

**FOURTH AICA COSTA RICA AWARD: A CONSOLIDATED PROCESS THAT  
AFFIRMS QUALITY ART AND CULTURE**

The Costa Rican section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) held its fourth annual Critics' Award ceremony on February 18th, recognizing awards in thirteen categories. This activity is one of AICA's mandates to its affiliates established in 98 countries across five continents.

The AICA Costa Rica Critics' Award recognizes the work of creators, managers, art critics, and curators, as well as patrons, publications, and special events related to the visual arts. Due to the rigorous selection and awarding process, it is one of the most important recognitions in the visual arts in the Central American region.



General view of those attending the awards ceremony at the National Library.  
Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca

The official ceremony was simultaneously streamed online (Click to view the event at the link <https://vimeo.com/1167249742> ) from the National Library of Costa Rica, beginning with a welcome address by its director, Laura Rodríguez – host of the annual event – followed by a presentation on the vision, mission, and objectives of AICA Costa Rica by its president, Juan Carlos Flores Zúñiga, who also serves as an executive in the international organization based in Paris.

*"AICA Costa Rica continues to serve art and culture with seriousness and thoroughness with this fourth edition, affirming the Critics' Award as an exercise of professional, free, and independent judgment under an innovative perspective on the visual arts that broadens the vision of the achievements and scope of Costa Rican artistic and cultural production,"* said Flores Zúñiga, for whom the members of the association are a guarantee of probity, transparency, and defense of free expression in the public communication of critical thought on art and culture.



The fourth AICA Costa Rica Award ceremony was held before an audience of cultural institution authorities, artists, intellectuals, and state and private cultural managers, amidst great anticipation and optimism. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca



Next, before a packed auditorium, Ms. Irene Antillón Ugalde, a member of the Awards and Recognition Committee (CPR), explained the process and methodology of the annual award and how it differs from other award systems.

The purpose of the AICA Costa Rica Critics' Award, Antillón Ugalde emphasized, is *"to recognize creators, managers, art critics and curators, patrons, publications, and special events related to the visual arts. Due to the intellectual rigor applied in the selection and awarding of the recipients, this award has undoubtedly become one of the most important recognitions in the field of national and regional visual arts."*



The message of greeting and congratulations from the president of AICA International, Dr. Malgorzata Kazmierczak, was then broadcast. She stated that the Costa Rican chapter continues to break new ground as an effective agent of change on the international stage, leveraging its diverse talents to serve other chapters outside of Costa Rica while simultaneously stimulating Costa Rican cultural and artistic agents and producers with projects such as this edition, awards, and recognitions of high reputational value.

*"The Board of Directors and its president, Juan Carlos Flores Zuñiga, are an example to be emulated internationally, creating positive milestones with each award that transcend national borders,"* highlighted Dr. Kazmierczak, who finally emphasized the importance of this awards and recognition process and extended her congratulations to all the winners and organizers, as well as to Costa Rican the National Library, host of this fourth edition.



The president of AICA Costa Rica, Juan Carlos Flores Zúñiga, sharing the history and objectives of the international association. (Seated: Andrea Zamora, Euclides Hernández, Marjorie Avila - treasurer -, Otto Apuy - 2nd vice president - and Irene Antillón, board member. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca)

The International Association of Art Critics – AICA Costa Rica, awards these prizes every year as part of a complex process of monitoring and evaluating activities in the field of visual arts carried out in the country, overseen by its Awards and Recognition Committee, which this year was made up of Alvaro Zamora Castro, Irene Antillón Ugalde and Otto Apuy Sirias, all members of the association.

The award given to each recipient consists of a diploma and a trophy specially designed by the renowned conceptual and multimedia artist Otto Apuy Sirias, who is also an art critic, theorist, and writer. Apuy Sirias also serves as coordinator of the association's Membership and Elections Committee (MEC).



During the first part of the event held at the National Library of Costa Rica, the president of the association acknowledged the work of Dr. Víctor Valembos Verbiest in the development of art criticism, aesthetic research, and critical thinking. Likewise, a simple but heartfelt tribute was paid to Apuy Sirias for his selection by the Ministry of Culture and Youth as the recipient of the "Magón" National Culture Prize, the highest honor the country bestows upon an artist and intellectual.



