

SEBASTIAN IN SAN ANTONIO is a city-wide exhibition of more than one hundred works created during the last five decades by Mexican sculptor, Sebastian. Over the course of one year, like mathematically inspired poems, the brightly painted planes, points and lines that express a lifelong labour of love will grace the historic plazas and promenades of San Antonio.

Born Enrique Carbajal on November 16, 1947, in Santa Rosalia de Camargo, Sebastian has said that he was shaped by the light and color of his native state, Chihuahua, Mexico.

He describes some of his earliest artistic experiences as having occurred on the banks of the Conchos River, where as a child, he would model clay extracted from the earth into various shapes and forms.* At age seventeen, he enrolled at the Academia de San Carlos, one of the oldest art academies in the Americas now integrated with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. There he studied drawing, painting and sculpture. Inspired by the writings of Albrecht Durer and art movements of the late 1960s, minimalism, kinetic, optical and pop art, he studied and explored the nexus of science, art and technology eventually merging ideas to create a singular artistic expression described as “emotional geometry”.* His interest included Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometry, crystallography, topology, and fractal geometry, all of which he would employ as the “syllables, words and phrases” of a visual language that transforms space.*

Sebastian has had more than 235 exhibitions across the world. In 1983, he was made an honorary member of the Academy of Visual Arts, The Hague, Netherlands. He also is the recipient of many awards and prizes including: the 1999 Paris Medal, awarded in France, the Jerusalem Prize, awarded in 2005, and the National Prize of Arts and Sciences awarded by the Mexican Government in 2015. He has been honored with Doctorate degrees from six different Universities in Mexico (Universidad de la Laguna, Universidad de Chihuahua, Universidad de Colima, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Mexico) and the United States. (The City College of New York)

Recognized for the monumental sculptures today found on almost every continent on the planet, he is also an accomplished artist in other disciplines including painting, print making, performance, fashion, jewelry, architecture and industrial design.

In 2002, the city of San Antonio was gifted The Torch of Friendship, a colossal testament to an enduring tie in the complex history of two countries. Sebastian en San Antonio is also a colossal gift, his presence is one we shall long remember.

*SEBASTIAN SCULPTOR, edited by Hector Tajonar, Fundacion Sebastian 2009.

Arturo Infante Almeida, Exhibition Curator