discover — just take the time to look. You will find universal themes, and, possibly, an atmosphere in which to breathe.

- Judith Schonbak



# ALVAR

Retrospective 1954 - 2008

Qui suis je II

Oil on canvas - 78.74 x 78.74 inches - 2007

November 27 - December 31, 2008

**museubadalona** 

Museu de Badalona  
Badalona - Catalonia - Spain  
[www.museudebadalona.cat](http://www.museudebadalona.cat)

Museu Badalona - 2008





Alvar's sculpture honoring cellist Pablo Casals was installed in Paris - 2008



Alvar is honored with the largest retrospective of his work ever mounted at the Albany Museum of Art in Albany, Georgia - 2007



Alvar is honored with an 8-week exhibit at the Appleton Museum of Art in Ocala, Florida - 2005



Alvar's 18' "Mediterranea" sculpture permanently welcomes visitors to the Plaza De Mallorca in Montgat (Barcelona), Spain - 2003



The Georgia Museum of Art holds a six-week retrospective exhibit on Alvar – 2001



Alvar with Jordi Pujol, Catalonia’s president, at the “Retrospectiva Alvar: Emprems En El Temps” at the Sales Gòtiques De L’Abadia De Sant Miguel Del Fai, outside Barcelona, Spain - 2000



Wichita Art Museum – 1983



Utah Museum of Art - 1982



## *Museum Collections and Retrospective Exhibitions:*

Museu d'Arte Moderne – Barcelona, Spain  
Museo del Grabado Contemporáneo – Marbella, Spain  
Art Center of La Jolla – La Jolla, California  
Finch College – New York  
Glassboro State College – Glassboro, New Jersey  
Jamestown College – Jamestown, North Dakota  
Musée Hycinthe Rigaud – Perpignan, France  
Utah Museum of Fine Art – Salt Lake City, Utah  
Wichita Art Museum – Wichita, Kansas  
Kumamoto Museum – Kumamoto, Japan  
Fukuoka Museum – Fukuoka, Japan  
Museo del Grabado – Zaragoza, Spain  
Appleton Museum – Ocala, Florida  
Albany Museum of Art – Albany, Georgia  
Museu Badalona – Badalona, Spain

## *Fales Gôtiques Exhibitions:*

L'Abadia De Sant Miguel Del Fai – Catalonia, Spain  
Instituto Cervantes Exhibition – Toulouse, France  
Instituto Cervantes Exhibition – Bourdeaux, France  
Georgia Museum of Art Exhibition – Athens, Georgia

## *Prizes:*

Premio de honor, Exposición Bellas Artes – Badalona, Spain  
Premio Cercle Maillol – Barcelona, Spain  
Premio Jóvenes Pintores – Barcelona, Spain  
Premio Fomento Turismo – Spain  
Medalla Aportación Pintura, III Biennale de Alexandries  
Premio Adquisición, Museu de Arte Moderne de Barcelona, de Litografía – Barcelona, Spain

## *Thoughts on Alvar*

“Good art speaks to the world but reflects the artist’s origins. In his own work, Alvar has endeavored to address the passions he believes are universal in the human community at the same time that he expresses the sensibility of his own culture, that of Catalonia. With recent exhibits acknowledging the importance of his work to the history of Catalan art, Alvar assumes as well-earned place among the region’s other 20th-century greats: Pablo Picasso, Isidre Nonell, Salvador Dali, Joan Miró, Antonio Tápies and Antoni Clavé.”

-Dr. Betty Jean Craige, director of the Center for Humanities and Arts at the University of Georgia  
and author of *Alvar: Thirty Years of Lithography*

“Alvar has so many messages that he presents in his work... There’s just a sense of a very comfortable time, a very simple time, where it was about life. It was about living. It was about bringing up a family. It was about being in tune with your beliefs and sharing that and instilling that in the next generation.”

-Dr. Leslie Hammond, Chief Curator and Coordinator of Curatorial  
Affairs, the Appleton Museum of Art, Ocala, Florida

“Alvar has his own style, a style with classical roots, and he has stayed with it... His work has qualities that recall the great classical paintings of other centuries – the great paintings of the Renaissance... Alvar is a great contemporary classical painter.”

-Montserrat Puertas, Museum Curator at the Department of Culture of Cataluña (Spain)



An abstract painting featuring various geometric shapes and numbers. At the top is a large white circle with a purple cross and the number '6'. Below it is a yellow circle. To the left is a red square with a white '9' and a black square with a white '11'. In the center is a tall, narrow grey triangle. To the right is a grey square with a yellow circle. The background is dark brown with some yellow and red accents. The word 'OILS' is written in white serif font across the center.