Critic and researcher Víctor Valembos and artist and theorist Otto Apuy received awards from AICA Costa Rica. Composition: Juan Carlos Fonseca

This fourth edition would not have been possible without the collaboration of various partners, such as the large team of volunteers who contributed their time, effort, and talent, making the event a success that exceeded expectations with nearly one hundred attendees in person, including award winners, government officials, representatives from the cultural sector, collectors, and press, as well as more than 1,500 people connected via the Facebook Live broadcast.

The masters of ceremonies were Andrea Zamora Meningke and Euclides Hernández Peñaranda. The musical interlude was performed by lyric soprano Natasha Sheik Oreamuno and guitarist and baritone Armando Loynaz. The usher was Valeria Zúñiga Brenes. The reception was coordinated by our treasurer, Orietta Oreamuno Gómez, and Francisco Jenkins Quesada.

This year, a beverage stand was provided by Joaquín Rivas Villanueva. Photography was by Juan Carlos Fonseca, video and projection by Dilmar Corella, sound by Saul Guerrero Villalobos, and the Facebook Live broadcast was managed by Vanessa Brenes Bravo.



Technical and support team for the 4th AICA Costa Rica Award. Photos: AICA CR

## AWARDS IN THIRTEEN CATEGORIES

Before a hybrid audience, the AICA Costa Rica Critics' Award for 2025 was presented in its thirteen categories, with technical reasoning and visual samples of the respective contributions valued for this fourth edition.

### 1. AICA Award for Best Solo Exhibition in State Space

This category recognizes the best solo exhibition in museums, cultural centers and galleries funded with state public funds, aimed at artists

who make quality and innovative proposals and who have stood out during the year of recognition.

**Nominees:** Guillermo Porras, Francisco Zúñiga, and Lola Fernández.

**Winner by majority vote:** Lola Fernández Caballero for her retrospective exhibition "La Infinita Lola: el arte de reinventarse" (The Infinite Lola: The Art of Reinventing Oneself), held at the Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia Museum.

*Fernández Caballero is an artist with over seventy years of experience whose painting practice is based on graphic components and forms that point to a representation of reality where "everything that exists is drawn."*



Lola Fernández Caballero (center) amidst works from her exhibition "La Infinita Lola," which won the award for "Best Solo Exhibition in a State Space." Photos: AICACR

*The perspective in his exhibited works is conceptually geometric, which should not be confused with symmetrically proportioned. In fact, unlike other artists of his generation such as Gonzalo Morales and Rafa Fernández, his solid academic training in Costa Rica, Colombia, and Italy has allowed him to paint directly onto the canvas, without the need for sketches or drawings on the canvas.*

*Her discipline and creative process have made her one of the most prolific artists of her generation; the purpose of her work lies in its intuitive nature.*

*It is possible to see an association between the artist's memory and her analysis, her aesthetics, and her intentions. This represents a significant stage and consolidation of a style and an ordered vision of spatial memory.*

*Finally, the methodology of this proposal leads to many paths; that is to say, it is open-minded, firstly due to its connection to her memories and her style, as well as to the searcher of objects, and the analyst who finds the meaning of her experiences and expresses them visually.*



Artist Lola Fernández Caballero receiving her diploma and trophy in the state solo exhibition category. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca

## **2. Premio AICA a la Mejor Exposición Individual**

This category recognizes the best solo exhibition in museums, cultural centers, galleries, and privately funded institutions, aimed at artists who make high-quality and innovative proposals and who have stood out during the year of recognition.

**Nominees:** Eddy Fernández and Jesús Mejía.

**Winner by majority vote:** Jesús Mejía for his exhibition "Urban Litanies" held at Galería Lado B/ Laboratorio Creativo, San José, Costa Rica.

