

## THE DUMFOUNDING PAINTING OF RAMIRO TAPIA

Obviously, every era is the daughter of many preceeding ones and it is always based on and explained by them. As far as fine arts are concerned, what now seems definitive is really not more than a step which prepares the taking of the following one. That is precisely what has happened with the now so meticulous and perfect painting by Tapia. It is only the "afterwards" of his *magic realism*, *fantastic figurations*, *metamorphosis* and *impossible architectures*. In the latter, Tapia blows up Escher's monochromatic coldness with sparks very evident in his latest work.

During the last century, the classic **formal** painting, based on Platon's *mimesis*, exists together with the new **informal** techniques, finally completed as a provoking **abstraction** which leaves out any understanding referent.

Halfway between abstraction and figuration, Tapia's painting dumbfounds by its rotund oddity. That's it's real *quid*.

Ramiro Tapia builds a painting made up of signs, elements that together with symbols and icons, are the basic codes of semiology; the science of language, even the language of painting. Those reading this paper can understand it only because they know well the codes of written English. If not, these lines would not be understandable. For this same reason no one can truly make sense of our friend's painting without knowing the rich symbolism of his phantasmagorical world.

One of the distinctive traits of his singular pictures is that they are, by their techniques, composition, balance and effects, unmistakably his own. They could not belong to anyone else. That's to say: they are pictognomonic. (In semeiology, *gnomonic* means that every sign unmistakably identifies its author)

But its true charm lies in a conjunction of profundity, sensibility and moderation which invite you to take pleasure in his work, even if you are, paradoxically, disregarding the codes of its sign language.

LUIS SANTOS GUTIÉRREZ

Emeritus Professor of the University of Salamanca. Spain