



JOSE-MARIA CUNDIN

## REMEMBRANCE OF THE EXHIBIT “JACOB AND HIS TWELVE SONS” BY ZURBARAN

This narrative reflects my efforts with veracity and accuracy:

The poet Ruben Dario, in his autumnal sonnet to the Marques of Bradomin (an old 'friend' of mine), states that the character came to his mind by the effect of an “unconscious cerebration”. I claim a similar phenomenon (I wish I had more of these!)

In January of 2023 I finished a group of sculptures which I have titled: *The Persistent Nostalgia for Still Life*, consisting of twelve (again) metaphysical bibelots in polychrome epoxy resin. At the conclusion of this project, I was ready to reassume work at the easel. The disengagement from the three-dimensional mode and going to a flat plane required a subtle procedure, like sketching. The result of this effort was a collection of drawings, out of which I selected thirteen items that immediately provoked in me ponderings on the inconvenience of this number (twelve will always be better for me) and it was then when the mental antic previously mentioned - the Unconscious Cerebration – took effect and I recalled the formidable exhibit, *Jacob and His Twelve Sons* by Francisco Zurbaran at the Meadows Museum in Dallas, TX, November, 2017. An extraordinary event that we had the great pleasure of witnessing.

My work, certainly a humble homage to the great Baroque Maestro, relies on the impressions and perceptions of a formal nature rather than a subjective interpretation of the historical context. Therefore, I don't allude myself any foray into the Biblical exegesis of the subject. My paintings pretend to be a reflection of the Pomp and Circumstance produced in the Sevillian atelier of Zurbaran for the benefit of a Grand Theme.

José-Mariá Cundín

*Born in the Basque Country of northern Spain in 1938, Cundin was influenced by painters native to his homeland, among them Augustin and Ramon Zubiaurre, José Maria de Ucelay, and Genaro Urrutia. He lived and painted in France, Belgium, Colombia, and New York City before settling in New Orleans in the mid-1960s, later teaching art and exhibiting in Mexico and Spain, with critically acclaimed shows in Madrid, Barcelona, Bilbao, and Vitoria-Gasteiz. His works are held in important private, corporate, and museum collections throughout Europe and the Americas, including the Museo de Bellas Artes (Bilbao, Spain), New Orleans Museum of Art, Artium Museum (Vitoria, Spain), Museo de Antioquia (Medellín, Colombia), and Johnson & Wales University (Providence, Rhode Island).*

RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>th</sup> 6 - 8 PM

EXHIBITION DATES: JANUARY 3<sup>rd</sup> - FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

Front Cover: *Jacob and Benjamin*, 2023, oil on canvas, 48" x 72"



Reuben, 2023, oil on linen, 50" x 60"



*Judah*, 2023, oil on canvas, 40" x 40"



Asher, 2023, oil on canvas, 50" x 60"



*Issachar*, 2023, oil on canvas, 48" x 40"



*Dan*, 2023, oil on canvas, 60" x 50"

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*Naphtali*, 2023, oil on canvas, 40" x 40"

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