

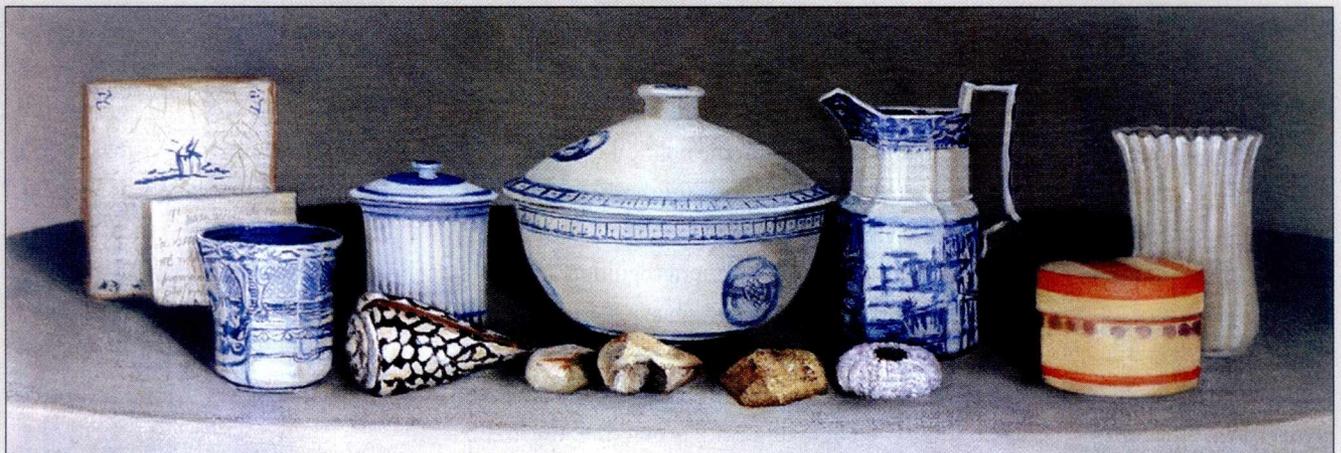
Photos reprinted courtesy of Anamario Hernández

*Chirimoya*, 61 x 71 cm (oil on linen).

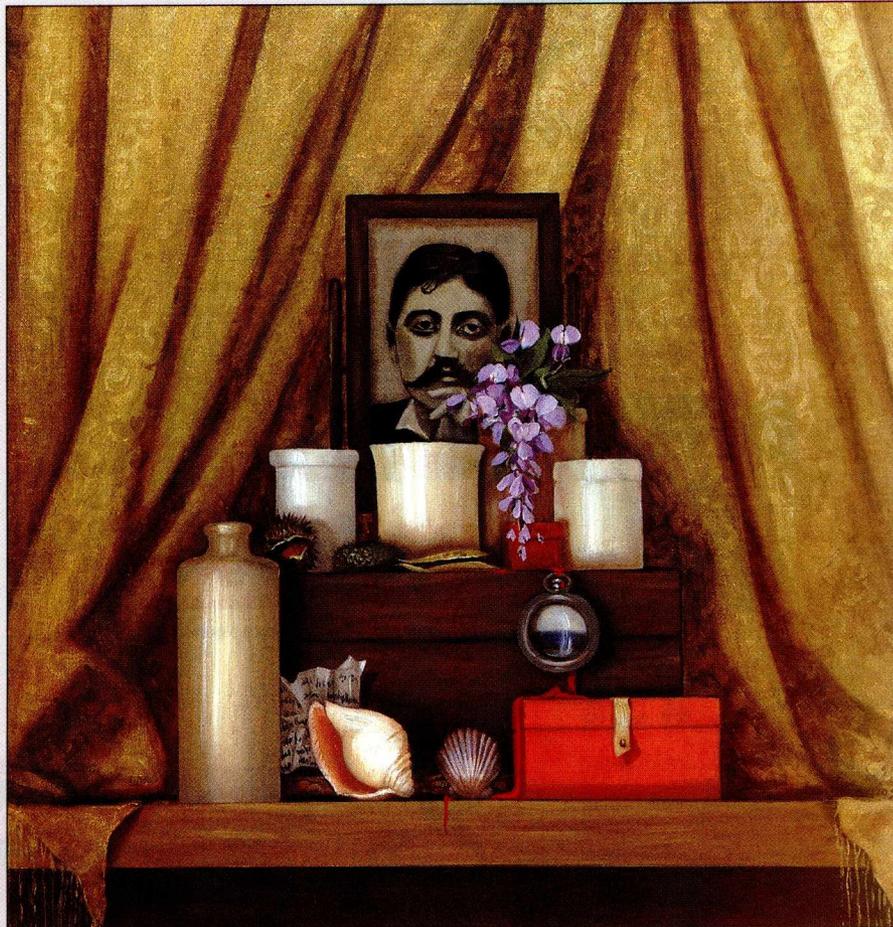
# Anamario Hernández Landscapes of Memory

*Anamari Gomís\**

Anamario Hernández recently exhibited at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Paris, Milan's Cervantes Institute and, in May 1998, at New York's Sindin Gallery.



*Still Life*, 25 x 70 cm (oil on linen).



*Homage to Marcel Proust, 57 x 62 cm, 1997 (oil on linen).*

The rhythmic arrangement of line and color in Anamario Hernández' painting submerges the viewer in an apparently harmonious world: the perfection of the line, the work on the canvas, the arrangement of the objects and, of course, the exaltation of color and the trap of its serenity (a trap because sometimes a discordant tone, an audacious darkening between light colors and pastels takes the viewer by surprise). The balance of the objects also breaks up in the very act of its proliferation: the blue jars next to the sea shells and the small boxes, close to an old toy, the flowers or the medallion with

the portrait of Marcel Proust and other motifs. The formal disposition of these objects is a mix of meanings and, therefore, downplays differences. For that reason, the painter does not impose the classic concept of still lifes but brings her static themes to life through a polyphony of characters. To her, her paintings are land-



*Apricots, 36 x 46 cm (oil on linen).*

scapes of memory, a Proustian memory. That is why the items she paints, dissimilar among themselves, unite in expressive concert on the canvas. Like a breath, in the juxtaposition of such heterogeneous utensils, the artist sometimes introduces a window and what lies beyond it, or she may include a ruddy nude woman in her object-ized universe. Whoever is looking might suddenly believe that Hernández has opened her themes up to the street or that she has deflected them toward figurative painting, but that is mere subterfuge. In fact, the objects dominate everything; they trace the spacial orbit in all Anamario Hernández' work, work of two-dimensional memory and delightful artistic expression. **NM**

\*Mexican art critic.