

Alejandro Gómez Oropeza: the deepest part of being

*Carlos Dantón Medina **



Born in Mexico City in 1963, Alejandro Gómez Oropeza developed his creative sensibility from an early age. He took painting and drawing classes at various workshops in Coyoacán and San Jerónimo, and studied art in Colorado and Paris. The result is a highly innovative approach, with an easily identifiable personal style.

Gómez Oropeza has a degree in architecture, a profession he exercised for three years and whose influence can be seen in his compositions, which harmonize balance, design and form. The creative process and the visualization of spaces filled with light and color always captured his imagination; one day, following his instincts, he decided to devote himself body and soul to painting. After more than twelve years he has

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succeeded in transmuting these visions into works of art which have been exhibited in Europe, principally in Paris and Corsica.

The French journal *Valeurs de l'Art* devoted a cover to his work, considering him to be the creator of a new world: "The roots of this new world are based on architectural technique, which lends stability and allows creativity to express itself at the highest level. The canvas plays the role of a mirror reflecting the observer's sensuality. The subjectivity of form leaves a door half-opened to a world of phantoms, where the imagination of each individual leads us along different paths that show the imperceptibility of a hidden thought. Within this new world, the forbidden is non-existent. One must give free rein to ideas and imagination. The essential energy is revealed in a moment reserved for intimacy and eroticism."

We see, reflected on the canvas, the artist's inner world—a world made up of experiences that touch the deepest part of his being.

Gómez Oropeza's work is large-scale, at times consisting of two, three or more parts, magnifying his message and the spectator's interest. Scenes full of energy unveil themselves little by little, in a play of juxtaposed bodies. A couple in movement is portrayed, showing themselves without inhibitions; their mystery and passion are revealed.

Tempests of color and rivers of passion inhabit his canvases. Suns of joy, storms of pain and memories of love fuse together. There has been an evolution in the abstract cosmogony with which this young painter began; the cosmogony composed of vital elements—fire, earth and water—melded with corporeal elements: love, passion, pain. Reds, yellows, blacks and silvers run together to produce a symphony of feelings—intense, albeit

not always happy. The combination of reds and blues, achieving not only a visual but an emotional contrast, is particularly dear to him.

Alejandro Gómez Oropeza is a nocturnal being who may find his inspiration under the light of the moon or just as easily under the lights of a discotheque where bodies free themselves, adrenaline flows and euphoria awakens our senses. He makes these comments on the series *Untamed Thoughts*, which he created in just such a context:

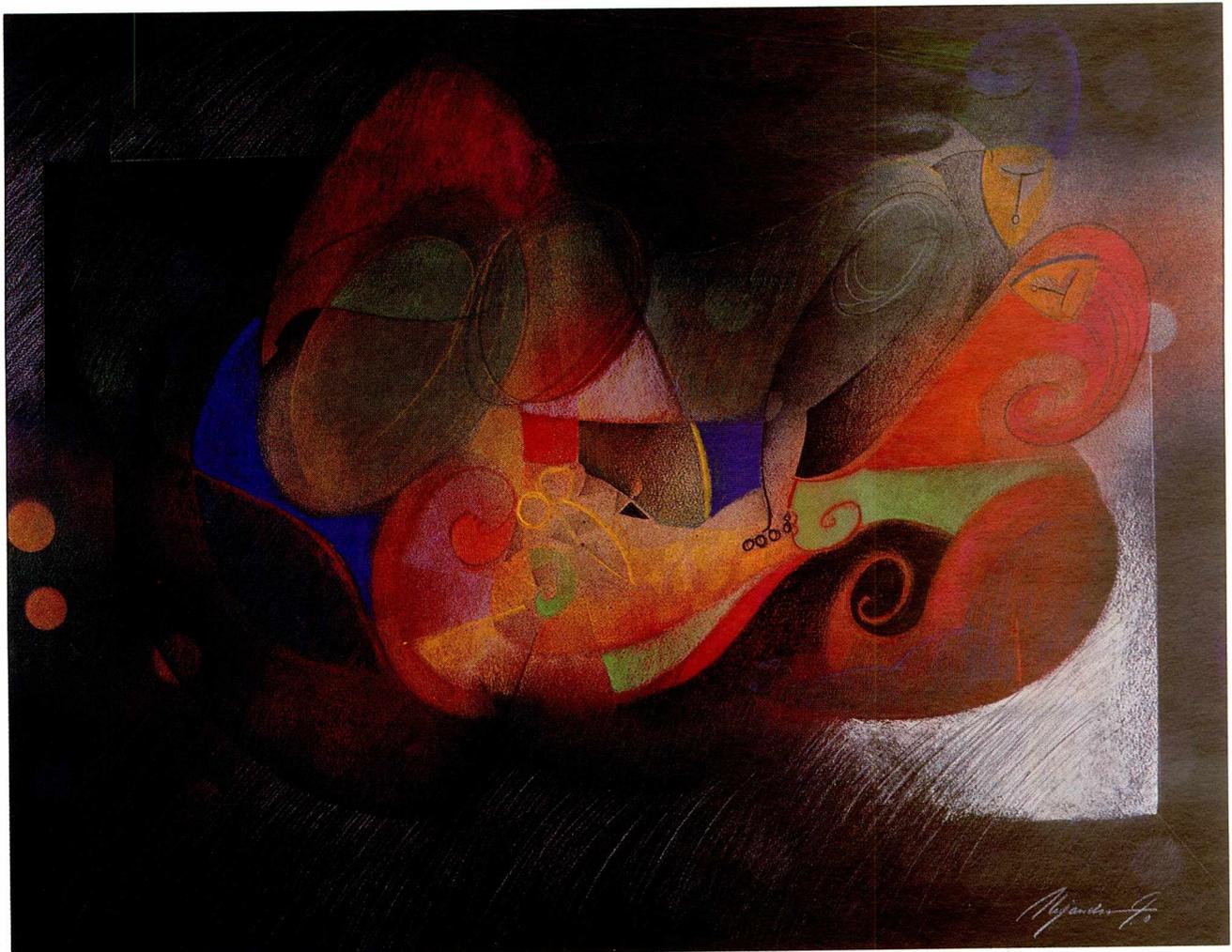
Night patiently awaits her guests, beings who live and experience a flow of blood intensely charged with electricity, with the desire to live. Euphoria takes possession of the senses, reality disappears and the stage lights up. New and joyful beings move among us. Thoughts dance to the rhythm of sensuality. Bodies brush against each other, the lights blind us, the shouting begins. Inanimate beings walk from here to there. The night is their accomplice, their refuge, their fictitious reality. The ritual is carried out. Untamed thoughts consume themselves. The soul sets itself loose. The body does not understand.

He paints the darkness which surrounds us together with silence. In his works we meet bulls and bullfighters who fuse together, jointly celebrating the *fiesta brava* (bullfighting—literally, the "brave festival"); or women dancers who idolize the moon, their clothes flowing into the horizon.

The work of Alejandro Gómez Oropeza, with its European, African and Mediterranean influences, has stood out thanks to his dedication and love for art. Intense travel, through which he learned the art and culture of other countries, has impelled the vision of his painting, which becomes stronger every day 

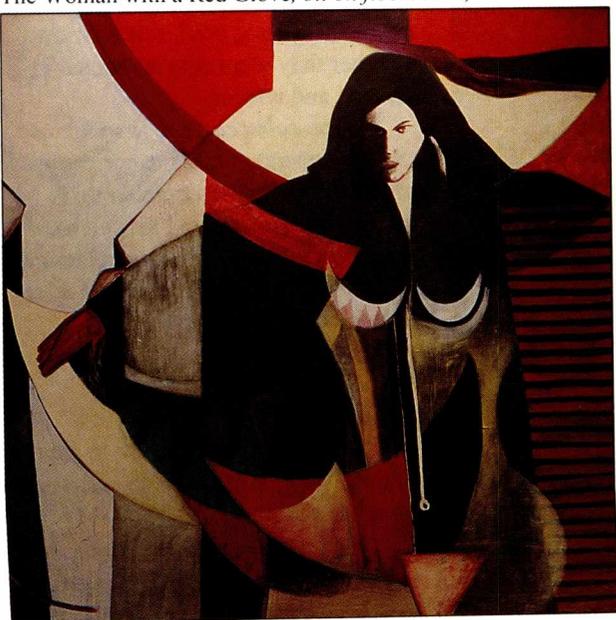


With a Bull in the Belly,
oil on fiberboard, 1995.



Night Scene, mixed media on paper, 1994.

The Woman with a Red Glove, oil on fiberboard, 1993.



Bull Moon, oil on canvas, 1995.

