



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information contact:**

Kathleen Glass  
Communications Manager  
Asheville Art Museum  
828.253.3227, ext. 116  
kglass@ashevilleart.org

**Shown left:** Esteban Vicente, *Kalani, Hawaii*, 1969, collage and paper on board, 46 x 50 inches. Private Collection. Courtesy of Jerald Melberg Gallery.

**Additional high resolution images available upon request.**

**Asheville Art Museum Celebrates Painting, Drawing and Collage  
by the late artist, Esteban Vicente, in New Exhibition**

**September 14, 2013 – January 12, 2014**

**Opening Reception: September 27 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

ASHEVILLE, NC— The Asheville Art Museum is pleased to present [\*Esteban Vicente: The Art of Interruption – Painting, Drawing, Collage\*](#), currently on view in the Museum's East Wing. **This exhibition will be celebrated with an opening reception on Friday, September 27, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.** (free with membership or regular Museum admission). Visitors interested in learning more about the artist and exhibition may also attend a **guided tour with Assistant Curator, Cole Hendrix, on Friday, November 1 from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. and a gallery talk with guest speaker and art scholar Daniel Haxall on Thursday, November 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

A member of the first generation of Abstract Expressionists and a core member of the New York School, artist Esteban Vicente (1903 – 2001) worked alongside artists such as Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman. During the course of his long and lauded career, he closely studied shape, light and the possibilities of pigment.

The artist completed his studies at the Real Academia de Bellas Artes in Madrid in 1924. In 1936, Vicente moved to New York and then to Philadelphia. During his first decade in the United States, Vicente exhibited at the Kleeman Galleries, the Bonestell Gallery, and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

By the late 1940's, Vicente was committed to exploring abstraction, giving up his earlier representational style of painting. In the 1950's, Vicente explored collage, integrating the

analytical cubism of Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, and Juan Gris into works that were highly animated.

Vicente briefly taught at the legendary Black Mountain College in the summer of 1953 alongside Joseph Fiore and Peter Voulkos, and by all accounts, had a lasting impact on his students' careers, including artists such as Dorothea Rockburne. Later in the decade, Vicente fully embraced the tenets of Abstract Expressionism. Vicente's drawings, like his paintings and collages, reflect his primary responsiveness to the medium even as he remained anchored in a Cubist definition of surface.

From the 1960's to the end of his career, Vicente explored a mode of expression that integrated abstraction, movement and color. Vicente's later works are evocative and nuanced. Layered and thinly applied pigments sit alongside spare collage elements to create works permeated by light and structure.

Vicente continued to work well into his nineties. In 1991, King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain awarded Vicente the Gold Medal of Honor in the Fine Arts, Spain's most important honor in the arts. Vicente died in Bridgehampton, New York, in 2001. In addition to the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Esteban Vicente de Segovia, the Artist's work is held in most major museums in the United States, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

The works on view [in this exhibition](#), drawn from across Vicente's oeuvre and representing a variety of media, reflect an artistic career which was characterized by great energy, exuberance, openness to experimentation and a sense of balance.

*Special thanks to Jerald Melberg Gallery and the McConnell Family Collection for their assistance with this exhibition.*

### **About the Asheville Art Museum**

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

Additional information for upcoming exhibitions and public programs at the Museum can be found online at [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org).

**With sincere gratitude, Asheville Art Museum thanks 2013/2014 Media Sponsors [Bold Life](#), [Verve](#) and [Carolina Home & Garden](#) magazines, published by Planet Zeus Media, LLC, and additional Media Sponsor, [The Laurel of Asheville](#). For more information about sponsorship opportunities in support of your Museum, please contact Melisa Holman at [mholman@ashevilleart.org](mailto:mholman@ashevilleart.org) or 828.253.3227, ext. 115.**

**# # #**

**The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.**

**Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.**

**Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and students (K-12 and college students with college ID). Children age five and younger are admitted free of charge. Members are admitted free of charge. The Holden Community Gallery, Museum Shop and Biltmore Gallery (all located on the first floor/street level of the Museum, are open at all times to the general public free of charge).**

**The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.**

**The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.**