

cecilia brunson projects

Dignora Pastorello (b. 1913, Banfield – d. 2001, Buenos Aires) was an Argentine painter whose lifelong dedication to her practice established her as a singular figure within twentieth-century Argentine art. At the age of fifteen, convinced that painting was her vocation, she enrolled at the National School of Fine Arts in Buenos Aires, later refining her training between 1953 and 1957 in the studios of Jorge Larco, Ramón Gómez Cornet, and Luis Centurión. Working with remarkable discipline throughout her life, she maintained a daily studio practice that remained central to her identity and artistic production.

By the late 1950s, Pastorello had begun exhibiting regularly in solo and group exhibitions and became the only woman member of the artist collective *Grupo Cinco*, through which she expanded her public presence. In 1967, she was invited to participate in *Primitivos actuales de América (Contemporary Primitives of America)* in Madrid. Her work subsequently toured several Italian cities alongside that of twelve Argentine painters, was exhibited in Washington as part of a presentation of naïve painting, and appeared in exhibitions in Ecuador and Mexico. Between 1959 and 1985, she received approximately twenty awards in national and provincial salons, where her paintings were consistently selected for exhibition.

An attentive observer of the world around her, Pastorello relied on memory and sketches rather than photographs, transforming daily experience and extensive travels into highly personal compositions. Cats, poetry, music, and classical literature were enduring sources of inspiration throughout her life, while painting remained, in her own view, her primary language of expression.

Her work is represented in major public collections throughout Argentina, including the Fine Arts Museums of Avellaneda, Campana, Catamarca, Luján, and Posadas; the Genaro Pérez Municipal Museum of Fine Arts in Córdoba; the Museum of Modern Art of Buenos Aires; the Museum of the National University of La Plata; the Museum of the Sea in Mar del Plata; and the Museum of Modern Art of Mendoza, among others. Her paintings are also held in private collections in Argentina and internationally.

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Dignora Pastorello

b. 1913, Banfield

d. 2001, Buenos Aires

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 Dignora Pastorello: A Strange Modernity, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2022 Querida Dignora, Calvaresi Gallery, Buenos Aires Argentina

1983 Pastorello – Paintings, Private Art Gallery, Santa Fe, Argentina

1967 Dignora Pastorello, Julia Brané Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1967 Dignora Pastorello, Museum of Fine Arts of Luján, Artistic Heritage Fund, Luján, Argentina

1966 Dignora Pastorello, Witcomb Galleries, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1964 Pastorello L., Rubbens Galleries, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1963 Pastorello L., Witcomb Galleries, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1963 Dignora Pastorello, El Taller Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1961 Pastorello L., Historical and Arts Museum of Morón, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1960 Pastorello L., Witcomb Galleries, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Selected Group Exhibitions

1998 Collective Exhibition, Bodo Gallery, Argentina

1983 Pastorello, Spili: Art Gallery for Friends, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1978 Pastorello – Paintings, Martina Céspedes, Arts and Books, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1976 14 Painters in San Telmo, Proarte Hall, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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- 1972 Opening Exhibition, Municipal Museum of Fine Arts of Chascomús, Chascomús, Argentina
- 1972 The Naïve (Los ingenuos), San Martín Cultural Center, Department of Culture of the Municipality of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1967 Argentine Artists, Municipal Museum of Modern Art, Mendoza, Argentina
- 1967 Primitivos Actuales de América, Instituto de Cultura Hispánica, Madrid, Spain
- 1966 Pastorello – Fadul, Diálogos Gallery, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1963 5 Painters: Fadul – Taboas – Ibarra – Pastorello – Vuono, Witcomb Galleries, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1962 XXI Art Hall of Mar del Plata, Ministry of Education, Department of Culture of the Province of Buenos Aires, Grand Provincial Hotel, Mar del Plata, Argentina
- 1962 Five Painters Group (El Grupo Cinco), Artists Association (Asociación Gente de Arte), Avellaneda, Argentina
- 1960 5 Painters, Witcomb Galleries, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Selected Awards

- 1985 First Prize, Fine Arts Cerealista Hall, Exchange Market of Buenos Aires
- 1983 Acquisition Award, Horacio Butler Prize, LX Annual Hall of Santa Fe (Painting Section), Provincial Museum of Fine Arts Rosa Galisteo de Rodríguez, Santa Fe
- 1980 Second Prize, IV Cerealista Fine Arts Hall, Exchange Market of Buenos Aires
- 1979 Honour Mention, VII Municipal Fine Arts Hall of Avellaneda
- 1978 Acquisition Award, Antonio Colombo de Saivonini, Santa Fe Hall
- 1978 Eduardo Sívori y Matea Vidich de Sívori Prize, National Hall

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- 1977 First Prize, IV Salón Barrios de Buenos Aires
- 1976 Honour Award, Tandil Hall
- 1975 Silver Badge, Tuscany Hall, Florence, Italy
- 1974 First Prize, National Hall of Tierra del Fuego
- 1974 Scholarship Award, Italian Government for Studies in Europe
- 1972 II Prize, Municipal Club of the City of Buenos Aires; Gold Medal, Isidoro Ricardo Steinberg Foundation
- 1972 First Prize, Municipality of Vicente López
- 1969 Mention and Honour Medal, Argentine Centre for Social Research
- 1969 Second Prize, Municipal Club of the City of Buenos Aires
- 1968 Honour Award, Curuzú Cuatiá Hall, Corrientes Province
- 1967 Benito Quinquela Martín Prize, National Hall
- 1967 Second Prize, San Fernando Hall
- 1966 Laura Bárbara de Díaz Award, National Hall
- 1965 Acquisition Award, Avellaneda Hall
- 1965 Special Mention, National Hall
- 1965 Second Prize, Campana Hall
- 1965 Second Prize, San Fernando Hall
- 1962 Acquisition Award, Avellaneda Hall
- 1961 IV Award, Santa Fe Hall
- 1959 Piccardo Prize, Autumn Hall

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Selected Public Collections

Fine Arts Museum, Avellaneda, Argentina

Fine Arts Museum, Campana, Argentina

Fine Arts Museum, Catamarca, Argentina

Fine Arts Museum, Luján, Argentina

Fine Arts Museum, Posadas, Argentina

Genaro Pérez Municipal Museum of Fine Arts, Córdoba, Argentina

Museum of Modern Art of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Museum of Modern Art of Mendoza, Mendoza, Argentina

Museum of the National University of La Plata, La Plata, Argentina

Museum of the Sea, Mar del Plata, Argentina