

The presence of women artists in the history of Western art has developed after overcoming a wide range of difficulties, in many cases they faced multiple prohibitions to access opportunities for training and professional validation.

In Colombia, after the consolidation of the first schools in the late 19th century, some artists took women of the local aristocracy as students, and taught them art lessons in areas strictly controlled away from the access of male students. Among the first female artists some names are worth to be mentioned: Elvira Vargas and Juana Scarpetta daughters of painter José María Espinosa.

Artist women

HENA RODRÍGUEZ
Cabeza de negra
 1945 talla en madera

Hena Rodríguez, member of the Bachué group represents popular characters away from the usual caricature or exoticism. In *Cabeza negra*, carved in wood, she emphasized the schematic description of racial traits.



Feliza Bursztyn was a sculptor from Bogotá who decided to use industrial waste to make sculptures using techniques seen in ornamentation workshops.

FELIZA BURSZTYN Sin título
 ca. 1964 ensamblaje en hierro



Judith Márquez created the magazine *Plástica* in 1956 to present to its readers the highlights of modern art. In seventeen editions, *Plástica* became the most important magazine devoted to art in the country at that time.

JUDITH MÁRQUEZ *Plástica. Revista de arte contemporáneo*
 1956-1960 tinta sobre papel



Los suicidas del Sisga is the most recognized work of Beatriz González, with this work she was awarded at the XVII Annual Salon of Colombian Artists in 1965. The work is a pictorial version of the last picture taken to a peasant couple before drowning voluntarily in the waters of the dam Sisga, close to Bogotá.

BEATRIZ GONZÁLEZ
Los suicidas del Sisga III
 1965 óleo sobre tela