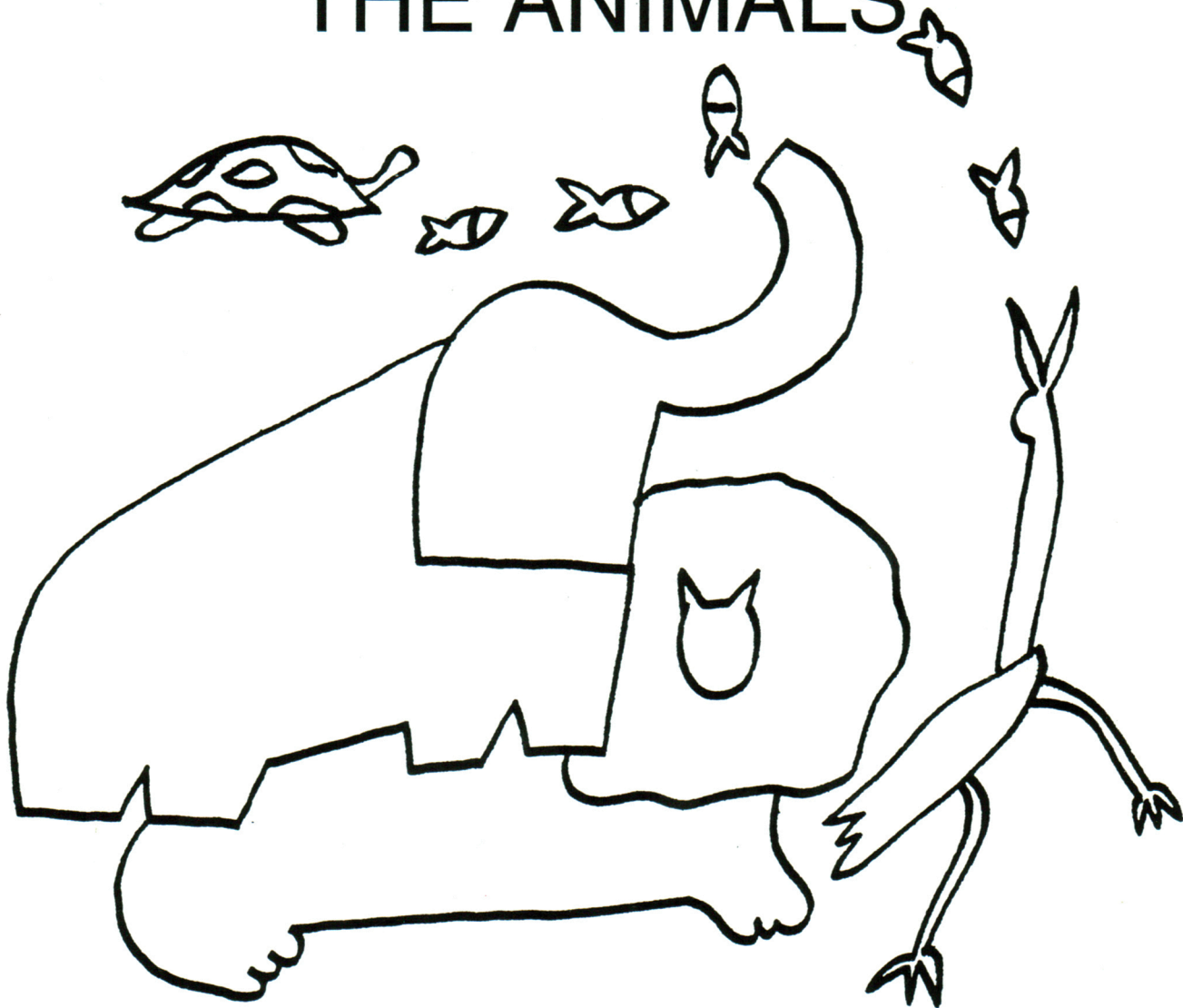


# THE CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS



Paintings by Cristina Rodriguez  
Inspired by the music of Saint-Saëns

## THE PUMP HOUSE GALLERY

Battersea Park, London SW11

Tel: 0181 871 7572

3 - 14 September 1997

Opening Times:

Wednesday - Saturday 11 -4pm

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

## **Introduction**

Cristina Rodriguez has been living and working in London since 1989. Her paintings, imbued with the powerful colours and sculptural forms of her native Colombia, take their inspiration from a wide variety of subjects, such as poetry, literature, music and her own life and travels.