OILS



*Special Feature*



THE CRUSADER - 1962

Oil on Canvas  
71 cm x 114 cm (28" x 45")



CONTEMPLACION A PIERO  
CONTEMPLATION OF PIERO

Oil on Board  
50 cm x 65 cm (20" x 26")

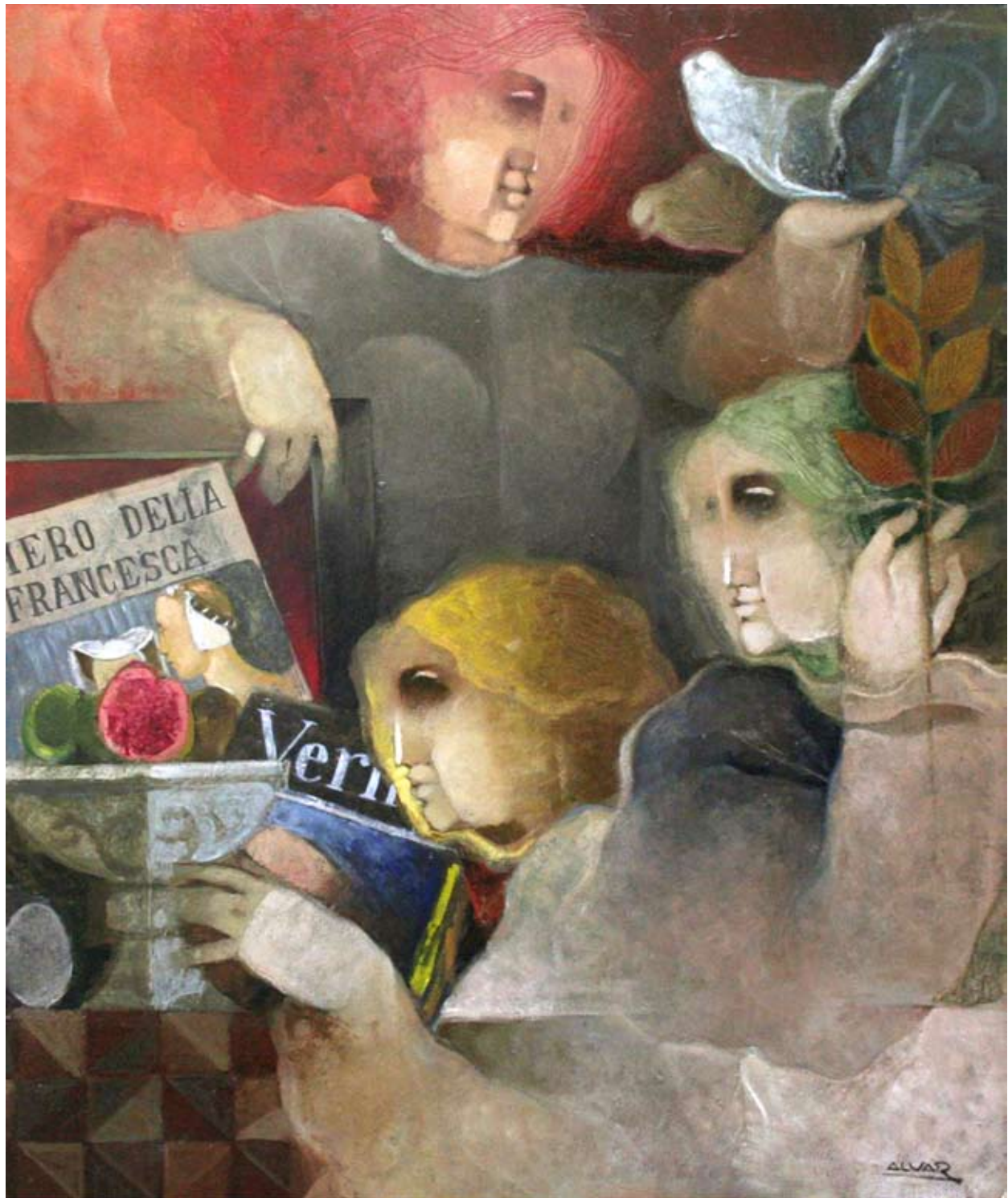




MODELOS PARA EL PINTOR  
THE PAINTER'S MODELS

Oil on Board  
51 cm x 61 cm (20" x 24")





ODA A LOS FRUTOS  
ODE TO THE FRUITS

Oil on Board  
61 cm x 51 cm (24" x 20")



A PAU CASALS  
TO PAU CASALS

Oil on Board  
61 cm x 51 cm (24" x 20")





CANTOS DE HOMENAGES  
SONGS OF HOMAGE

Oil on Board  
51 cm x 61 cm (20" x 24")





TIEMPOS DE NOSTALGIA  
TIMES OF NOSTALGIA

Oil on Board  
51 cm x 61 cm (20" x 24")



EL PINTOR Y SUS MODELOS  
THE PAINTER AND HIS MODELS

Oil on Board  
51 cm x 61 cm (20" x 24")





ESPACIOS DE MELODIAS  
MELODIOUS SPACES

Oil on Board  
64 cm x 49 cm (25" x 19")



PLENO REPOSO  
FULL REST

Oil on Board  
64 cm x 49 cm (25" x 19")





DALT DEL POBLE  
THE TOWN OF DALT

Oil on Canvas  
65 cm x 81 cm (26" x 32")



NATURALEZAS  
NATURES

Oil on Canvas  
65 cm x 92 cm (26" x 36")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art





TRES CONCIERTOS  
THREE CONCERTS

Oil on Canvas  
73 cm x 73 cm (29" x 29")



