

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011

BLOG: **Round Trip NY #16**. José Carlos Casado

José Carlos Casado came to New York in 1998, “because living in NY was always my dream.” A scholarship from La Caixa to obtain a Masters degree at the School of Visual Arts allowed him entry into the city.

Casado does not believe there is a difference between the quality of the Spanish higher learning system and the American one, “it depends on the specialization, in Fine Arts in particular, here it is based on a much more contemporary model, where the majority of the professors are artists and not officials. There are also several other differences but I believe that the most important ones are the critique systems, in Spain they are inexistent, and here they are one of the main focuses of artistic education.”

He recognizes that his entry into the academic world of New York posed an important challenge, “I arrived so I could be in class directly. My concentrations were classes that were highly technical and with the level of spoken English, we as Spanish people arrive with, they were difficult.”

Casado, who lives in New York full time, considers the city as an ideal environment to create, since New York is a constant fount of influences, “for me it is very important to be surrounded by culture: art, theater, dance, music. The city offers an infinite variety, for all prices and often times free.”

Casado suggests the creation of a new cultural office like the Swiss Institute that operates from New York and is staffed by specialized professionals. The artists has collaborated with several North American institutions such as the New York University, Sundance Film Festival, King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, New York Foundation for the Arts, Vermont Studio Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Public Art Funds, Katzen Arts Center, Wood Street Galleries, etc.

Eva Mendoza