

Olympic Museum

Cristóbal Gabarrón, master of magnitude

The Olympic Museum is presenting, from 18 February through 13 June 1999, an exhibition by Spanish painter and sculptor Cristóbal Gabarrón. The works on exhibit at the Museum present, as the IOC President remarked, “an original vision of all the Games of the Olympiad”. The exhibition “is intended as the artist’s personal tribute to the international Olympic Movement”.

Cristóbal Gabarrón was born in Mula (Murcia) in April 1945, but in 1951 he moved permanently to Valladolid. In 1964 he gave his first exhibition of paintings, consisting of figurative pictures influenced chiefly by nature and the rural environment of the Castille countryside, but he soon developed in the direction of abstract art. On the basis of that experience there followed

exhibitions throughout Spain and, immediately after that, he began exhibiting abroad. He began to make a name for himself in the '70s and is now considered by international critics to be one of the most representative of recent generations of Spanish artists. He has given over a hundred exhibitions, both individually and with other artists, and has taken part in the most prestigious biennials. He has won numerous prizes worldwide and over 30 monograph books have been published on his work. He has produced murals, monuments and sculpture groups on all five continents. In 1986 the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) commissioned him to create the official commemorative stamp for the International Year of Peace. During the eighties he created decorative works for various universal events, such as the “His-

tory of Olympic Tradition” mural designed specially for the Games of the XXV Olympiad in Barcelona in 1992, in the baseball stadium in L’Hospitalet; the “92 Encounter” mural located in the Plaza de America at the time of the World’s Fair in Seville (EXPO ’92); the sculpture group “Twelve European Muses” permanently representing and symbolizing each country of the European Union in the New European Parliament in Brussels; the work “Atlanta Star - An Olympic Forest” commemorating the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996; and the symbols, logos and emblematic monuments of the World University Games “Universiada 99”.

In 1997, representing Spain, he was awarded the Painting Prize of the II Biennial of Mediterranean Encounters of Dubrovnik (Croatia).

At the beginning of 1998 he produced the “Ski-Jumper in Flight”, an official poster for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano in 1998, and “Dancing with the Ball”, for the 1998 World Cup in France.



Cristóbal Gabarrón in front of the Olympic Museum.