IDILIOS  
ROMANCES

Oil on Canvas  
73 cm x 92 cm (29" x 36")





MODELOS DEL PINTOR  
THE PAINTER'S MODELS

Oil on Canvas  
73 cm x 92 cm (29" x 36")



HOMENAGE A BALTHUS  
HOMAGE TO BALTHUS

Oil on Canvas  
80 cm x 80 cm (32" x 32")





HORES DE NOSTALGIA  
HOURS OF NOSTALGIA

Oil on Canvas  
80 cm x 100 cm (32" x 40")



LA TAULA MITGA POMA  
THE TABLE AND HALF OF AN APPLE

Oil on Canvas  
81 cm x 100 cm (32" x 40")





FLORS PER LES FRUITES  
FLOWERS OF THE FRUITS

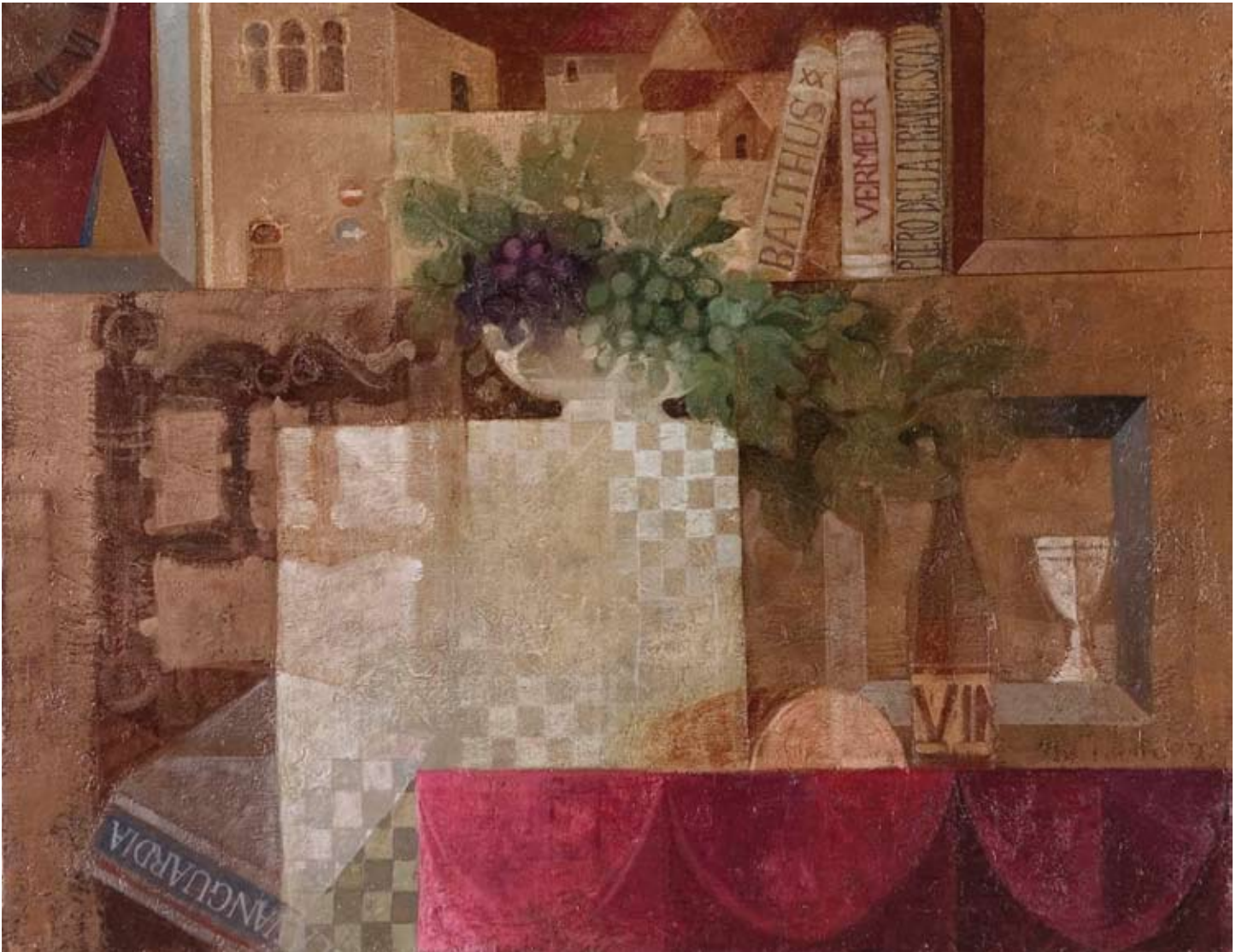
Oil on Canvas  
81 cm x 100 cm (32" x 40")



PAREJA CON FRUTAS  
FRUITFUL COUPLE

Oil on Canvas  
81 cm x 100 cm (32" x 40")





DIALEG DE CONTRASTOS  
DIALOGUE OF CONTRASTS

Oil on Canvas  
89 cm x 116 cm (35" x 46")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art



MELODIES INTEMPORALS  
TIMELESS MELODIES

Oil on Canvas  
89 cm x 130 cm (35" x 51")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art





