



CONVERSATION WITH CHRIST BY CESAR GARCIA

ARCHBISHOP JOHN C. FAVALORA
ARCHIVE & MUSEUM

This catalog is published in conjunction with the art exhibition "CONVERSATION WITH CHRIST" on view at The Archbishop John C. Favalora Archive & Museum @ St. Thomas University Library, Miami Gardens, September 2020

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Front Cover: Cesar Garcia "*I came to serve*" 1991, 36 in. x 24 in. Acrylic on canvas

CONVERSATION WITH CHRIST BY CESAR GARCIA

September 29, 2020 – January 22, 2021

Archbishop John C. Favalora Archive & Museum



16401 NW 37th Avenue, Miami Gardens, FL 33054 | 305-628-6769

Curator's Statement

Cesar Garcia returns to Saint Thomas University with an exhibition created by the artist over twenty-five years ago, *Conversation with Christ*. This exhibit was previously shown at the National Museum of Catholic Art and History, and finally, it has arrived at the Favalora Museum.

My admiration for Cesar Garcia's works of art comes from the connection he makes between reality and abstraction. *Conversation with Christ* represents the intimate and profound connection of the artist with his own spirituality.

In each of his works of art, we notice how Garcia identifies his feelings through the figure of Christ. Each brush stroke strengthens each figure, becoming the key feature of his works.

Cesar Garcia invites us to enjoy a facet of his beginnings as an artist, and like most of his works, we are going to feel his emotions and intensity in his compositions.

Isabel Medina | Curator



Cesar Garcia

Artist

CESAR GARCIA EXHIBITION

Cesar Garcia's "Conversation with Christ" follows the artist's soul-searching journey to find God during a time of personal struggle that led to self-discovery. Through his art, Garcia found a new way of navigating the challenges he faced by expressing himself on canvas through his depictions of Christ. Garcia recalls this time as a pivotal period in his growth as an artist and a moment of self-realization. This body of work has only been viewed at the National Museum of Catholic Art and History.

Since this period, Garcia's style has evolved over the last three decades, and he has explored other modes of expression that are uniquely representative of Garcia's profound talent. Although his approach on canvas was as deep and complex as his work is today, Garcia's style in his earlier work differs greatly as if a different artist created them. Garcia has stated that during this time, he was in a different frame of mind and looked for guidance from a higher power. Not surprisingly, Garcia found his way and came to the realization that everything is possible with God.

Garcia has ultimately decided he will never go back to create art in this style since his spirit has recovered and found a new way of life. He continues to transcend his method of expression by exploring new styles, themes, and motifs in his work while continuing his soul-searching journey. As a self-taught artist, Garcia continues in his work to investigate endlessly of matters related to one's human existence in the universe and navigating through life's unanswered questions.

Born in Havana, Cuba, in 1961, Cesar Garcia immigrated to the United States in 1969. At a very young age, his early encounters with art took place at the studio of his uncle, artist Erasmo Gonzalez, who trained at the renowned San Alejandro Academy of Arts in Havana. Garcia is highly regarded as an important Cuban-American contemporary artist of his generation. His unique paintings mark his fusion of abstraction with figuration with a surrealist approach. While some paintings explore various shades of gray, others fixate on one specific color. Through his depictions of dynamic and complex landscapes, Garcia creatively connects various cultural elements and symbols in an emotive form entirely his own. He recurrently uses symbols that have a profound meaning for him and his artistic message. His chess game pieces, portrayed in diverse form and size, express the role of humanity in history and time. They interact with a zeppelin shape and round spaceships, which symbolize open doors to the infinite eternity that reminds the viewers of never-ending transformations. As in life, there is always pain or joy, death, and resurrection; the three Golgotha crosses delicately appear on his landscapes, developed every day more abstract, but also more meaningful and profound.



Parable

1993

Oil on canvas

24 in. x 30 in.



Without Sin

1993

Acrylic on canvas

24 in. x 35 in.



Don't Look for the Living among the Dead

1993

Acrylic on canvas

18 in. x 24 in.



More Will be Revealed

1992

Acrylic on canvas

18 in. x 24 in.



Cristo de Espalda

1991

Acrylic on canvas

24 in. x 20 in.



Baptism of Christ

1991

Acrylic on canvas

24 in. x 20 in.



Essene Sermon

1992

Acrylic on canvas

40 in. x 30 in.



I came to Serve

1992

Acrylic on canvas

36 in. x 24 in.



Christ

1992

Mixed media on board

7 in. x 5 in.



Top Left:
Christ, 1993
 Oil on canvas
 24 in. x 30 in.



Top Right:
Christ Thorn, 1993
 Acrylic on canvas
 40 in. x 30 in.



