

## **Olmedo Quimbita**

Olmedo Quimbita was born in Latacunga, Ecuador, on June 1, 1963, the son of Rafael Quimbita, a wealthy merchant and farmer, and Zoila Panchi, who helped her husband in his business. He was the youngest of five siblings. He studied elementary school at the Numa Pompilio Llona school, where he excelled in athletics. In 1977 he was already drawing and like his father he was a friend of the outstanding oil painter Manuel Cangui.

In 1981 the family settled in Quito. The change was beneficial for the incipient training of the young artist and at the same time that he was studying the first courses of secondary school at the Seis de Diciembre public school, he visited the Museum of Colonial Art of the Municipality and the Museum of Modern Art of the House of Culture.

In 1986 he thought it convenient to leave the country. He traveled to Caracas, where he was well received. The four paintings that he brought from Quito as proof of his skill, he immediately sold to a lawyer who was a friend of his hosts.

In 1987 he began to paint horses and riders, and exhibited at racetracks in Caracas and Valencia. In 1989 he showed his works at the INCE art gallery and at the Caracas Municipal Museum. He was already known to the great Venezuelan painters, among them Jesús Soto.

In 1992, he showed his photographs, catalogs, and press clippings to Bolívar Torres, from the Cultural Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Quito, who scheduled an itinerant exhibition for him in southern South America.

In 1997 he proposed to his friend Manuel Romero, Ecuador's ambassador to Egypt, to hold an exhibition in Tel Aviv and another in Cairo. The Egyptian capital amazed him for its exoticism. He then visited Jerusalem, returned to Cairo and exhibited at the Cervantes Institute.

That same year he traveled to Madrid. His visits to museums, libraries and theaters brought him numerous friendships and even a collective presentation at the Convention Stand. Back in Egypt, in 1998 it was presented at the Opera House gallery palace.

In the year 2000 he lived in Bogotá and Medellín. In the first he exhibited at the Santillana Foundation and in the second at the Confama room and at the Sheraton hotel. In 2001 he returned to Paraguay. In Asunción he exhibited at the National Museum of Fine Arts. The same year he had exhibitions in Uruguay, London and Russia, where his work was described as "a journey of life between reality and dreams" at the Muscovite Museum of Modern Art in Moscow.

At the beginning of 2002 he returned to Guayaquil. Since then he has been in his homeland, with a workshop facing the sea on the beaches of Olón. Not very tall, small eyes, straight black hair, extroverted and vital, Olmedo Quimbita is one of the great Ecuadorian painters.