INTERIEUR AVEC LA COLOMBE BLANCHE  
INSIDE WITH THE WHITE DOVE

Oil on Canvas  
97 cm x 130 cm (38" x 51")



PERSONATGES SOBRE TAULES  
THE TOAST

Oil on Canvas  
100 cm x 81 cm (40" x 32")





CON TIEMPE DE MEDITACIÓN  
WITH A TIME OF MEDITATION

Oil on Canvas  
100 cm x 100 cm (40" x 40")



LE GRAN BOUQUET  
THE GREAT BOUQUET

Oil on Canvas  
116 cm x 89 cm (46" x 35")





EL BRINDIS  
THE TOAST

Oil on Canvas  
130 cm x 97 cm (51" x 38")



FRUITS DE FAMILIA  
FRUITS OF THE FAMILY

Oil on Canvas  
162 cm x 130 cm (64" x 51")







DRAWINGS  
&  
WATERCOLORS





UNTITLED I

Graphite on Paper  
25 cm x 33 cm (10" x 13")



UNTITLED II

Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 33 cm (11" x 13")



UNTITLED III

Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 35 cm (11" x 14")



UNTITLED IV

Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 35 cm (11" x 14")





UNTITLED V

Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 35 cm (11" x 14")



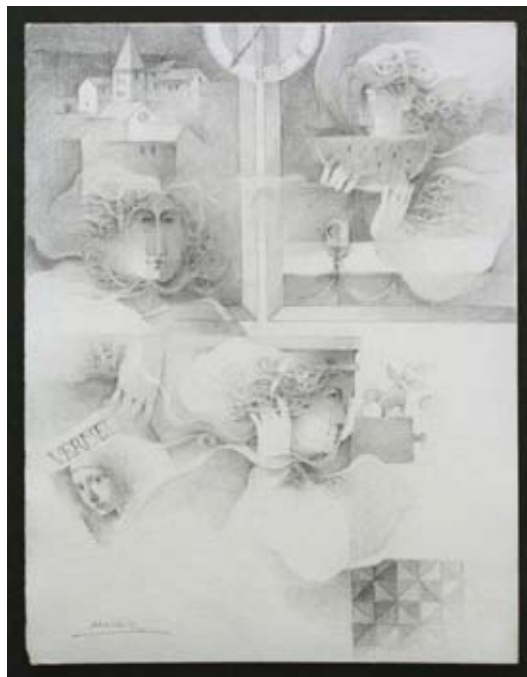
UNTITLED VI

Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 35 cm (11" x 14")



UNTITLED VII

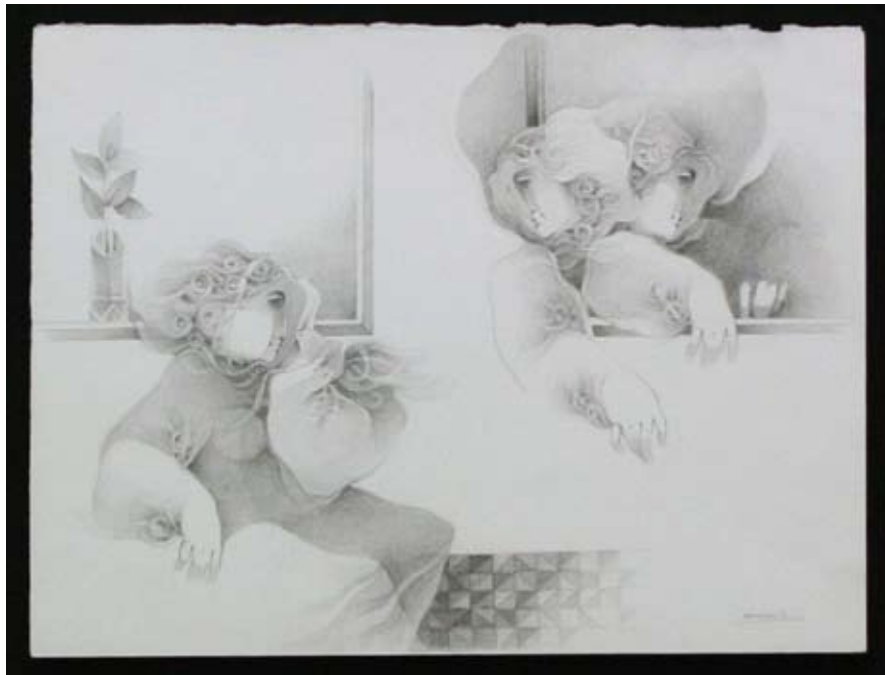
Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 36 cm (11" x 14")



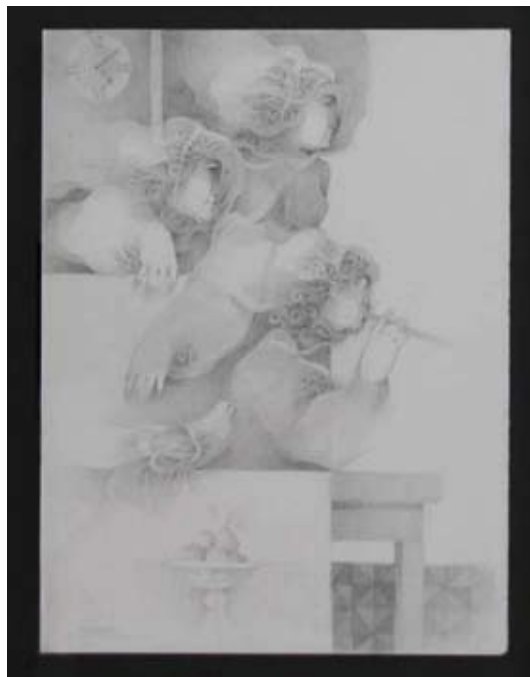
UNTITLED VIII

Graphite on Paper  
36 cm x 27 cm (14" x 11")





UNTITLED IX  
Graphite on Paper  
27 cm x 36 cm (11" x 14")



UNTITLED X  
Graphite on Paper  
36 cm x 27 cm (14" x 11")

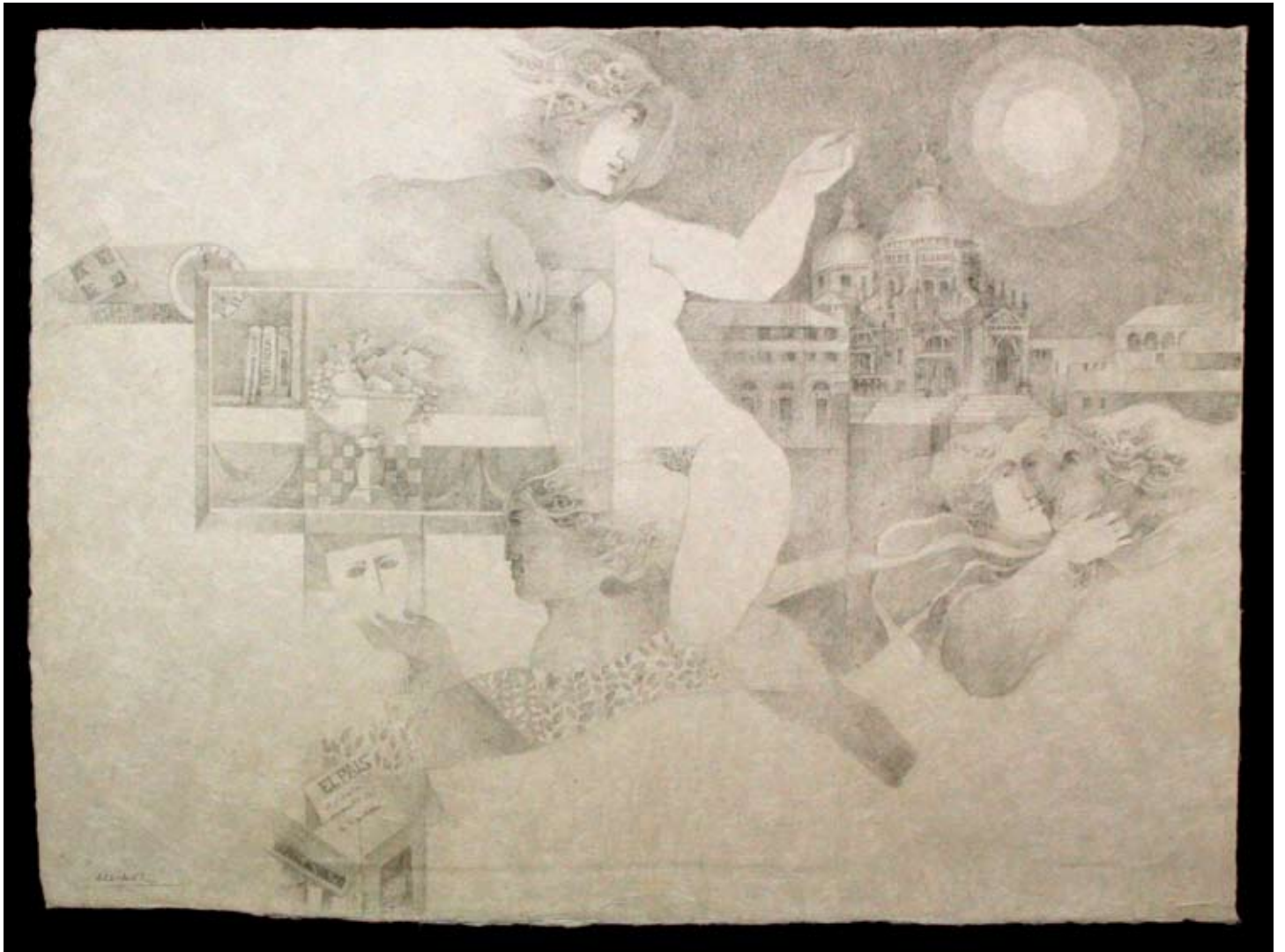


PER SEMPRE EN EL TEMPS  
FOREVER IN TIME

Graphite on Paper  
55 cm x 75 cm (22" x 30")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art