*Mejía invites us to reflect on urban violence through a symbolic analogy based on a prayer of supplication in contexts of affliction, which we call a litany. To emphasize his representations, he employs a tenebrist montage, thus breaking with the pictorial format that had previously characterized his work.*



Jesús Mejía (center) amidst works from his exhibition "Urban Litanies," which won the award for "Best Solo Exhibition in a Private Space." Photo composition: AICACR

*In this instance, the artist tears the canvases to experiment with the effects of artificial light and space. This dramatic emphasis, like a rhetorical device, alters the meaning of the work, as well as its technical configuration.*

*It is an exhibition that resonates with the souls of those who experience the city as a daily reality of sadness and violence. However, its impact is more personal than social.*



Artist Pablo Mejía after receiving his diploma and trophy in the category of best private solo exhibition. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca.

### 3. Award for Best Group Exhibition

This category recognizes the best collective exhibition in museums, cultural centers and/or private galleries based on a curatorial or museographic proposal of quality and innovation from the participation of different artists, with individual and/or collaborative works, organized during the recognition year.

**Nominees:** Sombras Urbanas, Paradojas del Colectivo Soma, and Paisajes Diversos from CIICLA.

**Winner by majority vote:** "Paisajes diversos" (Diverse Landscapes) at the Costa Rican Art Museum.

*This group exhibition, curated by Dr. Eugenia Zavaleta Ochoa of CIICLA, had the undeniable merit of bringing together works at the Costa Rican Art Museum that were generally inaccessible, painted by artists who, for the most part, had academic training. They dared to paint outdoors.*



Curator Eugenia Zavaleta and one of the works from the group exhibition "Diverse Landscapes," which won the award for "Best Group Exhibition." Photo: AICACR

*His vision of the Costa Rican landscape was marked by a romantic and idealistic aesthetic that was also adopted by the next generation of nationalists. Some historical perspectives fuel the critical debate about our "tropical arcadia," which is often characterized as a peaceful, fair, and simple Costa Rica, dominated by oxcarts, adobe houses, fair-skinned people, warm sunshine, lush trees, beautiful beaches, and gentle farmers.*



The award was received by the director of CIICLA at the University of Costa Rica, Dr. Eugenia Zavaleta Ochoa. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca.

Such representations in the collective originate mainly in various press media of the 1930s, probably due to the clash of two opposing philosophical worldviews: idealism and materialism.

#### **4. AICA Award for Best Theoretical-Aesthetic Research**

It is awarded to the researcher or team of researchers who, during the year of recognition, have carried out significant theoretical and aesthetic



research on the visual arts produced in the country and who contribute to expanding its understanding and study.

**Nominee:** Essay "Voices of a Forgotten Identity," International Journal of Asian Studies, Vol. 4(2): 248-288, July-December 2025.

**Winning author:** Carlos Calderón Herrera

**Voices of a Forgotten Identity. Reflections on the Visual Work of Costa Rican Artists of Chinese Origin**

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**Resumen:** Esta investigación aborda la producción artística de destacados artistas costarricenses de origen chino, como Isidro Con Wong, Otto Apuy Sirias, Edgar León Martínez, Guillermo Porras On, Man Yu, el Colectivo HAPA (Karen Olsen Yu, Anna Matteucci Wo Ching y Jennifer Karczynski Tang) y la ilustradora Wen Hsu. Se plantea que existe una relación intrínseca entre la sociedad, la historia y la cultura, que ha influido en el desarrollo de estos creadores visuales, pero que ha sido insuficientemente explorada en la historia del arte y la cultura costarricense, evidenciando un



Cover of the award-winning essay in the "Best Theoretical-Aesthetic Research" category, published by the International Journal of Asian Studies. Photomontage: AICA CR

*Calderón Herrera posits an intrinsic relationship between society, history, and culture that has influenced the development of a select group of visual artists of Chinese descent. He argues that their exploration within the history of Costa Rican art and culture is insufficient, as evidenced by the lack of academic literature and research on the subject.*

*The researcher employs historical reconstruction through interviews with both veteran and emerging artists from this ethnic group to produce a seminal cultural study.*



Historian and researcher Carlos Calderón Herrera received the award and diploma.  
Photo by J.C. Fonseca.

## 5. AICA Award for Best Critical Publication in Visual Arts

This category awards prizes for the publication of an art book or catalog, website, CD-ROM, etc., with contributions in content, editorial quality and graphic design focused on visual arts criticism.



**Nominees:**

a) "Reflections on Costa Rican Art," Author: Efraín Hernández. Central Bank of Costa Rica Publishing House. ISBN 978-9968-530-73-6. Publication date: April 3, 2025.

b) "Biennials in Latin America and the Caribbean: Scenarios of Confluence between Modernity and Contemporaneity" - General Editor: Juan Carlos Flores Zúñiga. AICA Regional Latin America and the Caribbean Publishing House. ISBN 978-9930-00-017-5. Publication date: February 25, 2025.

**Winner by majority vote:** AICA Regional Latin America and the Caribbean.

*We are looking at a foundational work built on the contributions of nine established art critics and researchers from eight nations.*



Cover of the book awarded best publication in visual arts. Image: AICACR

*Through their presentations, the product of three meetings held in 2023, they dissect, discuss, and weigh the historical process of biennialization within the dynamic context of Latin America and the Caribbean.*

*This bilingual (Spanish-English) e-book, funded by AICA Regional: Latin America and the Caribbean, reviews and questions the repercussions, influences, juxtapositions, borrowings, consequences, and mystifications*

*of biennials, based on a broader view of their role in the subcontinent in relation to their respective spheres of influence.*



Juan Carlos Flores Zúñiga, M.A., general editor of the award-winning publication, received the trophy and diploma in the Best Critical Publication in Visual Arts category.  
Photo: J.C. Fonseca

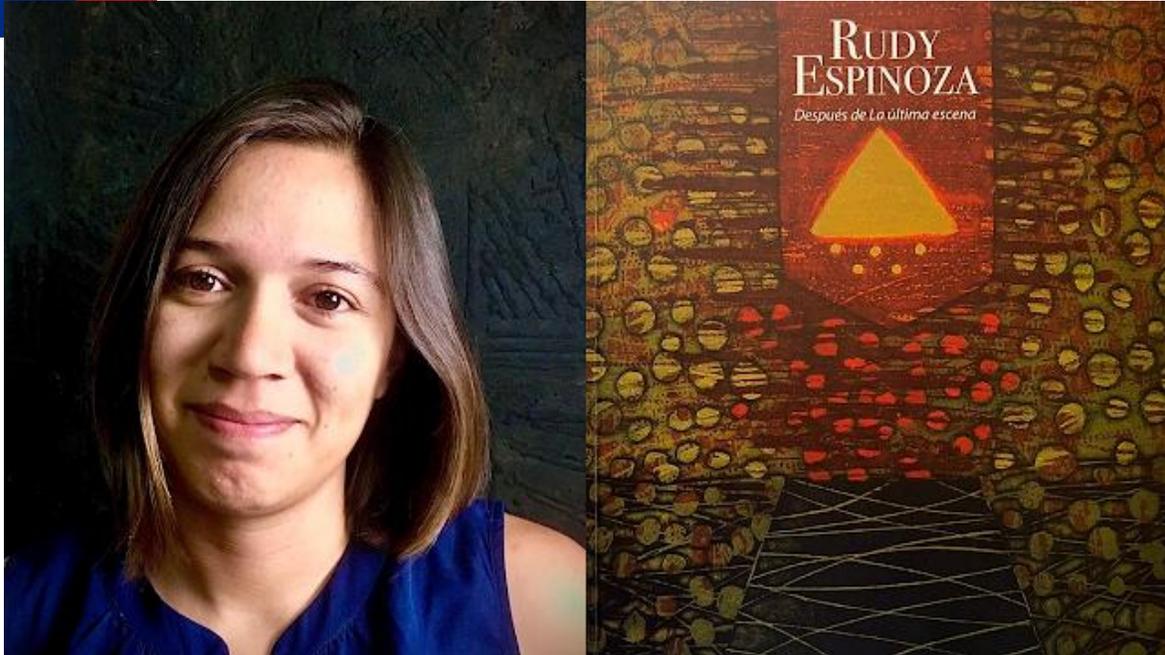
## **6. AICA Award for Best Visual Arts Catalogue**

This category recognizes the publication of printed and/or digital art catalogs, with contributions of content, editorial quality and graphic design, with the participation of curators, art critics and other specialists.

**Nominee:** "Rudy Espinoza: After the Last Scene", Costa Rican Art Museum Publishing House, Dec. 2024. Released: January 2025. ISBN: 978-9968-589-24-6

**Winner:** Ericka Solano Brizuela, general director of the edition.

*This is a remarkable printed work about an engraver who has not been thoroughly studied. It highlights Espinoza's repositioning through his constant innovation and consistency in employing metal engraving techniques to construct a solid and complex visual discourse.*



Ericka Solano Brizuela, general director of the 2024 best catalog edition, next to the book cover. Photocomposition: AICACR

*This work is notable for its study of several of his series, such as Los barrios (The Neighborhoods), Muriendo a la intemperie (Dying in the Open Air), Estigma (Stigma), Pecado y redención (Sin and Redemption), Cuerpos dulces (Sweet Bodies), and the last series he was working on at the time of his death, Madre natura (Mother Nature).*

*Equally important is that this work also constitutes the first printed catalogue raisonné of the artist's work in the country.*



Ericka Solano Brizuela with the diploma and trophy awarded for Best Artistic Catalog.  
Photo: J.C. Fonseca

## 7. Award for Best Institutional Work

In this category, the award is given to the entity that, during the year of recognition, has carried out significant work in promoting, disseminating and developing the visual arts in general.

**Nominee:** Museo de Arte Costarricense - MAC (Costa Rican Art Museum)  
established by law No 6091 del 7/10/1977.

**Winner:** MAC Costa Rica

*Until December 2025, the MAC maintained a high output in the production of five printed catalogues for major exhibitions curated by it. These are vital resources for art research, history, and criticism.*



The Costa Rican Art Museum (MAC), located in La Sabana, has had a prolific educational, documentary, and exhibition program throughout 2025, earning it the award in the "Best Institutional Work" category. Photo composition: AICACR

*The focus of the exhibitions, initiated in January of last year, has been to return to the path established by its founding law: to be a benchmark for national art. From "Diverse Landscapes" to "Body and Permanence," the weight of this vision has been felt.*

*This refocusing will allow for greater clarity and healthy boundaries between historical artistic production and contemporary expressions.*



The Vice Minister of Culture, Carmen Elena Campos Ramírez, and the Deputy Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC), Gisela Lobo. Photo: J.C. Fonseca

## 8. Award for International Projection

This category recognizes artists who have participated in international events or who have held a significant exhibition outside their country during the year of recognition.

### Nominees:

a) **Priscilla Monge** for “Matters of Life or Death”, a retrospective of the Costa Rican artist at the Galician Center for Contemporary Art (CGAC), Galicia, Spain.

b) **Pablo Murillo** for “The Triangular Gaze”, an installation exhibited in “Displacements” at Gallery C of the Complutense University of Madrid, as part of the PHotoESPAÑA Festival.

**Winner by majority vote:** Pablo Murillo

*In 2025, Murillo's installation was unveiled in the Spanish capital. Although he has exhibited abroad before, this proposal is innovative.*

*Its theme and purpose rest on a very personal inspiration, but also invite consideration of universal topics, such as otherness, the existence of the other, the mirror as an emotional reference point, and others that have occupied philosophers for millennia.*



Pablo Murillo (left) with some of the components of his installation that earned him recognition in the "Best International Projection" category. Photos: AICACR

*Through this installation, Murillo sets in motion a playful relationship between object, subject, and space by means of a play of mirrors and images, encouraging the audience to question the very act of looking.*

*Inspired by his own life, he works on two familiar themes related to accelerated aging due to health factors. His personal testimony is enriched by the perspectives of those unfamiliar with him who encounter his work.*



Pablo Murillo awarded in the "Best International Projection" category with its trophy and certificate. Photocomposition: J.C. Fonseca.

## 9. Award for Best Promotion of Visual Arts

The award in this category is given to the person, institution, media outlet, periodical publication or foundation with a recognized and sustained work in the dissemination of the visual arts in general.

**Nominee:** MASA CRÍTICA: Online magazine and cultural platform founded in 2023 by visual artist Lucho Castro and researcher and collector José Ángel Ortiz.

**Winner:** Revista Masa Crítica (Critical mass e-zine)

*In its two years of existence, the media outlet Masa Crítica has established a significant presence in the niche of contemporary artists while also addressing issues of cultural management and art criticism.*

*The articles generally have a strong didactic emphasis that dominates the narrative of the publications, with occasional bursts of more interpretive pieces on art and criticism.*



Cover and sections from different issues of the magazine and digital platform "Masa Crítica," which was awarded the "Best Dissemination of Visual Arts" prize in 2025.  
Photo montage: AICACR

*It is one of the few digital media outlets that consistently and professionally covers the visual arts from various perspectives: artist interviews, art history, exhibition reviews, and collecting.*

*Its work sets an important precedent for the model to follow locally in the field of specialized art and culture publications.*



José Ángel Ortiz y Lucho Castro, editors of "Masa Crítica" with the trophy and certificate for "Best Dissemination of the Visual Arts." Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca

## 10. Award for Best Curatorial Work

This category recognizes curatorial professionals who have made a significant contribution to the development of national art and culture through conceptually sound and innovative work with high educational and artistic value.

**Nominee:** "Francisco Zúñiga: Body and Permanence" Exhibition, at the Costa Rican Art Museum, from October 2025 to April 2026.

**Winners:** Esteban Calvo Campos and Ericka Solano Brizuela

*Calvo and Solano's curatorial approach focuses conceptually on the sense of monumentality that characterized the graphic, pictorial, and sculptural work of the Mexican-Costa Rican artist Francisco Zúñiga in Mexico. Commissioned by governments whose policies emphasized the connection between the people and a manifest destiny, the sculptor placed the Indigenous people as social beings at the center of the debate on cultural identity, empowerment in the face of inequality, and an almost folkloric national pride in the face of poverty.*



Esteban Calvo y Ericka Solano, distinguished curators in the "Best Curatorship" category for their work on the exhibition "Francisco Zúñiga: Body and Permanence."  
Photo composition: AICACR

*The exhibition immerses us, through the curators' design and installation, in the external and internal processes of the complex society where Zúñiga created his most important work, imbued with contradictory values and feelings.*

*This curatorial approach is part of a collaborative project where each section examines the representation of the human body, particularly in the expression of the indigenous figure, primarily related to feminine archetypes.*



Curators Esteban Calvo and Ericka Solano with their respective trophies and diplomas recognizing their selection for the 2025 "Best Curatorial Award". Photo: J.C. Fonseca.

## **11. AICA Award for Young Critics**

This category recognizes young and emerging art critics under 35 years of age to stimulate topics and geographical regions not usually covered in the media; foster new forms of critical expression; and promote the international circulation of new ideas and writings with discernment and independence in the analysis, interpretation, and visibility of artistic production.

### **Nominated authors of papers:**

Josué Quirós Arias and Snyder Pinell Guzmán

### **Winners by jury decision:**

First place Josué Quirós Arias and second place Snyder Pinell Guzmán.

*The committee, in accordance with the official regulations approved by AICA Costa Rica for this third edition of the award in this category, proceeded to fulfill the responsibilities assigned for the collection, review, validation, evaluation, award and/or recognition and communication to the Board of Directors of the association of the valid essays and presentations submitted by authors external to the association in the period between September 10 and December 1, 2025.*



Josué Quirós Arias awarded first place in the "Young Critics" category based on his presentation evaluated by a jury of three critics from AICA. Photo: J.C. Fonseca

*The Awards and Recognition Committee (CPR) unanimously selected Josué Quirós Arias for first place in this category—the only one requiring a jury—for his essay "Emotions, Fictions and Allusions - Adolfo Siliezar," a critique of the Siliezar exhibition that took place between August 21 and*

*September 27, 2025, at the Dr. Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia Museum (MCG) in Barrio Escalante, San José, Costa Rica..*

*Y, para el segundo lugar a Snyder Pinell Guzmán por su ensayo "La experiencia sensorial en "Mirar desde la piel": una crítica sobre la exposición de Geoffrey González Jiménez" que tuvo lugar en la Galería Nacional (Museo de los niños) del 3 al 31 de octubre del año pasado.*



The second-place winner in the "Young Critics Award" category displaying his trophy and diploma at the awards ceremony. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca



*Due to the quality of this young critic's work, the jury recommends that the governing body also grant him national membership and publication rights. Furthermore, the third place in this category is declared void.*

*The first-place winner of this year's award will receive a trophy, a diploma, a full annual national membership, and publication of his essay in the AICA Costa Rica Journal.*

## **12. Best Critical Work**

This category recognizes the visual arts critic who has made a continuous, consistent, and significant contribution, through public channels of dissemination, with discernment and independence, to the analysis, interpretation, and visibility of national and international artistic production during the year.

### **Nominees:**

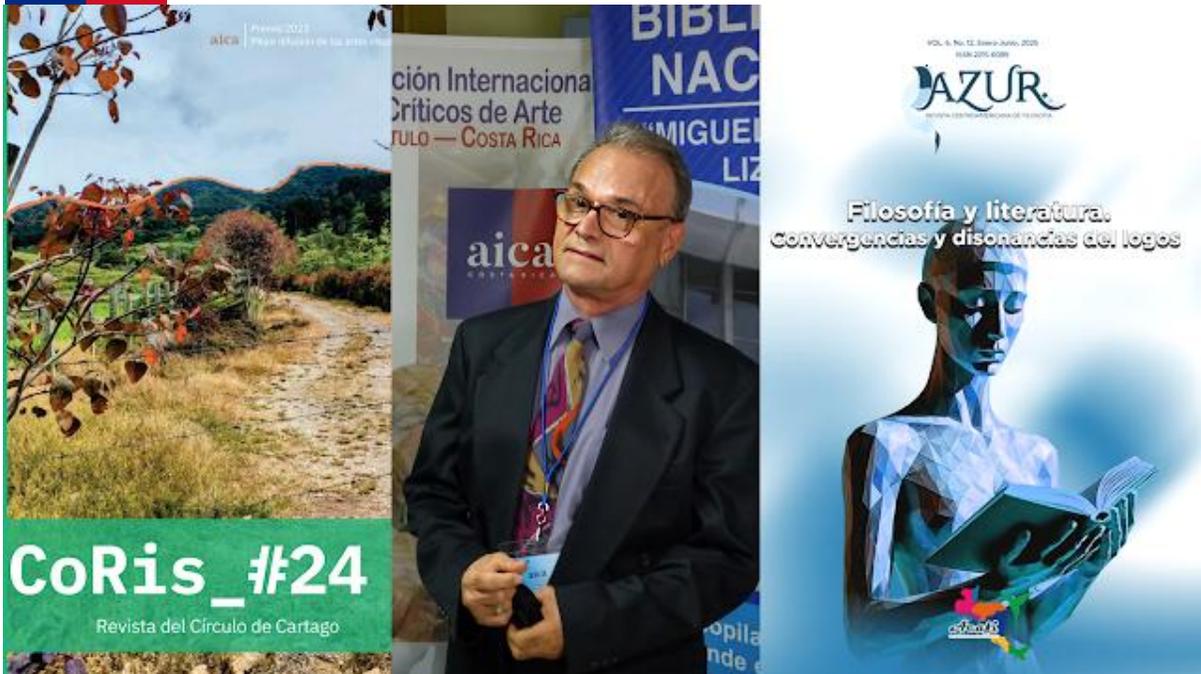
- a) María Enrique Guardia Yglesias
- b) Alvaro Zamora Castro

### **Winner by majority votes:**

Art critic and philosopher Dr. Alvaro Zamora Castro

*One of the few philosophers and authors in the region specializing in the visual arts who articulates aesthetic criteria with independence and professionalism in his published analyses.*

*His research and critical thinking have allowed him to delve not only into the critical historiography of visual artists such as Alvaro Bracci, Olger Villegas, Fernando Carballo, Dinorah Bolandi, and Aquiles Jiménez, among others, but also to thoroughly analyze their aesthetic proposals and provide insightful conceptual interpretations of their creative intentions and specific contributions.*



Dr. Alvaro Zamora Castro (Center), philosopher, critic, and visual arts researcher, distinguished with the award in the "Best Critical Work" category of 2025. Photo: AICACR

*His work as editor of specialized art and culture magazines, such as Revista Coris, is also noteworthy.*

*His monographic contributions on national artists in catalog format have set an important precedent for the depth of critical and aesthetic analysis in artistic production.*

*He has authored or co-authored twenty printed books.*



Philosopher, critic, and researcher Alvaro Zamopra Castro, honored with the 2025 Best Art Critic award, receiving his diploma and trophy. Photo: J.C. Fonseca

### 13. Consecrated Masters

This category recognizes the work of teachers who, due to their career spanning no less than 40 years, their consistency and contributions, have achieved high levels of recognition.

**Nominees:** Crisanto Badilla, Gerardo González, Luis Paulino Delgado and Domingo Ramos.

**Winner by majority votes:** Domingo Ramos Araya.

*In recognition of his extensive, consistent, and widely acclaimed career spanning more than half a century, Domingo Ramos should be considered a leading figure in direct wood and stone carving within the regional sculpture tradition.*

*Each of his series, both figurative and non-figurative, arises from systematic, sharp, synthetic and at the same time organic investigations that distance him from modern abstraction and allow him to define his own voice and style.*



The award in the "Established Master" category went to the artist Domingo Ramos Araya. Graphic design: AICACR

*His work is characterized by a profound respect for materials, impeccable techniques, and remarkable metaphysical poetics that allows him to transcend prevailing materialism.*

*To mark the award ceremony, attendees received a catalogue tracing his career for over half a century and accompanying an exhibition of his work curated by Otto Apuy and Juan Carlos Flores, which will be on display for a month at the National Library.*



The renowned maestro Domingo Ramos Araya with the trophy and diploma that distinguished him. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca

The Awards and Recognition Committee (CPR) closed the nomination period for the awards ceremony, which concluded on December 31, 2025, across twelve categories, and announced the winner in the "Young Critics" category. Following this, with the assistance of the association's prosecutor, Marjorie Avila Salas, a record was drawn up of all nominations received, the final results were tallied, and the information was officially communicated to the Board of Directors for final approval.

In an extraordinary session on January 16, 2026, both sets of minutes were approved. (Download the minutes: "Young Critics" Award 2025: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/737wwikuzjhyvzevjix2p/AICA-acta-Premio-Critica-Joven-2025.pdf?rlkey=or44ghfzmic657um2kr1ih8o7&st=kt9dxrhq&dl=0> and AICA Costa Rica Critics Award 2025: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/f8jqv6029eq9k5fjp9qgg/AICA-acta-premios-revisada-2025.pdf?rlkey=aboumuh5ju3g04pw5dawf1bys&st=2tppirz0&dl=0> )



At the closing of the fourth edition, artists, intellectuals, directors, and members of AICA Costa Rica posed for the official photograph of the documentary that is being produced and will be officially released this month.



Award winners and members of AICA Costa Rica at the closing ceremony of the fourth edition of the Award. Photo: Juan Carlos Fonseca

The Costa Rican chapter of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) is thus fulfilling one of the significant mandates of AICA International to its affiliates established in 98 countries across five continents, representing more than six thousand members.

The fifth edition is already underway, and the members of the current committee have begun their work. CPR members are appointed for three-year terms by the Costa Rican association.

#### **CONTACT:**

AICA Costa Rica is on the web and social media:

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/circuloaicacr>

VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/channels/aicacr>

LINKED-IN: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aica-costa-rica>

WEB: <https://www.aicacostarica.org>

SICULTURA: <https://si.cultura.cr/agrupaciones-y-organizaciones/asociacion-internacional-de-criticos-de-arte-aica-costa-rica.html>

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