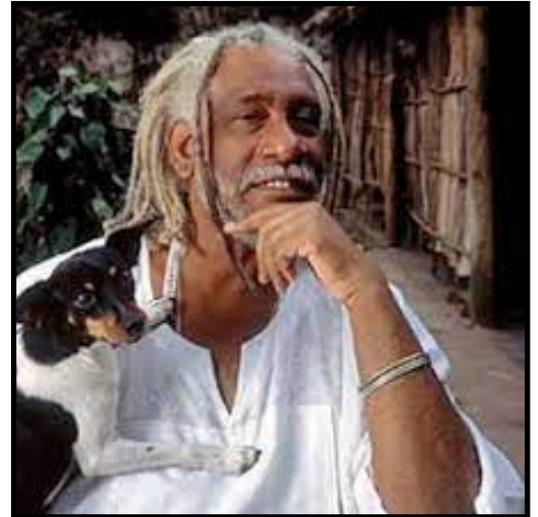


**Manuel Mendive** (1944, Cuban)



Manuel Mendive is the most important Cuban artist alive today. His work reflects his Afro-Cuban background.

He grew up in a small quiet neighborhood in Havana, Cuba where everyone knows one another, kids play in the street, and people come and go out of one another's homes all day long.

He loved painting from when he was a child. He loves animals and incorporates them in many of his paintings: dogs, pigeons, rabbits, ducks, fish, peacocks and monkeys.

He went to art school in Cuba. Wanting to learn more about his African roots, he spent a year visiting the Yoruba tribe (Nigeria) learning about their customs, culture and art.

He always dresses in full white. He paints and sculpts in wood, metal, plastic and iron. He also incorporates dance and music into his art; even painting the dancers' bodies.

He lives in the country because "he needs space and much greenery". His home is a magical world. It is filled with tropical fish and colorful birds, dogs, and a peacocks. His yard has lemon, orange and coconut trees.

His art is shown around the world.