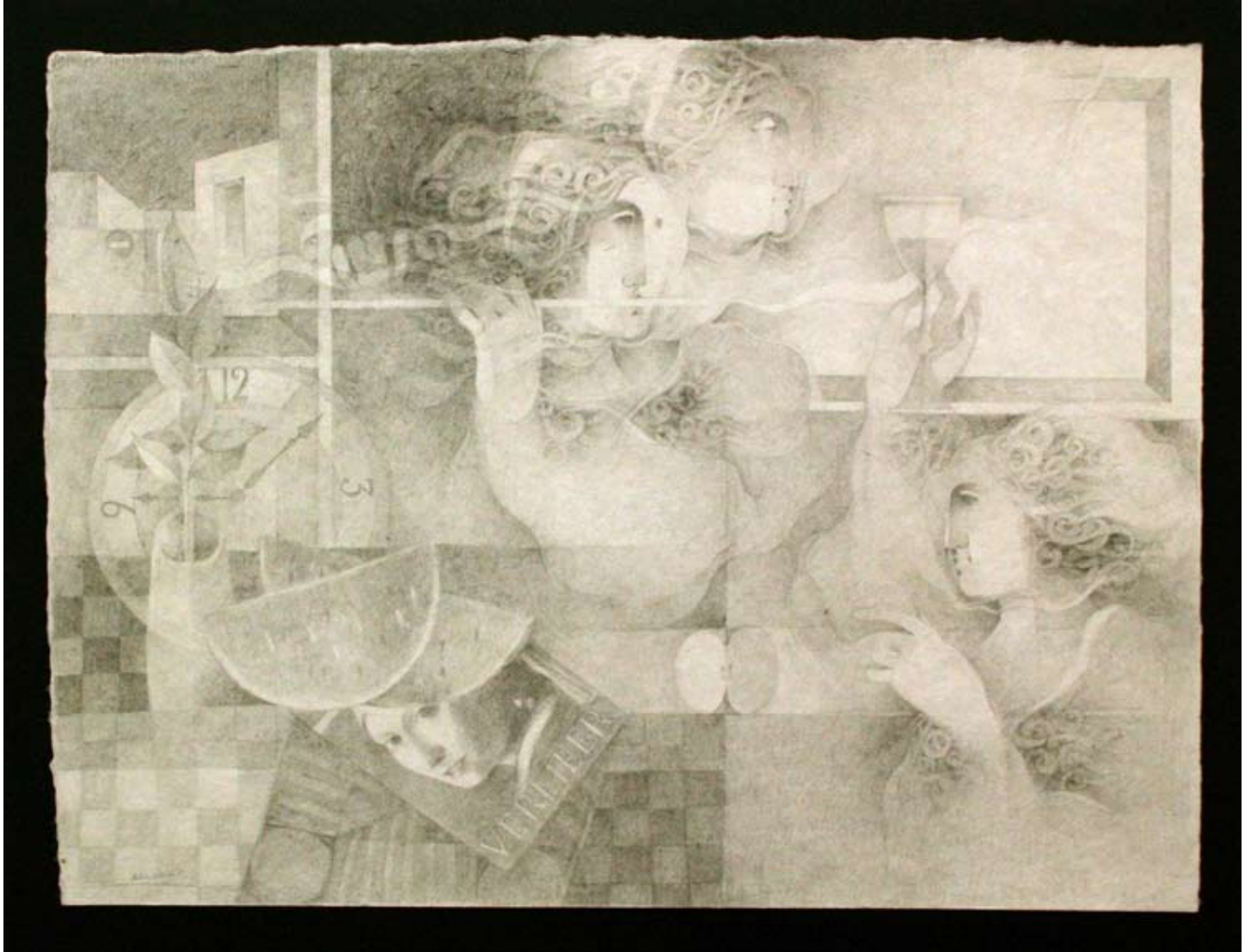




EL DISCREET ENCANT DE LA HIPOCRESIA  
THE DISCREET CHARM OF HYPOCRISY

Graphite on Paper  
55 cm x 75 cm (22" x 30")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art



HOMENATGE A VERMEER  
HOMAGE TO VERMEER

Graphite on Paper  
55 cm x 75 cm (22" x 30")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art

