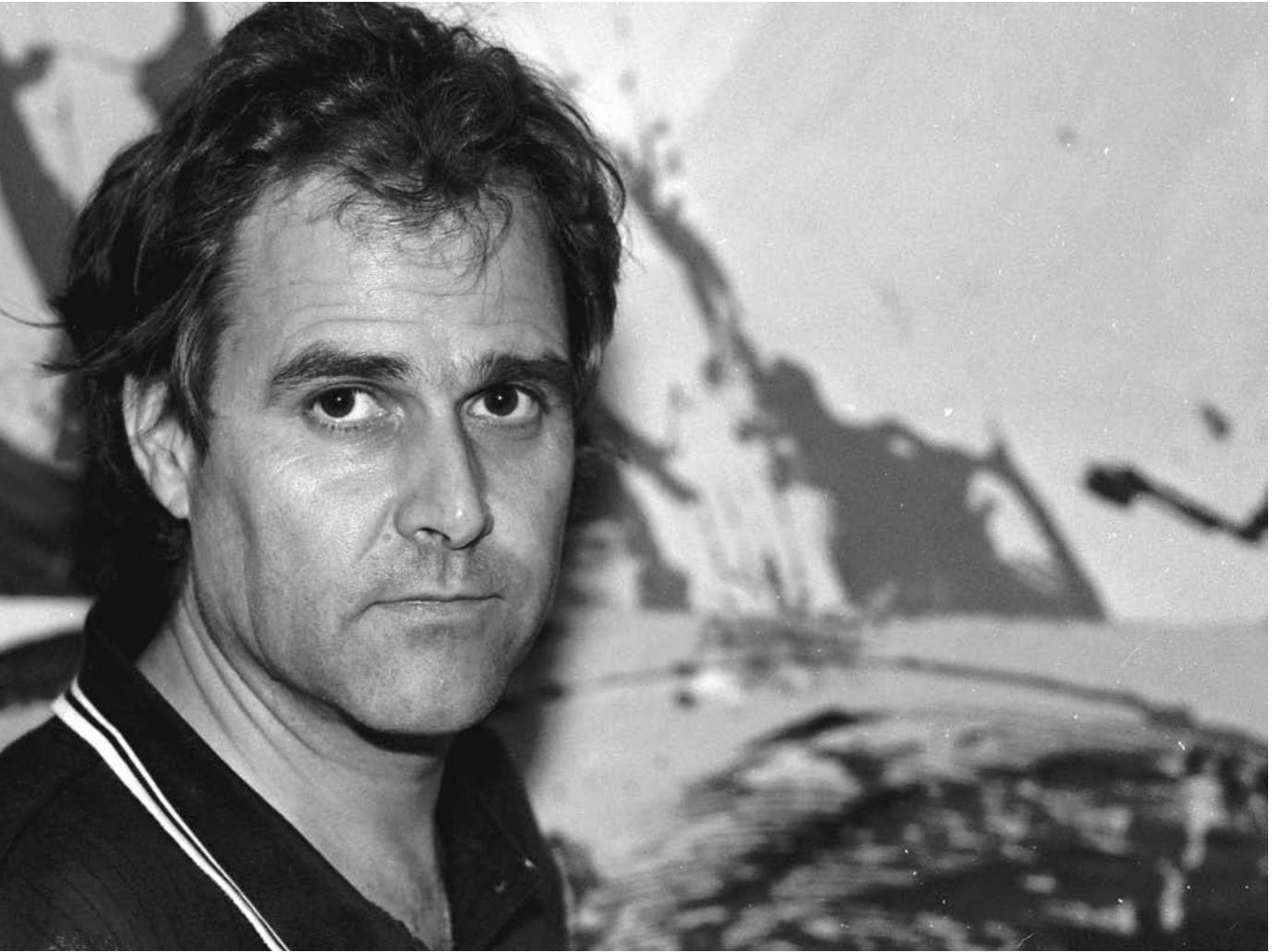


AGUSTÍ PUIG



Agustí Puig (Sabadell, 1957) began his career in the world of art under the influence of the transvanguard and highly influenced by the drawing style of comics and graphic design. His earliest period was of romantic landscapes, ending with him branching into reclaiming the roots of Pop Art. His time spent in New York, in 1992, meant a rethinking of his plastic priorities, where the density of material and gesture accompanied him in many incessant, creative transformations.

It is clear, therefore, that we see an artist influenced by the abstract and non-artistic material elements of artists such as Antoni Tàpies and the rapid, vigorous production of expressionists such as Pollock, who through the simplicity and dynamism of the gesture forge a path of introspection.

In his work, Agustí Puig adopts the human figure as an absolute protagonist of his creations and he conceives them through the purity of the lines and the nudity of the colour. The larger works are completely taken over by colossal beings that walk under the pressure of our thoughts: large heads that are supported by long, robust

legs that give way to feet of disproportionate size that are kept firmly on the ground. In this way he overcomes the doubts, the fears, the anxiety: fears that are intrinsic to human beings, which help us to find answers to the why of our existence.

Expressing himself through the use of materials inspired by nature, such as terracotta, ashes and the colour of ochre and clay, the artist, in the manner of a modern shaman, performs an exercise in self-reflection within his own psyche. He shows himself naked and free of all accessories that hide the universality of the purest values, those which, with the passage of time, have become corrupted and have been relegated to the background.

Woody Allen's latest film, *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, has brought Puig a lot of media attention as it counted on his artistic input as the creator of the works painted by Penélope Cruz and Javier Bardem's characters.

Currently, Puig is exhibiting at the recently inaugurated *Espai VolART 2*, of the Vila Casas Foundation, where he displays his most recent works.

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Fundació Vila Casas

Ausiàs Marc, 22

08010 Barcelona

Tel. +34 93 481 79 85

www.fundaciovilacasas.com