

## JOSÉ SEGRELLES, MASTER OF FANTASY

José Segrelles Albert (Albaida, Valencia, 1885-1969) showed, from childhood, an innate ability for drawing, which motivated him to move from Valencia to Barcelona. This city was the ideal springboard to his recognition, first in the United Kingdom and then in New York, where he lived between 1929 and 1932. The great success of his exhibition at the Roerich Museum led the Americans to baptize his very personal blue chromatism as "The Segrelles Blue".

He received several awards and recognitions for his work, such as the Gold Medal at the Barcelona International Exhibition of 1929, the Gold Medal of the Círculo de Bellas Artes de Valencia or the Gold Medal at Work. He was named Honorary Scholar of the Academia de Belles Artes de San Carlos in Valencia.

Segrelles is a world reference for the most outstanding filmmakers of the fantasy genre, such as Guillermo del Toro, as well as for the best contemporary science fiction illustrators. Considered a master of masters, the flatteries from Frank Frazetta, Al Williamson, Roy G. Krenkel or Berni Wrightson have been continued by the admiration from William Stout, John Howe, Mike Kaluta, Paul Chadwick or Richard Hescox, amongst others.

This exhibition aims to establish a conversation between the artist and the spectator, letting his own words introduce us to his thoughts and chimaeras until his work, inexplicably, stays in our retina.

José Enrique Segrelles Cortina  
Exhibition curator

«Congratulations. Who illustrates this novel is a young genius. His name is José Segrelles. The illustrations he has made for *The Jester* are something exceptional.»

Guillermo Núñez de Prado to Luis G. Manegat

### 1.

*The Jester*

1916

Mixed media on paper

**Private collection**

### 2.

*Ghosts*

n.d.

Mixed media on paper

**Joan J. Soler Navarro Collection**

**3.**

*The miser*

1916

Mixed media on paper

**Joan J. Soler Navarro Collection**

*«The job that thrills me most, the one that responds better to my faith and my conditioning is fantasy drawing . My art has always been walking without tripping through the paths of the fantasy that shapes all of my works.»*

José Segrelles

**4.**

*Gulliver II*

1922

Oil on board

**Private collection**

**5.**

*Carnivorous plant*

n.d.

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**6.**

*The glowworms*

1944-1945

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**7.**

*Saint George and the dragon*

1914

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**8.**

*Gulliver I*

1922

Watercolour on paper

**Joan J. Soler Navarro Collection**

*«I need a great spiritual rest. I live submerged in this absurd and overwhelming reality, which forces me to meditate and take a deep breath.»*

José Segrelles

**9.**

*On hearing it, Sin and Death joyfully rushed down to Earth*

1914

Watercolour on paper

**Vicente Segrelles Collection**

**10.**

*Like this, we cross hills, mountains...*

1933

Watercolour on paper

**Alejandro Segrelles Collection**

**11.**

*Winged angel*

n.d.

Mixed media on paper

**Private collection**

In 1921 Segrelles is considered the number one poster artist in Catalonia.

In 1923 he made the poster for the recently opened Sitges Autodrome.

**13.**

Poster of the Sitges Autodrome

1928

Lithography on paper

**Private collection**

*"When there are no models for whatever I've dreamed, I create them specifically for this purpose. I do it with plasticine. I create a stage, but as what I see is not what I saw, I have to paint with the imagination.»*

José Segrelles

**14.**

*Invasion of the Martians*

1950

Oil on canvas

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**15.**

*Aniel's metamorphosis (The Divine Comedy)*

1928

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**16.**

*... I saw in the distance a white mass (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1932

Watercolour on paper

**Víctor Segrelles del Pilar Collection**

*«I am enthusiastic about the crossing, because it makes it possible to meet with the Atlantic storm. I want to make a pictorial poem of the ocean.»*

