

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Dario Basso  
**Title:** Ojo  
**Medium:** carborundum print  
**Framed dimensions:** 78cm x 63cm

b. 1966, Caracas, Venezuela

Darío Alvarez Basso was born in Caracas, Venezuela moving to Galicia in Spain at the age of three. Basso was from a family of intellectuals and teachers and pursued his interests in music and acting to start with. It was not until he moved to Madrid in the mid-1980s that he began to devote himself to the practice of art. He attended the contemporary art school, Talleres de Arte Actual of the Círculo de Bellas Artes de Madrid from 1985-6 and studied alongside Darío Villalba, J. Guinovart, Eduardo Arroyo, Guillermo Pérez Villalta and Frederic Amat. Through his contacts at the Contemporary School of Art, Basso became more involved in the Madrid art scene and participated in group exhibitions from 1985 onwards. Basso's first solo exhibition came in 1988 at the Galería Antoni Machon in Madrid. In 1993, Basso travelled to New York to study at the School of Visual Arts.

Basso's paintings can be considered in the tradition of matter painting; he often applies paint by hand in an expressive, heavily layered fashion and has been known to incorporate dried leaves in to his work, emphasizing the materiality of the artwork. Basso's painting is inspired by nature, human beings and their interactions with the earth. He has travelled widely from South America to Egypt, and makes reference to many different indigenous cultures and histories in his work, preferring to look beyond the Western tradition of art. Basso has continued to exhibit his work particularly in Europe and Latin America, though he has also had a small number of solo exhibitions in the US, the Middle East and Africa.

Since receiving his first award in 1987, the Pensionadas Scholarship which he awarded at the ninth biennial in Pentevedra, Basso has been the recipient of over 15 art prizes which have allowed him to travel and study abroad, to develop his painting technique and expand upon his artistic influences. *Algoritmi Dixit* (2008), a recent solo exhibition at the Egyptian Museum, was based upon the interaction between Arabic and European cultures in 13<sup>th</sup> century Spain. Basso lives and works in Madrid.

The information in this article has been taken from [dariobasso.com](http://dariobasso.com) and [arthobler.com](http://arthobler.com)