

Antonio Machón Durango: Curriculum Vitae

Antonio Machón was born in Tierra de Campos (Palencia), Spain. He holds a degree in fine art from the San Fernando Faculty of Fine Arts, Madrid. He also studied psychology at the School of Psychology and Psychometrics of the Universidad Complutense in Madrid and trained as a teacher in Valladolid and Madrid

He was given the chair in art education at the teacher training college of the University of Valladolid in 1969 and at that of the Universidad Autónoma in Madrid in 1990. From 1969 to 2003 he taught art education at both university colleges.



In October 1973 he opened his first art gallery in Valladolid. Taking a chiefly educational approach, throughout its 10 years of existence he held exhibitions of the work of artists belonging to the so-called historical avant-garde (Picasso, Miró, Tàpies, Chillida, Saura, Millares, Guerrero, Sempere, etc.) and the following generations. In 1978 he established the 'Marzales' collection, a publishing project based on contributions from writers (such as E. Jabés, J.M. Ullán, J.A. Valente and José Hierro) and artists (A. Tàpies, A. Saura, E. Sempere and L. Gordillo, among others). He also published special editions of authors such as Virgil, Jorge Guillén and A. Gamoneda illustrated with etchings by Tàpies, Chillida, Guerrero among others.

Between 1968 and 1973 he staged several exhibitions of child art and delivered a number of lectures. In 1971 he embarked on a major research project on children's drawings. He carried out important field work between 1988 and 1995 with the collaboration of 617 students from the teacher training colleges. The total of **26,233** children's drawings collected was thoroughly catalogued by age and sex, resulting in the *archive of children's drawings*, the material on which his research is based.¹ During this period he was involved in several education commissions for updating teacher training programmes. He also delivered many lectures on children's drawing and art education and chaired public examinations committees for professorships and posts in art education at university teacher training colleges.

He opened his second gallery in Madrid in 1983. Continuing with the project begun at his previous gallery, he held exhibitions of the work of both accomplished artists (Tàpies, Chillida, Oteiza, Saura, Guerrero, etc.) and younger generations of up-and-coming artists.

He is a founding member of the ARCO international art fair in Madrid, in which he took part during its first 27 years, winning the prize awarded by the Spanish Society of Art Critics for the best stand in 1998 and 2002. He has also been an exhibitor at several international fairs such as Basel, Cologne and Paris and a jury member at numerous visual art competitions.

He was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts by Their Majesties the King and Queen in 1999.

In 2009 he published *Los dibujos de los niños. Génesis y naturaleza de la representación gráfica* ('Children's Drawings. The Genesis and Nature of Graphic Representation', CATEDRA, Madrid), the result of more than 35 years of research.

Further professional details can be found at: <http://www.antoniomachon.com>

The Spanish edition press: <http://www.dibujoinfantil.com/prensa.asp?sub=18>

As a complement and aid to promoting the book, we have launched a website on children's drawing (still unfinished), which can be viewed on my website. It will be translated into English as soon as the book is published in that language.

¹ This archive has been visited by prestigious psychologists such as J.S. Bruner (July 2010. Figs. 3 and 4) and also Elliot W. Eisner (on three occasions), who stated that it is 'probably the most important collection of children's drawings of its kind in the world'.