



Matador turned painter

Salvador Flores Loreto was born in Algeciras, Spain in 1942 to a gypsy family whose tradition is flamenco and bullfighting. After his bullfighting career came to an end, he turned to singing and painting. At a very early age, he had started drawing and painting which

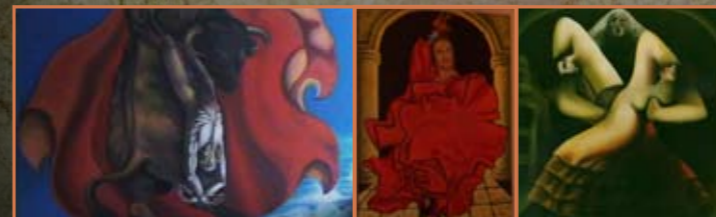
eventually became his greatest love and passion.

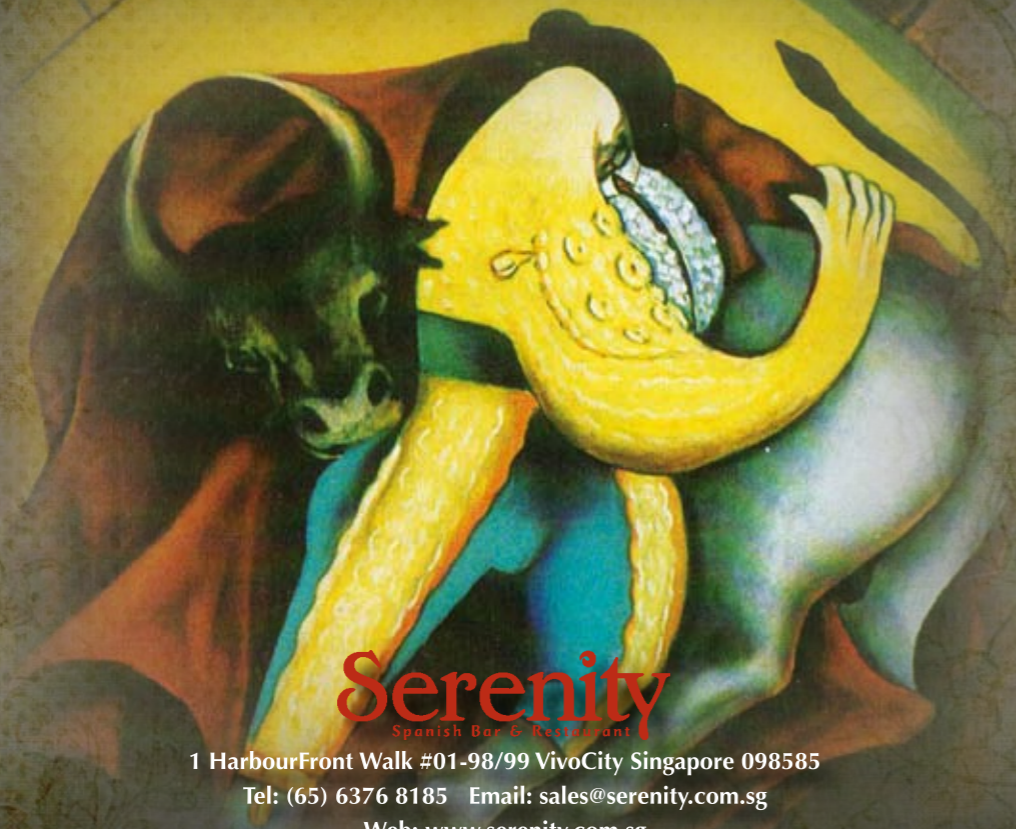
After studies in various Spanish art schools, Loreto was commissioned to undertake several major public works. He later began to exhibit as a solo artist. Arriving in Australia in 1966 presented him a new landscape and people, and a freedom of expression which he gladly embraced. This stimulated his painting approach for the years that followed. However, the Spanish and gypsy cultural roots in particular, remained a reference point for his paintings which have been exhibited in Europe, Japan and Australia.



A mix of Goya and Dali – a new form of surrealism

Inspired by the human spirit, Loreto does not conform to fads and sees himself as an honest artist who is not to be categorised. His works demonstrate his extraordinary talent for expressing himself in different styles, always with that touch of surrealism which good Spanish artists are unable to resist. The pathos, tragedy and direct physical expressive force appear as elements throughout his work. Also evident are the contrasts of light and shade, the reference to surrealist images and the flamenco depth. The three dimensional aspect of his paintings has been likened to sculptures.





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