José Segrelles

**17.**

*The seaplane*

1921

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**18.**

*The Atlantis*

1931

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**19.**

*The water nymph (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1950

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**20.**

*The two fish, sons of the Red King (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1949

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**21.**

*The Monkey Island (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1947

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**22.**

*Underwater landscape (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1950

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

*«A picture can be a phrase, a speech, a feeling, a reason.»*

José Segrelles

**12.**

*Monkey*

1924

Pencil graphite on paper

**Private collection**

*"Reality does not appeal to me. It overwhelms me, it weighs me down. I prefer mystical, mythological figures, unreal beings from the oriental fantasy. I am filled with pride to be called an artist, not for what I paint, but for what I feel. »*

José Segrelles

**24.**

*The singing tree and the gold-coloured water (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1932

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**25.**

*Princesses, my sisters, the morning is approaching, and it is time to think of flying to our country, which is far away (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1955

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**26.**

*Five thieves entering the cave (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1952-1956

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**27.**

*Aladdin's jewels (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1952-1956

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**28.**

*A marble slab appeared with a ring (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1931-1932

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**29.**

*Fleshy reptile (One Thousand and One Nights)*

1953

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

«*With the Medal of Barcelona I see my work crowned.*»

José Segrelles

**30.**

*The Hypocrites. Dressed in magnificent golden cloaks on the outside, but lined with heavy lead inside (The Divine Comedy)*

Gold medal at the Barcelona International Exhibition, 1929

1928

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**31.**

*The Suicidals. Before the ravaged and bloodied bodies of the suicidals turn into stiff and gnarled trees, they run, they shout ... Death come, come to me! (The Divine Comedy)*

1928

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

*«I think I know and admire the sublime deafened Beethoven. He is my older brother and I feel his misfortunes as if they were my own. (...) Painting, music and astronomy are the three great passions of my life.»*

José Segrelles

**32.**

*Beethoven in contact with nature*

1927

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**33.**

*Passage of the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven*

1927

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**34.**

*Wagner's Tetralogy*

1933

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**35.**

*The sublime deaf from Bonn*

n.d.

Watercolour on paper

**Albericio Collection**

**36.**

*Subtle love, fleeting. Moonlight Sonata. Beethoven*

1927

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

*«I need to paint to be alive. It's my oxygen .The desire for fresh work beats inside of me. To end it and to start again.»*

José Segrelles

**37.**

*Lung' surface*

1957-1958

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**38.**

*Inside the heart. Vibrating nerve*

1957-1958

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

*«I hope to attend the Academy and to my watercolors, because I crave to paint some new ones, because what I need is the total isolation from all those social matters where there's only ambition and envy.»*

José Segrelles

**39.**

*Lust (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**40.**

*Wrath (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**41.**

*Pride (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**42.**

*Envy (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**43.**

*Greed (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**



**44.**

*Laziness (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**45.**

*Greed (The Seven Deadly Sins)*

1925

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

*«The dwarf dragging a glass jar that contained my sister's head, some other dwarfs rummaging through her drawers with all her clothes, stealing her shoes... The noise of the jar woke me up, or perhaps it was the early morning rain. I lived through that nightmare and I wanted to explain it, not with words, but with colours.»*

José Segrelles

**46.**

*Nightmare. The glass jar*

1929

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**47.**

*The Black Cat. Edgar Allan Poe*

n.d.

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**48.**

*Berenice. Edgar Allan Poe*

1929

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**49.**

*Christmas chant. The spectre joined the sad caravan of spirits floating in the night*

n.d.

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**50.**

*The musicians. Edgar Allan Poe*

n.d.

