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Feliciano Centurión (Paraguay, 1962-1996)

Feliciano Centurión was born in San Ignacio, in the southern region of Paraguay. He was raised by his mother and grandmother in an ultra-conservative and catholic society, and the family were exiled to Argentina in 1973 under the dictatorship of Alfredo Stroessner. His work employs embroidery and textile, crafts traditionally practiced by women and which are central to Paraguayan culture since the Triple Alliance War, when the country lost ninety percent of its male population. Centurión moved to Buenos Aires in 1980 to study at the national art schools. In the 1990s, he became a core member of the Arte Light movement, centred around the Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas (El Rojas). Centurión exhibited several times at El Rojas, in many ways exemplifying the aesthetic choices of that generation of artists, whose explorations of subjectivity incorporated a kitsch and exuberant, almost Baroque style.

After being diagnosed with HIV, Centurión worked in increasingly small and intricate formats. He embroidered animals and mythical beings, in keeping with Paraguay's Guaraní weaving traditions, and used his own text, too, often in reference to his ill-health. In common with Félix González-Torres, ACT UP, José Leonilson, and General Idea, the use of sentiment and traditionally feminine visual languages puts Centurion at the centre of this generation of artists who began to explore gender and sexuality in the 1990s. Although his career was tragically short, he remains a central but little-recognized figure of recent contemporary art history.

Centurión's work has been celebrated in a number of recent solo exhibitions, including *Telas y Textos* at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts, US (2023), *Feliciano Centurión: Abrigo*, Americas Society, New York, US (2020) and *Feliciano Centurión: I am Awake*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK (2019). He was also exhibited at the 13th Shanghai Biennale, *Bodies of Water* in 2021, and the 33rd Bienal de São Paulo, *Affective Affinities* (2018), and has been included in important recent group exhibitions including *Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art*, Barbican, London and Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (2024-5), *Threads to the South*, ISLAA, New York (2024) and *Every Moment Counts—AIDS and its Feelings*, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo, 2022. Cecilia Brunson Projects represents the artist's estate and works closely with Feliciano's family.

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Feliciano Centurión

Born in San Ignacio, Paraguay, 1962-1996

Education

Prilidiano Pueyrredon School of Fine Arts, Buenos Aires

School of Fine Arts of the Nation, Ernesto de la Corcova, Buenos Aires

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2023	Telas y Textos, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, New York, US
2022	Feliciano Centurión, Galeria Millan, São Paulo, Brazil
2020	Feliciano Centurión: Abrigo, Americas Society, New York, US
2019	Feliciano Centurión: I am Awake, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK
2016	National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Ireland
2013	Feliciano Centurión: Las intensidades de la belleza, Centro Cultural de España Juan de Salazar, Asunción, Paraguay
2012	Bocetos y dibujos. Papeles previos by Feliciano Centurión, Galería Alberto Sendrós, Buenos Aires, Argentina
2004	Feliciano Centurión, Galería Alberto Sendrós, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1999	Feliciano Centurión — Últimas obras, Centro Cultural de España Juan de Salazar, Asunción, Paraguay
1997	Galería Ruta Correa, Freiburg, Germany
1996	Centro de Artes Visuales Isla de Francia, Asunción, Paraguay
1994	Estrellar, Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas. Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1994	Feliciano Centurión, Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	Feliciano Centurión, La Galería, Manzana de la Rivera y Centro Cultural de la Ciudad, Asunción, Paraguay
1992	Pinturas: Feliciano Centurión, Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1992	<i>5 años en el Rojas,</i> Galería del Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

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1991	Al natural, Pequefia Galería, Asunción, Paraguay
1990	Frazadas: Feliciano Centurión, Galería Fábrica, Asunción, Paraguay
1987	Plntura de Feliciano Centurión, Galería Arte Sanos. Asunción, Paraguay
1985	Visiones, Sala de Exposiciones Aerolíneas Argentinas, Formosa, Argentina
1985	Pintura fresca, Sala de Exposiciones Aerolíneas Argentinas, Formosa, Argentina

Selected Group Exhibitions

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2024-25	<i>Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art</i> , Barbican, London, UK; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands
2024	Threads to the South, Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), New York, US
2022	Every Moment Counts—AIDS and its Feelings, Henie Onstad Kunstsenter, Oslo, Norway
2022	Eros Rising – Visions of the Erotic in Latin American Art, Institute for Studies on Latin American Art (ISLAA), New York, US
2021	Bodies of Water, 13th Shanghai Biennale, Shanghai, China
2019	Portadores de sentido: Arte contemporáneo de la Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Museo Amparo, Puebla, Mexico
2018	Affective Affinities, 33rd Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil
2011	Recovering Beauty. The 1990s in Buenos Aires, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, Texas, US
2011	Arte argentino actual en la colección de MALBA, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA), Argentina
2009	<i>El rojas: 20 años de artes visuales,</i> Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
2009	Escuelismo. Arte argentino de las 90, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Argentina
2007	Arte contemporaneo, MALBA—Fundacién Costantini, Buenos Aires, Argentina
2007	4 años: Colectiva, Galería Alberto Sendrós, arteBA 07. Buenos Aires, Argentina
2005	Exposicién de ayuda positiva, House of Lisa Swart of Fadul, Asuncion, Paraguay
2005	Diverse and Similar, Centro Cultural de España Juan de Salazar, Asunción, Paraguay
2002	Subjetiva. Belleza y felicidad en retrospectiva 1999— 2002, Galería Belleza y Felicidad. Buenos Aires, Argentina
1999	Szene Buenos Aires, Galerie Ruta Correa, Freiburg, Germany

