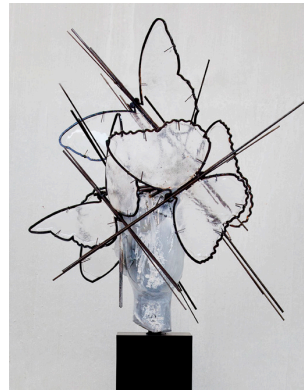


OPERA GALLERY



(L-R) *Reina Mariana Blue*, 2025, painted wood, 180 x 130 x 90 cm | 70.9 x 51.2 x 35.4 in;
Retrato en azul y blanco, 1999, oil, collaged burlap and thread on burlap, 234 x 188 cm | 92.1 x 74 in;
White Butterflies, 2024, glass and steel, 215 x 79 x 71 cm | 84.6 x 31.1 x 28 in

MONACO

Valdés in Monaco

20 SEPTEMBER-24 OCTOBER, 2025

September 2025—Opera Gallery in Monaco is pleased to present ‘Valdés in Monaco’, a major solo exhibition dedicated to the celebrated Spanish artist Manolo Valdés. Running from 20 September-24 October, the exhibition’s curation of paintings, sculptures and mixed media collages created between 1983-2025—including works from his iconic *Reina Mariana*, *Infantas* and *Cabezas* series—offers a striking presentation of one of the most versatile and visionary artists of this generation. This exhibition marks Opera Gallery’s biggest solo presentation to date of Manolo Valdés’ work in Monaco.

Revered for his bold reinterpretations of art historical imagery and motifs, this exhibition showcases the inspiration he draws from reference points ranging from Diego Velázquez’s *Las meninas* (1656) to Henri Matisse’s *Femme au chapeau* (1905). His work creates a dialogue about how recurring forms and motifs evolve over time and across media, as highlighted by this exhibition.

Works in the exhibition range from mixed media collage to painting to sculpture. Large-scale iterations of his iconic *Infanta Margarita* sculptural series are rendered in materials ranging from aluminium to wood. A monumental wooden sculpture from his ongoing *Librería* series evokes the facade of a bookshelf replete with books – serving as an homage to individual stories, collective legacy, and the pursuit of knowledge. Sculptural busts made from Murano glass and resin depict swirls of butterflies sit next to textural mixed media portraits created with burlap and oil paint on canvas. Through his use of scale and materiality, each artwork within Valdés’ artistic practice offers a new perspective on memory, beauty, and artistic lineage.

“Over the course of his more than 6 decade-spanning career, Manolo Valdés’ has developed a singular voice that is deeply rooted in art history with a contemporary lens,” says Damien Simonelli, Director of Opera Gallery in Monaco, “Furthermore, with 2025 marking the 60 year anniversary since his co-founding of Equipo Crónica with Rafael Solbes and Juan Antonio Toledo in 1965, this exhibition serves as a moment to reflect on the Spanish art collective’s significance and lingering influence on art history.” In tandem with the exhibition, a presentation of monumental outdoor sculptures will be presented at Larvotto Beach in Monaco from August 31- December 25, 2025.

Espai Manolo Valdés, a museum located in Valdés’ birthplace of Valencia, Spain will be unveiled by the Valencia City Council in late 2026-early 2027, a rare and exceptional honour for a living artist. Situated in Pier 3 of the city’s Central Park, the museum will encompass approximately 1,128.4 m². The inaugural exhibition will include around 30 sculptures, including a selection of previously unseen works.

OPERA GALLERY

About Manolo Valdés

Manolo Valdés attended the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Carlos de Valencia and began his career in the 1960s as one of the founding members of Equipo Crónica, an artist collective that took inspiration from Pop Art to challenge the Spanish dictatorship of Franco and the History of Art itself. When the movement ended in 1981, Valdés continued his own artistic exploration centered on the appropriation and reinterpretation of masterpieces. He currently lives and works between Madrid, Spain and New York.

Among his many awards, he has received the Spanish National Medal of Fine Arts (1985) and the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts (1998). In 1999, he represented Spain at the Venice Biennale, and in 2007 he was named an Officer of the Ordre National du Mérite in France.

He has had numerous solo and group shows internationally in galleries and museums alike and his work is part of prestigious private and public collections, notably the de Young Museum of San Francisco; the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy; the Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany; the Menil Foundation, Houston, Texas; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Moderna Museet Art, Stockholm, Sweden; the Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts.

Valdés's iconic sculptures are exhibited outdoors in the parks and gardens of major cities such as the New York Botanical Gardens, Hofgarten, Düsseldorf, Chatsworth House, UK and Santander, Spain. In 2026, Espai Manolo Valdés will be unveiled in Valencia, Spain, the city where Valdés was born in 1942.

About Opera Gallery

Founded in Singapore in 1994, Opera Gallery has forged a network of galleries worldwide with locations in London, Paris, New York, Geneva, Madrid and Dubai, establishing itself as one of the leading forces within the international art market.

Headed by Gilles Dyan, Chairman and Founder, Opera Gallery specialises in modern, post-war, and contemporary art. In addition, the gallery represents international emerging artists such as Andy Denzler, Pieter Obels and Gustavo Nazareno, alongside internationally recognised names such as Ron Arad, Manolo Valdés and Anselm Reyle.

For more than 30 years, Opera Gallery's mission has been to showcase the dynamic, innovative, and diverse expressions of modern and contemporary art through its ambitious yearly exhibition programming and collaborations with private collections and leading public institutions. Opera Gallery in Monaco is led by Damien Simonelli.

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