

Hernando Tejada / TROPICAL WOMAN

First of all I was a painter of murals, then I worked for a year making marionettes and that began my transformation into a sculptor. And one day, I could see this fantastic world that I would create, and so I began to add carved figure upon carved figure almost as if my sculptures were paintings. And then I realized that I'd better quit teaching, so I stopped all my classes and immersed myself in making these sculptures.

I started with a woman called *Rosario la Mujer Amario*: she has three legs and her breasts open up and there is a little container for a shot glass; she has no shoe for her third foot. All my titles rhyme. Most of my ideas come from my imagination, although sometimes something out of reality will trigger them. For example, I heard of a woman who had a lover whom she kept in an attic, and there was a cat who would go and visit him, so I made a reclining woman with a cat.

My world of wood is not finished. I have a very long list of pieces I would like to do, enough to keep me going for another eight or ten years. My mother was an artist also, and by the time I was six, I was already drawing. My sister is an artist too.

— HERNANDO TEJADA