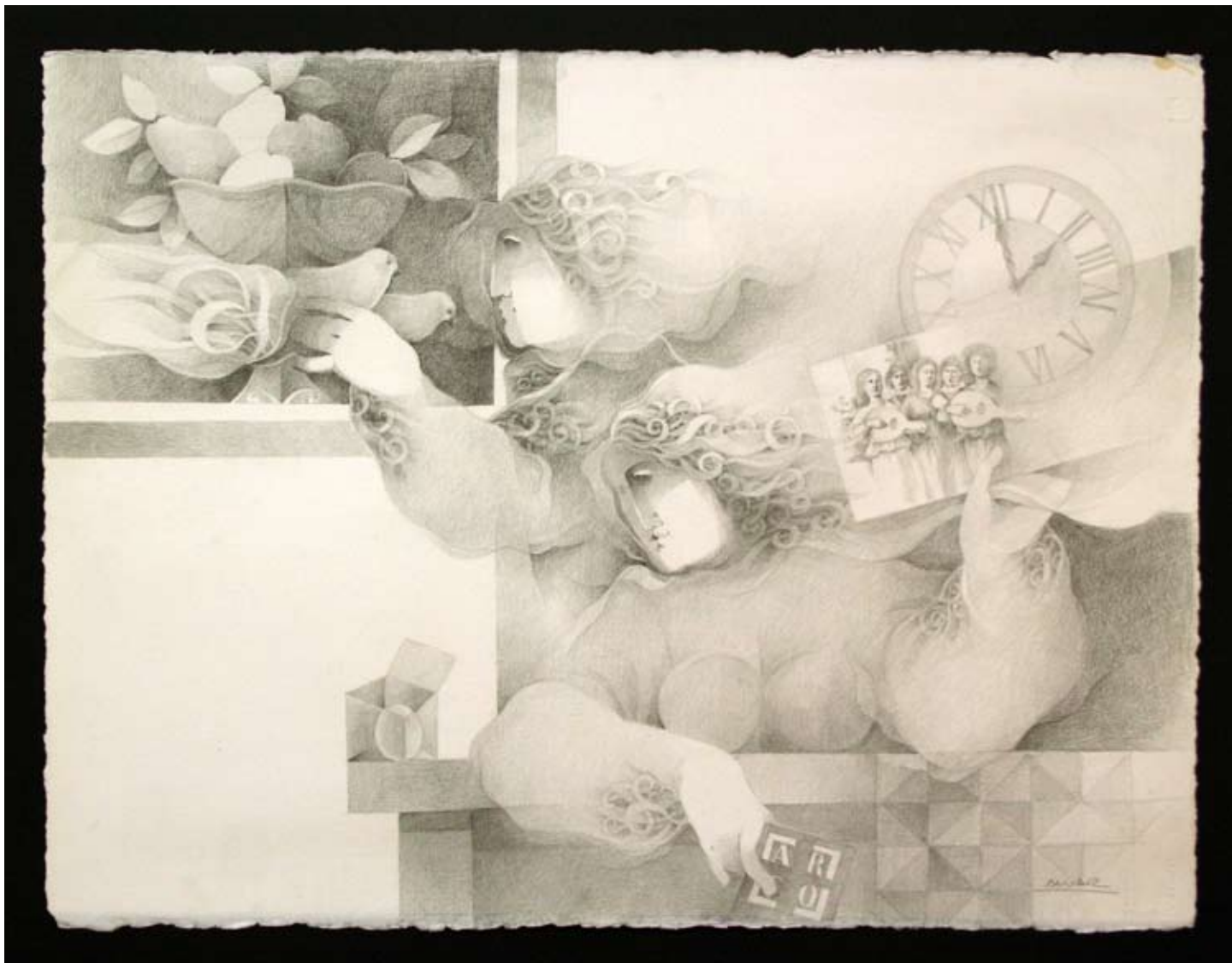




HORES CONTEMPORÀNIES  
CONTEMPORARY HOURS

Graphite on Paper  
58 cm x 78 cm (23" x 31")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art



TEMPS SEMSE PASSAT  
TIMES WITHOUT PAST

Graphite on Paper  
58 cm x 78 cm (23" x 31")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art





HORES NOSTRES  
OUR HOURS

Graphite on Paper  
60 cm x 84 cm (24" x 33")

Provenance:  
Albany Museum of Art



UNTITLED XI

Graphite on Paper  
64 cm x 45 cm (25" x 18")





## UNTITLED WATERCOLOR I

Watercolor on Paper  
26 cm x 27 cm (10" x 11")



## UNTITLED WATERCOLOR II

Watercolor on Paper  
27 cm x 33 cm (11" x 13")



## FIGURE STUDIES I

Watercolor on Paper  
38 cm x 49 cm (15" x 19")





FIGURE STUDIES II

Watercolor on Paper  
49 cm x 38 cm (19" x 15")



### FIGURE STUDIES III

Watercolor on Paper  
50 cm x 61 cm (20" x 24")







# SCULPTURES





LES TEMPS DE NOS JOURS

Bronze  
Edition Size: 40 pieces



LOS CUATRO ELEMENTOS DE LA NATURALEZA

Bronze: Classic Bronze / Aged Verde  
Edition Size: 2 Separate Editions of 45 pieces



MUJER SENTADA

Bronze  
Edition Size: 50 pieces



MATERNIDAD

Bronze  
Edition Size: 50 pieces



MATERNITAT

Bronze  
Edition Size: 99 pieces



CONCIERTO EN LAS HORAS DEL DIA

Bronze  
Edition Size: 50 pieces



LE GRAND BOUQUET

Bronze  
Edition Size: 50 pieces



LOS CUATRO ELEMENTOS DE LA NATURALEZA

Porcelain  
Edition Size: 60 pieces



## *Interview With Alvar*

### *Painting process & techniques...*

“My technique has always been and still is very complex, very reflective, no matter if I work on an oil painting, drawing or lithography. The process is slow, especially when I work in oil, because over time I apply layer upon layer of paint, in order to achieve texture, effects of transparence, lightness, and varnish... This process requires many sessions which means many days and sometimes months of intense work.”