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

*"My great dream has been, and continues to be, to create with the power of the soul.»*

José Segrelles

**23.**

*Tower of skulls*

1921

Mixed media on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

*«These Americans believe they are the first to land on the moon, but I got there before them. As well as mars, and to other planets.»*

José Segrelles

**51.**

*Fissure*

1959-1960

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**52.**

*Moon's surface*

1959-1960

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**53.**

*Solar river*

1959-1960

Watercolour on paper

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

**54.**

*The great nebula of Orion*

1961

Oil on canvas

**Casa-Museo José Segrelles, Albaida (Valencia)**

On the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1969, while watching the launch of Apollo 9 as it headed to the Earth's orbit and soon after its takeoff, Segrelles set off on his last journey to keep on flying forever...

**55.**

*Will Clavileño hallucinate?*

1959

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

**56.**

*Clavileño*

1934

Watercolour on paper

**Private collection**

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**57.**

Cover of the book *F.C.Barcelona's History* with a poster by José Segrelles, on the occasion of the club's Silver Anniversary

Barcelona, 1924

**Private collection**

**58.**

Cover of the book *After death*, with a work by José Segrelles. *La Novel·la Estrangera*

1924

**Private collection**

**59.**

Cover of the book *The Princess of the beautiful smile*, with a work by José Segrelles. *La Novel·la Estrangera*

1924

**Private collection**

**60.**

Cover of the magazine *La Semana Gráfica*, with a work by José Segrelles. Special issue dedicated to the International Exhibition of Barcelona 1929.

Barcelona, 25<sup>th</sup> May 1929

**Private collection**

**61.**

Cover of the almanac *L'Esquella de la Torratxa*, with a work by José Segrelles

1924

**Private collection**

**62.**

Cover of the almanac *L'Esquella de la Torratxa*, with a work by José Segrelles

1925

**Private collection**

**63.**

Catalogue of the exhibition set in the Círculo de Bellas Artes

Valencia, 1928

**Private collection**

**64.**

Catalogue of the exhibition set in the Galeries Laietanes

Barcelona, 1926

**Private collection**

**65.**

Catalogue of the exhibition set in the Salons de Belles Arts d'El Siglo

Barcelona, 1925

**Private collection**

**66.**

"Tales of Mystery and Imagination", by Edgar Allan Poe, with illustrations by José Segrelles. *The*

*Illustrated London News*, Christmas Special 1935, p. 9-12

London, 1935

**Private collection**

**67.**

"An Artist's Visions: Dante's Inferno", with illustrations by José Segrelles. *The Illustrated London News*, Christmas Number 1928, p. 19-22

London, 1928

**Private collection**

**68.**

Sketch for *Macabre Dance*

January 1939

Graphite pencil drawing on paper

**Private collection**

**69.**

Sketch for *The genie of the lamp (One Thousand and One Nights)*

February 1953

Graphite pencil drawing on paper

**Private collection**

**70.**

Sketch for *Gulliver*

c. 1920

Pen drawing on paper

**Private collection**

**71.**

Invitation to the José Segrelles exhibition held at the Circulo Industrial

Alcoi, 1934

**Private collection**

**72.**

"The Segrelles' Blue", on the *Revista Valencia Atracción*, p. 84

Valencia, June 1931

**Private collection**

**73.**

Interview with José Segrelles, from the magazine *Mundo Gráfico*

18<sup>th</sup> December 1935

**Private collection**

**74.**

Catalogue of the exhibition held in the Roerich Museum

New York, 14<sup>th</sup> April 1931

**Private collection**

**75.**

José Segrelles in New York

New York, 25<sup>th</sup> May 1930

**Private collection**

**76.**

José Segrelles painting in his studio from Morningside Drive  
New York, n.d.

**Private collection**

**77.**

Banquet held in honour of José Segrelles at the Central Park Hotel  
New York, 29<sup>th</sup> April 1931

**Private collection**

**78.**

José Segrelles' business studio card at 90, Morningside Drive, no. 4-C  
New York, n.d.

**Private collection**

**79.**

Cover dedicated to José Segrelles, from the newspaper *La Opinión* of Los Angeles (California)  
Los Angeles, 26<sup>th</sup> April 1931

**Private collection**