Bottom Left:
Christ in Blue, 1992
 Oil on canvas
 24 in. x 18 in



Bottom Right:
The One, 1992
 Oil on canvas
 24 in. x 18 in



Christ I

1991

Acrylic on canvas

24 in. x 20 in.

Top Left:

Savior, 1991

Acrylic on paper

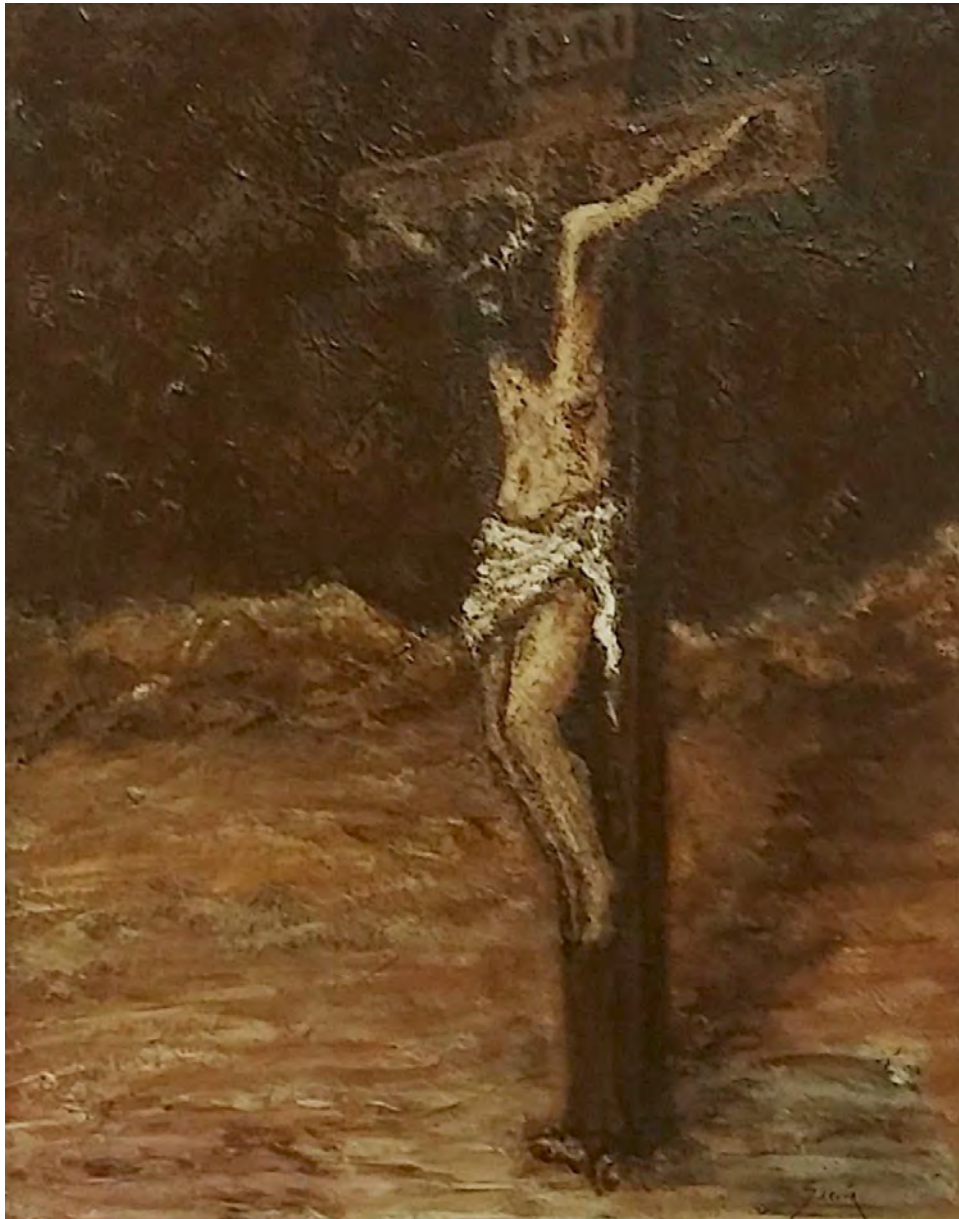
10 in. x 8 in.

Top Right:

Messiah, 1993

Acrylic on chalk board

14 in. x 11 in



Crucifixion

1992

Acrylic on canvas

20 in. x 16 in.

Courtesy of St. Thomas University Collection



Crucifixion

1992

Acrylic on canvas

30 in. x 20 in.



Ascension

2020

Acrylic on canvas

36 in. x 24 in.

St. Thomas is a Catholic university with rich cultural and international diversity committed to the academic and professional success of its students who become ethical leaders in our global community.



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