### *Inspiration of recent works...*

“For about three years now, the main theme of my work has been centered around my admiration for three great masters of the world of art: Piero della Francesca, Vermeer, and Balthus, whom I consider indisputable reference points in the arts, each one of them in their individual era... art which is timeless, which has survived and – let’s hope – will survive for centuries. I have also used this concept of persistence in time in my recent work as kind of a counterpoint, as a critical discourse towards a certain contemporary “art” – in my opinion some kind of laboratory art – which is excessively pushed by the media, which is frequently provocative and sensationalist, while neglecting values that for me are fundamental values of painting.”

### *What do you want art collectors to look for in this body of work?*

“More than looking for anything, I want collectors to perceive the emotions that I try to transmit in my work, feelings of love for humanity, nature and honesty in the work, based on the importance that I dedicate to my craft.”

### *What do your collectors tell you they particularly like about your artwork?*

“There are a lot of different interpretations [of my artwork], but the most common perceptions are emotions of poetry and feelings of love and peace.”

### *If there is one thing you would like collectors to know about you, the artist, what would that be?*

“For me life has always been, is and always will be freedom, love, and tolerance, and above all of that, painting.”

### *What would you say has been the major turning point in your commercial career?*

“My first solo exhibit in Barcelona in 1957 already was a success. Both the media as well as art critics of the time saw me as the artist revelation of that era. The same happened during my first solo exhibit in Paris in 1963. At both occasions I felt that my work draw interest from a diverse audience.”

## *Biography*

Alvar Suñol Munoz-Ramos was born on January 29, 1935, in Montgat, a Catalan fishing village on the Mediterranean coast near Barcelona. He started painting oils at age twelve and at age seventeen was accepted at the Escuela Superior de Bellas Artes de San Jorge, the prestigious fine art school in Barcelona. Before graduating from the Belles Artes, he gave his first solo exhibition at Galleries Layetana in Barcelona in 1957. Alvar also won the Bolsa de Viaje Alhambra de Granada, a summer scholarship study trip to Granada. At age 18, Alvar entered a painting in a competition for the Young Painters Prize sponsored by the City of Barcelona. His painting won the grand prize and it is now in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art, Barcelona, Spain.

Due to his early artistic successes, Alvar received many invitations for shows in other Spanish cities. During his military service, he submitted one of his canvases for the Institut Francais annual painting competition in Barcelona. The Institut Francais awarded him the grand prize and a scholarship to study in Paris. Alvar arrived in Paris to paint in 1959. He met Juan Fuentes, a fellow Spaniard and director of the prestigious Parisian Galerie Drouant. Fuentes encouraged Alvar in his painting and brought Alvar's first group of Paris oil paintings to the gallery. Fuentes' gallery sold the paintings in one week.

In 1960 Alvar returned to Barcelona to marry his childhood sweetheart, Rosella Berenguer. They returned to Paris and lived there for ten years. Alvar's paintings were exhibited in the United States for the first time at the Monede Gallery, New York in 1962. Alvar produced his first original lithographs for a one-man show at Galerie Drouant in 1963.

Since a decisive solo exhibition in Paris in 1963, Alvar has exhibited regularly throughout Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan.

Alvar's hometown of Tiana hosts one of his permanent public installations. In September 2001, a commissioned mixed media mural by Alvar was unveiled. The mural reflects on the four seasons and is affixed to The Four Seasons Building, named in reference to Alvar's mural. In 2003, city officials in Montgat, Spain, commissioned Alvar to create another permanent public installation: an 18-foot sculpture titled "Mediterranea" dedicated to the city's personality and seaside character, which now stands in the newly opened Plaza de Mallorquines.

Perhaps one of the most prestigious honors Alvar has received was in 2006 when Restaura, a Spanish real estate company that is dedicated to building restoration projects for cities, asked Alvar to create a sculpture to honor the famous Spanish cellist and composer Pablo Casals (1876 – 1973). In early 2008, the sculpture was placed on a street in the Boulogne Billancourt area of Paris that after a major renovation has also been renamed for Pablo Casals.

In addition to the sculpture, Restaura also commissioned Alvar to create a large painting and lithograph suite honoring Pablo Casals. The lithograph is displayed in their headquarters as an honor to their fellow Spaniards Casals and Alvar.

In 1993 a book devoted to the artist's paintings was published in Spain and the United States. In 2001, Alvar: Thirty Years of Lithography, a book chronicling the lithographic creations of Alvar was published. In 2005, Alvar in Color and Poetry, a book by Dr. Betty Jean Craige, Marjorie Agosin, and Alvar was published.

In 2006 a DVD titled "Alvar: His Vision and His Art" was written and produced by Dr. Betty Jean Craige and Alan Stecker. The DVD was awarded first place at the Indie Gathering film festival for independent filmmakers; the 42-minute documentary was honored in the short documentary category. In June 2007, it aired on public television in Georgia; further states are scheduled.

Alvar continues to create art in the mediums of oil, lithography, watercolor, bronze, ceramic bas-relief and precious metal sculpture. His work frequently embodies a poetic message, recognizing those he admires and his feelings about the importance of family values, nature, and time.









