

Fidel Ponce Ccana



Previous Page, Human labyrinth II, oil and acrylic on canvas, 34" x 28"
 This Page, right, Next to Marie-B II, oil, acrylic and watercolor on canvas, 36" x 25"

Finding His Voice

written by Valerie Kent

"I find in art a source to communicate my vision in life." Fidel Ponce Ccana

Fidel Ponce Ccana was born into a traditional family in Peru, the last and eighth child. This was the best of times: he had a western education coupled with the Inca tradition of his ancestors. He cherished the stories told by his grandparents coloured with the hues of the ancient mountains, the wonder of the music of the Incas.

He attended the National School of Fine Arts in Lima, the largest and oldest school in Peru achieving exemplary results and then top prizes in the country.

Finding Inspiration

Fidel valued his relationship with his teachers, particularly the renowned artist, Carlos Palma, who instilled in him an admiration for the techniques of the universal great masters.

"I believe that my technical knowledge is wide and includes the skills that are necessary to work in oil, acrylic, watercolour, pastel and pencil. My techniques for making paintings encompasses the Pre-Columbian symbols that are always present. I incorporate the essential being and the life of my people and that differentiates my aesthetic sensibilities from other artists.

For years I studied to understand the techniques of the old masters, including Rembrandt, Delacroix, Constable, and Godward and the essence of their work that is still regarded as so remarkable.

I feel that it is important to have knowledge of human anatomy and how to use the values of light and dark to influence brightness in my work to create the best effects. Perhaps today not as many artists learn classical art and its techniques."

When Fidel sees the art of other artists, he observes the artists' visual language and techniques.



He is interested in understanding what the artists are offering to our culture and the art is exciting and captivating, it becomes a great opportunity to learn from them.

In Lima, Fidel worked with a group of Quebec artists on an artistic project. Through this endeavor he received an invitation to visit and exhibit his paintings in Montreal.

He also believes that nature is the main source of inspiration for all creators: the forest, the animals, and the humans of good heart. An idea can come from an inspiring person, a beautiful moment or conversation. It can be sought from nature: it can be found when seeing another artist's work. Creativity may come with the demonstrations of love that the artist offers and welcomes daily.

To Become an Artist

"I started my studies in art without thinking of becoming an artist as a career. But life surprises us. Contact with oil paint changed everything; I fell in love with oils and brushes. Then came the moment of truth. I had to tell my traditional family that I would become an artist. I hesitated because I knew





above left, *Self-Portrait*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 32" X 25"

they would worry about my ability to make a life for myself.

One day I finally became brave enough to communicate my decision, even if they did not agree. However fortunately they agreed to continue their financial support of my studies."

Fidel feels that making a career in the arts, whether it is in the fine arts, music, or theatre, it requires a lot of sacrifices. If a person starts to take creating

art seriously, it is important to acknowledge that the profits may be more emotional than monetary. He expresses that for those that love art and work as artists, it may be for the sake of making a creation and not necessarily to make money. He believes monetary success may come as a consequence of professional success, but even that is not a guarantee.

"For all artists there are several difficult things to



above right, *Cold Memories*, oil and acrylic and on cotton, 36" x 28"

consider. The artist must discover a voice in a progressive, natural way, without pressure to find an individual language, and at the same time to be able to fit into the market.

The more original an artist is, the more indifferent art collectors may be. A professional artist must be sincere, and comfortable with the work that is being produced and have a good self-esteem because it is a guess as to whether or not acceptance will come. It

may take 30 or 40 years to find the best of an artist's techniques and creativity. "

There are valuable lessons to be learned as an artist. The work of painting requires artists to be disciplined, working long hours without waiting for spontaneous inspiration. Art is a philosophy of life, a way of seeing and making a life; work as an artist is not finished when the artist stops painting. It continues even when the artist is asleep.

right, Balance, oil and acrylic on canvas, 39" X 39"

Perseverance is necessary. If someone wants to live art, it may require having to do a parallel activity, buying freedom to live and pay for materials.

Making Paintings

"When I find an inspiring live model, I try to develop a friendship. This relationship is a dance between the model and the artist. It is similar whether that creativity inspires music, literature or some daily activity. It helps my spontaneity, which enriches my visual language."

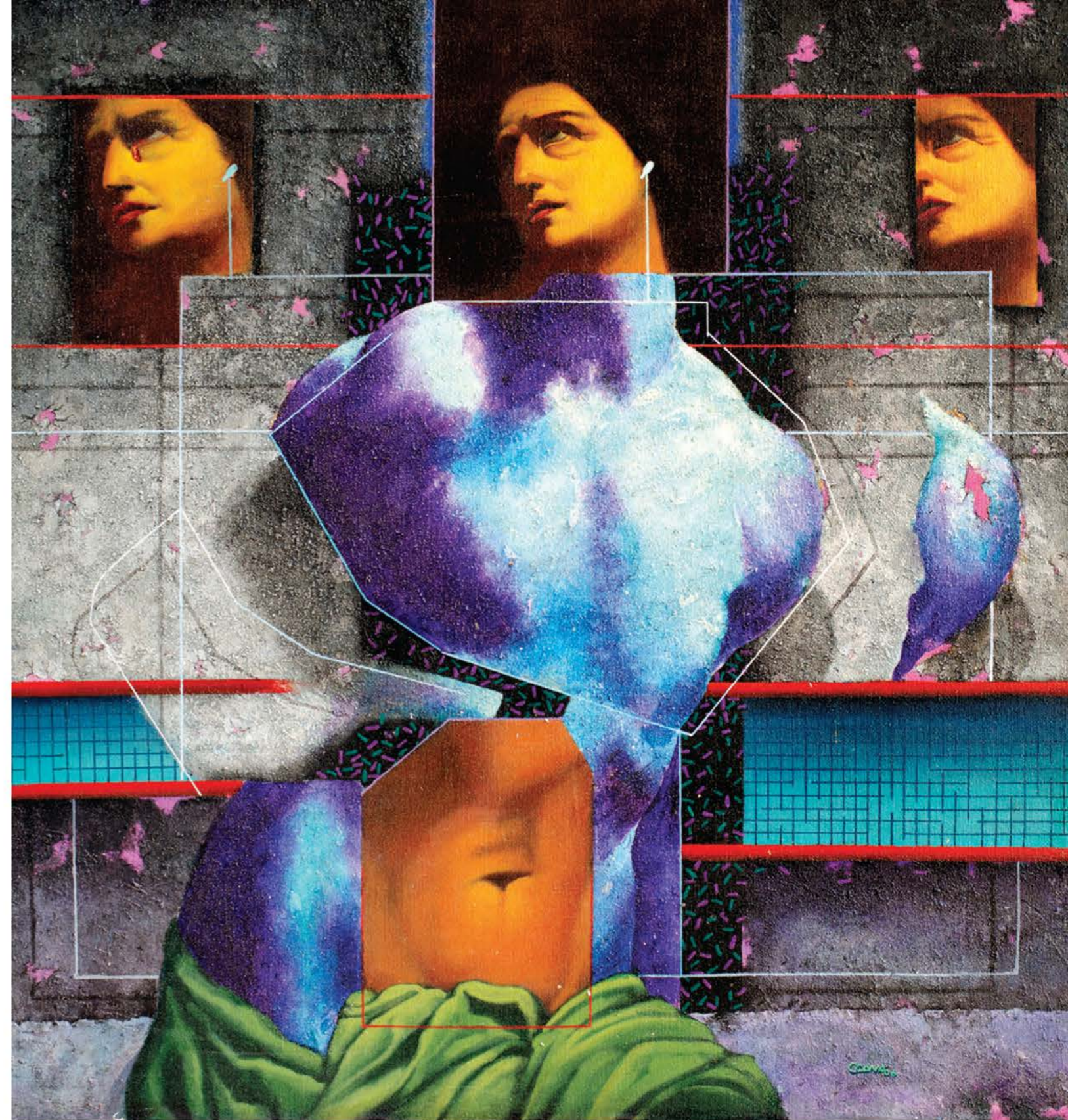
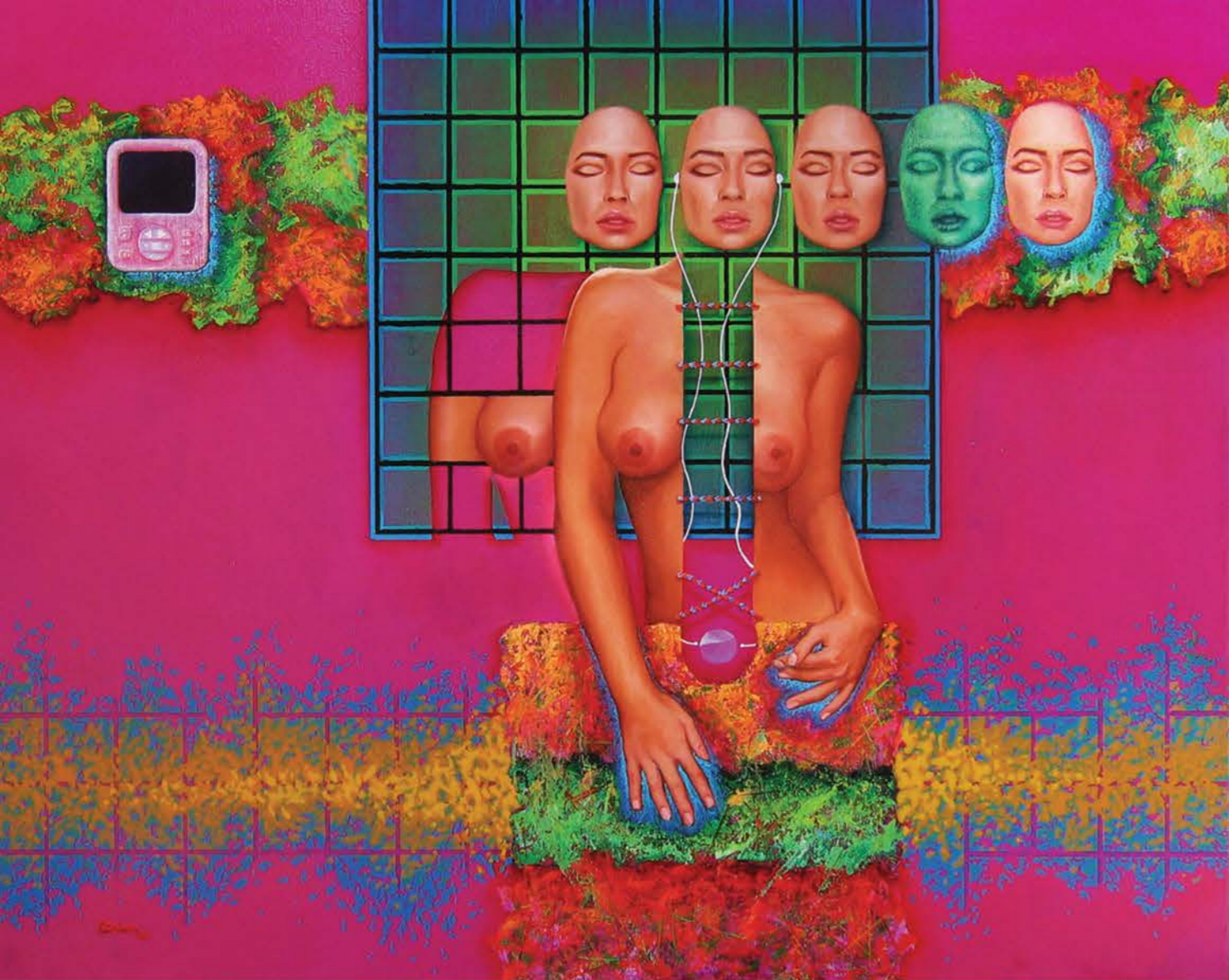
Fidel's favourite style to paint in is Hyperrealism and his subjects are most often nudes. Following the movement called Photorealism in which a photograph is reproduced as an exacting painting, Hyperrealism reaches for another plateau. The artists incorporate elements in the narrative of the photograph that then elevates the level of reproduction to something that may never have existed.

This precise and skilled, high-level visual storytelling encompasses the drama, romance, reality, emotion, personality, beauty and charm, that which is not inherent in a photograph. This is a refining of the Hyperrealistic style that was introduced in 1973





СОВА
Триль Рене Савана



by Isy Brachot of Brussels. Hyperrealism becomes a more complex, softer focus work.

Fidel starts his paintings by constructing his own support. He selects the wood, cutting it to the size he wants to paint. Then he stretches cotton or linen canvas over his handmade stretcher. He continues that with an application of transparent gesso and finally he starts to work with pencil.

He creates the image of the live model chosen for the specific painting. The image of the model is developed into the main character, telling a visual story. Following that he applies acrylic and watercolour paints and as a last step he brushes in the oil paint. This requires the most delicate of touches.

Making a Life in Art

Fidel lives in an old Italian quarter that is always quiet and has a force of tradition. This is also his studio. He believes it feeds his psyche when he needs to begin painting a new canvas. He has two cats that give him lots of love every day.

His favourite place is the heart and hearth of the home, the kitchen. Every time he stops painting he starts to cook. This, he feels, is another way of expressing the beauty of life. He loves making soups for his friends. In the summer, he rides his mountain bike and enjoys getting out in nature. On weekends he visits interesting exhibitions or meets friends at a Peruvian restaurant. His favorite food is ceviche, a

Previous Page, *The Three Sentiments*, oil and acrylic and on cotton, 36" x 28"
 This Page, above left, *iPersonality*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 39" X 36"
 above right, *Saint-Sebastian Imprisoned*, oil, acrylic and watercolor on cotton, 31" X 31"

right, *The Guilty*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 34" x 28"



time-honoured dish made of raw fish and lime. He also enjoys making furniture for artists.

Currently he is working on a new series of large format paintings: the theme is based on traditions, those of ancient and current times. He is collaborating with writer, Leolane Kemner. The Ccana painting will appear in his next book.

In recent years he has enjoyed working on a number of commissions. They add to his repertoire of style and technique.

"Every time I decide to rest, I still end up doing painting. It fills my life with love and spiritual peace, without which it is difficult to express my spirit, to speak the soul."

To see more of the incredible work of Fidel please visit:

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