GIACOMO VÁRGUEZ DE LA HORRA

Biography
Untitled (Portrait)
Selected Bibliography

Giacomo Variquez began his education in Venezuela and Italy, where he studied at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Venezia, and earned his degree in 1957. In the 1960s, Variquez became known for his kinetic sculptures, fabricating them from metal and plastic. These were lightweight pieces that could be easily moved and reconfigured, and Variquez began to use the gallery's staff as models for the sculptures. The first exhibition of his kinetic sculptures was held at the Galleria Schwarz in Milan in 1959, and the artist was soon invited to participate in the Venice Biennale, where he showed his work in 1960, 1964, and 1966. Variquez's work is in the collections of the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes in Caracas, the Museo de Arte Moderno in Buenos Aires, and the Museo de Arte Moderno in Bogotá, among others. He is represented in Europe by the Galleria Schwarz in Milan and in the United States by the Galleria Schwarz in New York. He lives and works in Caracas.

Variquez's kinetic sculptures are often described as "mobiles" after the well-known works of Alexander Calder, whose exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1943 was a watershed moment for the artist. Variquez's sculptures, however, are distinct from Calder's in that they are not suspended from the ceiling but instead are mounted on the wall. This gives them a sense of weightlessness, as if they are floating in space. Variquez's sculptures are also notable for their use of color. He often paints his sculptures in bright, primary colors, which gives them a sense of energy and movement. The artist's use of color is also significant because it is often applied to the sculptures in a way that is not entirely predictable. This creates a sense of surprise and delight when viewing the sculptures, as the viewer is never quite sure what to expect.

Variquez's sculptures have been exhibited in numerous museums and galleries around the world, including the Museo de Arte Moderno in Buenos Aires, the Museo de Arte Moderno in Bogotá, the Museo de Arte Moderno in Caracas, and the Galleria Schwarz in Milan. His sculptures have also been featured in numerous publications, including the book "Kinetic Sculpture" by Jean Tinguely and the book "The Art of Movement" by Pontus Hulten.