

## **Armando Reverón**

This retrospective exhibition introduces the work of the celebrated Venezuelan artist Armando Reverón (1889–1954) to international audiences. The exhibition is divided into sections of figurative and landscape painting, and also includes the life-sized dolls and many of the imitation practical objects that Reverón and his partner Juanita Ríos created to fill their secluded home in the small Caribbean village of Macuto. Early in his artistic career, Reverón painted coastal landscapes with monochromatic palettes imitative of the bright white light of the seashore. These highly tactile paintings are unique in early modernism, and seem to anticipate later monochromatic abstract art. Later, Reverón began to paint depictions of industrial activity in a nearby port. Reverón's figurative works seem to replicate the perceptual experience of puzzling out forms in shadowy interiors. Surprisingly, the subjects of these figure paintings were, increasingly, not human figures but Reverón's life-sized dolls. The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue, the first major publication on Reverón in English.

### **UPCOMING...**

#### **Reading Reverón, Painting Poetry**

Monday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.  
The Celeste Bartos Theater

A figurative and landscape painter who also created life-sized dolls later in his career, Armando Reverón experimented with the sensations and effects of light, color, opacity, and shadow. In this Spanish reading with English translations, poets recite works by Jorge Luis Borges, Octavio Paz, and others. The evening reveals the relationship between the pictorial qualities of poetry and Reverón's poetic qualities of painting.

Tickets (\$10; members \$8; students, seniors, and staff of other museums \$5) can be purchased at the lobby information desk and the Film desk, or online at [www.moma.org/thinkmodern](http://www.moma.org/thinkmodern).

For more information about Adult and Academic Programs, please visit [www.moma.org/thinkmodern](http://www.moma.org/thinkmodern).



Armando Reverón (Venezuelan, 1889-1954)  
*Self-Portrait with Dolls*  
*Autorretrato con muñecas*  
1948  
Charcoal, chalk, and pastel on paper  
25 1/2 x 28 9/16" (64.7 x 72.5 cm)  
Private collection  
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## **ARMANDO REVERÓN: ANOTHER MODERNITY?**

The Museum of Modern Art  
Wednesday, February 28, 2007  
6:00 p.m.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**John Elderfield**, Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture and organizer of the exhibition *Armando Reverón*

## PRESENTATIONS

"Ghosts among the Dolls: Armando Reverón and the Allegory of Painting"

**Luis Pérez-Oramas**, The Estrellita Brodsky Curator of Latin American Art, The Museum of Modern Art

"Doors to the World of Armando Reverón"

**María Elena Huizi**, Independent scholar, Caracas

"The Home-Made World of Armando Reverón"

**Susan Stewart**, Annan Professor of English, Princeton University; poet; and author of *The Open Studio: Essays on Art and Aesthetics* (2004)

## WHO'S WHO

In March of 2003, **John Elderfield** was appointed The Museum of Modern Art's Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Chief Curator of Painting and Sculpture. Prior to that, he served in various curatorial positions at the Museum since 1975. In addition to the exhibition of *Armando Reverón*, Mr. Elderfield has organized *Manet and the Execution of Maximilian* and *Henri Matisse: A Retrospective, The Drawings of Richard Diebenkorn*, among many others. Exhibitions he has co-organized include *Matisse Picasso*, *ModernStarts*, *Bonnard*, *Piet Mondrian 1872–1944*, and *Matisse in Morocco*. The author of numerous catalogues and essays, he has written extensively for many international art journals, and has lectured widely at universities and museums in the United States and abroad. He received the first Mitchell Prize in 1985 for an outstanding publication on twentieth-century art for *Kurt Schwitters*. His other publications include an edition of Hugo Ball's *Flight Out of Time*, *The Cut-Outs of Henri Matisse*, *Frankenthaler*, *Pleasuring Painting*, *The Language of the Body: Drawings by Pierre-Paul Prud'hon*, and *Modern Painting and Sculpture: 1880 to the Present at The Museum of Modern Art*. He is Editor-in-Chief of *Studies in Modern Art*, MoMA's annual scholarly journal founded in 1991. In addition to many awards and honors, he held a Harkness Fellowship at Yale University from 1970 to 1972, and was a recipient of a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973. In 1989, he was created a Chevalier des Arts et Lettres by the French government and, in 2006, he was promoted to Officier des Arts et Lettres. In April 2005, Time Magazine named him one of the World's 100 Most Influential People of the Year.

**María Elena Huizi** is an art historian, museologist, writer, editor, and cultural manager. She is also a member of the Proyecto Armando Reverón (PAR), an institution dedicated to the research and exchange of the works of the Venezuelan artist. In 1978, she became a member of the planning and funding committee for the Center of Research and Documentation and Diffusion for the Plastic Arts of Latin America (Centro de Investigación y Documentación y Difusión para las Artes Plásticas de América Latina), which is affiliated with the Museum of Fine Arts. She later became its Director. She has previously held the positions of Assistant to the Head Editor, Monte Avila Editores, Caracas; Manager of Museum Projections of the National Art Gallery Foundation, Caracas;

## WHO'S WHO (cont'd)

President of the Armando Reverón Museum, Caracas – Macuto; and President of the Museum of Fine Arts, Caracas. In addition to numerous essays, articles, and poems, she is the author of *Artes plásticas en Venezuela. Una mirada*; *Sabiduras y otros textos de Gego*; and *Armando Reverón. Una Guía de Estudio* (Introduction).

A writer, poet, and art historian, **Luis Pérez-Oramas** received his PhD in Art History at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, in 1994. He was a Professor of Art History at the Université de Haute Bretagne-Rennes 2; at the Ecole Régionale Supérieure des Beaux Arts de Nantes; and at the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Artes Plásticas Armando Reverón, Caracas. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Gallery of Art of Venezuela and Curator of the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Caracas. He is currently The Estrellita Brodsky Curator of Latin American Art at MoMA. He curated, among many other exhibitions, *Geometric Abstraction: Latin American Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection*; *Armando Reverón: The Place of Objects*; *MoMA at El Museo: Latin American and Caribbean Art from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art*; *The Rhythm of Color: Alejandro Otero and Wyllis de Castro, Two Modern Masters in the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros*; and *Transforming Chronologies: An Atlas of Drawings*. Most recently, Pérez-Oramas collaborated with John Elderfield on the Armando Reverón retrospective at MoMA. A contributor to numerous publications, Pérez-Oramas is the author of *Armando Reverón, de los prodigios de la luz a los trabajos del arte*; *La década impensable y otros escritos fechados*; *Mirar Furtivo*; *La cocina de Jurassic Park y otros ensayos visuales*; *Gego: Anudamientos*; and *An Atlas of Drawings: Transforming Chronologies*. He has also published five books based on his poetry, including *Poemas*; *Salmos y boleros de la casa*; *La Gana Breve*; *Doble Siesta*; and *Gacelas y otros poemas*.

**Susan Stewart** is the Annan Professor of English at Princeton University. A poet, critic, and translator, she is the author of a number of books on literature and art, including *On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Gigantic, the Souvenir, and the Collection*; *Poetry and the Fate of the Senses*, which won both the Christian Gauss Award and the Truman Capote Award for literary criticism; and *The Open Studio: Essays on Art and Aesthetics*, a collection of her writings on contemporary art. Her most recent book of poetry, *Columbarium*, won the 2003 National Book Critics Circle award. She is a former MacArthur Fellow, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a current Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets.