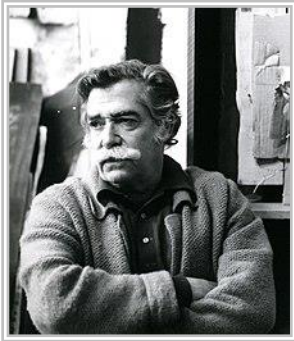




LANDAU CONTEMPORARY  
AT  
GALERIE DOMINION



Antoni Clavé  
(1913-2005)

Antoni Clavé was born in Barcelona on 5 April 1913. From 1926 he attended evening courses at the *Escuela de Artes y Oficios "Llotja"*, a school both Picasso and Miró attended in their youth. In 1927, one of Clavé's teachers found him a place as a house painter's apprentice because of his growing fascination of the hands-on side of painting and especially by the materials used for such work, wanting to learn how to prepare paints.

In 1932 Clavé stopped attending the evening classes and, on the recommendation of Illescas, an architect, was employed at the firm of Cinaes, where he designed the weekly cinema posters. During the Spanish Civil War, he served as a draughtsman for the Republican government but eventually had to flee to France. After a short internment at Les Haras camp in Perpignan, Clavé settled in Paris in 1939 without any papers, drawing comics and working as an illustrator to get by.

During the 1940s Clavé's work showed the stylistic influence of Bonnard and Vuillard, until he met with fellow Spanish expatriate Pablo Picasso in 1944. This meeting marked a pivotal change in Clavé's style, and was forever grateful to be considered a lifelong friend of Don Pablo, as he would call him.

From 1946, Clavé did numerous designs for ballet and theatre in Paris, Munich, London and New York; in the 1950s he turned to book illustration. He was nominated for two Academy Awards (Best Art Direction and Best Costume Design) for his work on the 1952 film *Hans Christian Andersen*. In 1954 Clavé ceased working as a stage-set designer and illustrator to devote himself entirely to painting, visiting Spain again. His paintings became more abstract and enigmatic; inspired by wall textures and graffiti, Clavé began integrating scraps of newspaper and other similar materials into his painting in a collage-like manner.

From 1960 he also embarked in creating sculptures. Clavé's work in the latter field includes bas reliefs, assemblages and totem-like sculptures of wood and modeled or imprinted lead, some of them incorporating found objects, that are archaic in feeling. In 1965 Clavé moved to the South of France, near Saint-Tropez.

The early 1980s saw the Clavé series "Homage à Picasso" which was exhibited at the Picasso Museum in Antibes, followed by a series inspired by urban living in New York, which Clavé visited in 1972 and 1989. After one-man shows in museums and galleries in Zurich, Barcelona, Paris and Tokyo, Clavé was given a comprehensive retrospective at the Centre Pompidou Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris in 1978. The Spanish pavilion at the 1984 Venice Biennale was dedicated to Antoni Clavé. In his later years, his work is completely abstract, using line rather than solid forms to explore the boundaries of shading, texture and color.

His work is displayed in many museums, including the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, National Museum of Serbia, Tate Gallery, London, Museo de Bellas Artes de Bilbao, Museum of Modern Art, Paris, Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofia Museo Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, the Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo and The British Museum, London.



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Antoni Clavé  
*En noir et bleu*  
Oil and collage on canvas  
130 x 162 cm. / 51¼ x 63¾ in.  
1989

Select Exhibitions:

- 1957, *Clavé*, Beyeler Gallery, Basel
- 1960, *Clavé*, Picasso Museum, Antibes
- 1967, *Clavé, Tapisseries, Peintures, Sculptures*, Picasso Museum, Antibes
- 1973, *Clavé, Œuvre Graphique, 1951 à 1973*, Tel-Aviv Museum, Israel
- 1974, *Clavé*, Weintraub Gallery, New York
- 1978, *Clavé, Peintures, de 1958 à 1978*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris
- 1978, *En marge de la peinture*, Musée National d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris
- 1978, *Clavé*, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan
- 1985, *À Don Pablo*, Picasso Museum, Antibes
- 1986, *Antoni Clavé, Œuvres de 1960 à 1985*, National Museum of Art, Osaka, Japan
- 1994, *Antoni Clavé. Oeuvres Graphiques*, Museo Nacional, Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain

Select Public Collections:

- Tate Gallery, London, UK
- Fine Arts Museum, San Francisco, USA
- Museum of Modern Art, Paris, France
- Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain
- Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan
- The British Museum, London, UK
- National Museum of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia
- MAMAC, Nice, France
- Kunstmuseum Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
- Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
- National Gallery of Art, Washington, USA
- Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

Awards:

- Unesco prize for Engraving, 28th Venice Biennale, 1956
- Grand Prize of the Société Nationale des Beaux-Arts, 1944
  - Commander of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres
  - Gold Medal of Merit in the Fine Arts, Spain, 1984