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1997	El Tao del Arte, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1996	Salón Hugo del Carril - Premio Fundación Banco de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1996	Las Artes Plásticas en Formosa – Homena je a Feliciano Centurión, Fundación Crisólogo Larraide, Formosa, Argentina
1996	Frío / Caliente, Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1996	Objetos – 8 artistas de los países del mercosur, Salas de Exposiciones de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), Buenos Aires, Argentina
1996	Teko Paraguay, Maison de l'Amérique Latine, Paris, France
1994	5th Havana Biennial, Cuba
1994	Feliciano Centurión Mónica González, Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1994	Premio Fundación Nuevo Mundo, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1994	Tres Artistas Paraguayos, Galería Lertina, Montevideo, Uruguay
1994	Después del eclipse, Galería El Aleph, Asunción, Paraguay
1994	III Bienal Martel, Manzana de la Rivera y Centro Cultural de la Ciudad, Asunción, Paraguay
1994	90 60 90, Fundación Banco Patricios, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	Del borde, Fundación Banco Patricios, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	<i>Archipiélago</i> , Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Casa de la Cultural Mario Quintana, Porto Alegre, Brazil
1993	Los más jóvenes artistas de Ruth Benzacar, Galería Ruth Benzacar, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	Premio Fundación Nuevo Mundo, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	Premio Honorable Conse jo Deliberante, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	<i>Il Concurso, La ciudad convoca a sus creadores,</i> Honorable Consejo Deliberante de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	¡Viva la muerte!, Parakultural New Border, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1992	Premio Fundación Nuevo Mundo a la Nueva Pintura Argentina 1992 – Premio Especial, Antonio Seguí, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1992	Voces emergentes, Jornadas de la Crítica - Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1992	Algunos artistas, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1992	Segunda Bienal Martel de Pintura, Centro de Artes Visuales, Asunción, Paraguay

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1991	Preludio, Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1991	Cinco artistas Paraguayos, Galería Centoira, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1991	Fundación Amalia La Croze de Fortabat – Premio Jóven Pintura Argentina 1991, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1991	Bienvenida Primavera, Centro Cultural Ricardo Rojas, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1991	Premio Blades, Harrods en el Arte, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1990	Premio Martel de Pintura, Centro de Artes Visuales, Asunción, Paraguay
1990	Superficies iluminadas, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1990	Gráficos - Serigráficos, Pequeña Galería, Asunción, Paraguay
1989	Obrabierta 89, Centro de Artes Visuales, Asunción, Paraguay
1989	Premio Fundación Manliba, Centro Cultural Recoleta, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1988	Obrabierta 88, Centro de Artes Visuales, Asunción, Paraguay
1988	Tres por Tres, Centro de Arte y Comunicación, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1988	<i>Tres por Tres</i> , Museo Paraguayo de Arte Contemporáneo, Asunción, Paraguay Museu de Arte de Rio Grande do Sul (MARGS), Porto Alegre, Brazil
1986	De la Cárcova 1986, Centro Cultural de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires and Museo Municipal de Artes Plásticas Eduardo Sívori, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1985	50 Salón de Otoño, Centro Cultural las Malvinas, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1985	Concurso Homenaje de Jóvenes Pintores – Año Internacional de la Juventud, Centro Cultural de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
1982	Muestra Jóvenes Artistas, Estímulo de Bellas Artes, Asunción, Paraguay

Selected Awards and Honours

1996	Buenos Aires City Bank Foundation Award, Hugo Del Carril Hall, Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1994	New World Foundation, Prize of Prizes in Commemoration of the First, Five Years, National Museum of Fine Arts, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1993	New World Foundation Award for The New Painting Argentina 1993, Special Award Luz Castillo and Feliciano Centurion, National Museum of Fine Arts, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1992	New World Foundation Award, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina
1990	Third place at the Martel Biennial of Painting, Visual Arts Centre, Asunción, Paraguay

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1989

Award from the Manliba Foundation, Centro Cultural de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Selected Public Collections

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA) Museo Castagnino + Macro, Rosario, Argentina The Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat Art Collection, Buenos Aires