The series of twenty-two paintings on exhibition at the Pump House Gallery is inspired by the music of Camille Saint-Saëns' "The Carnival of the Animals" which the composer wrote in 1886. When Cristina listened to the music for the first time, a powerful mélange of images of colourful birds, elephants, cuckoos in the woods, wild asses, sad tortoises and pleasant lions took shape in her imagination. She was fascinated by the variety of ingenious musical devices the composer used to sketch each animal.

Cristina's ability to transform her tangible subject-matter into a magical dream-scape renders her work unique, subtly titillating her audience. The present series of paintings epitomises Cristina's elaboration of a visual language that combines spontaneity with a magical cohesion of shapes and colours. The sensual quality of her paintings, accentuated by the liberally applied oil paint that creates a richly textured surface, is at one with the juxtaposition of real and surreal, of everyday and magic, of perceptible landscapes rooted in reality and surreal dream-scapes.

Through her command of a brilliantly coloured palette, Cristina takes the viewer on a wonderful magical voyage created by her vivid imagination. As she herself says, each one of her paintings tells a story. Influenced by her rich cultural heritage that combines the mysterious world of pre-Colombian civilisation with western history, Cristina fuses in her paintings the world's perceptible forms with many fantastic creatures, in a colourful carousel of carefully delineated shapes and spaces.

# Cristina Rodriguez

Born Colombia 1964

## Education

- 1983-1987 B.A. in Fine Arts  
University of Los Andes. Bogota, Colombia
- 1989-1991 M.A. in Fine Arts  
The Slade School of Fine Arts. London University

## Solo Exhibitions

- 1987 *Pictures at an Exhibition*  
Fundacion Alzate Avendano. Bogota, Colombia
- 1991 *My Gift to a Continent*  
Cadogan Gallery. London
- 1997 *The Carnival of the Animals*  
The Pump House Gallery, London

## Group Exhibitions

- 1987 *Los Nuevos Pintores de Bogota*  
Centro Colombo Americano. Bogota, Colombia
- 1988 *Nuevas Tendencias*  
Galeria Ventana. Cali, Colombia
- 1989 *30 Anos de Arte*  
Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango. Bogota, Colombia
- 1990 *Contemporary View*  
The Royal College of Art and Christie's. London
- 1991 *The Discerning Eye*  
Invited artist by Gillian Ayres. The Mall Galleries. London  
*Under the Eye of Saturn*  
Oriol Mostyn Gallery. Llandudno, Wales
- 1992 *The Ship of Fools*  
Acorn Gallery. Liverpool
- 1993 *Summer Show*  
Delfina Studios. London  
*The Affordable Art Company*  
Connaught Brown. London  
*Delta Gallery Exhibition*  
Delta Gallery. Harare, Zimbabwe
- 1994 *The Affordable Art Company*  
Connaught Brown. London
- 1997 *The Affordable Art Company*  
Connaught Brown. London
- 1997 *Colourists*  
Will's Art Warehouse. London

## Awards

- 1989 Scholarship for Outstanding Artists. Icetex: Government of Colombia
- 1990 The British Council Scholarship
- 1992 The Delfina Studios Scholarship. Delfina Studios Trust. One year residency
- 1993 Travel Scholarship to Zimbabwe for two months.  
Delfina Studios Trust
- 1995 Travel Scholarship to New York for two months.  
Delfina Studios Trust