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17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006

Set No. 175 LATIN AMERICAN WOMEN ARTISTS I

A. Raquel Forner - Argentina

"Astrobeings", oil painting - Abstract expressionism. Imaginative and plastic subject matter that evokes outer space in movement. It is a violent composition, energetically painted in black, grey and rich blue with a strong, vigorous brush stroke. There are some linear elements of Oriental influence and traces of Cubist organization.

The artist tries to express the agony of modern man whose search for answers to his eternal question has led him through the labyrinths of outer space.

Forner was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1902. Studied at the National Academy of Fine Arts. Traveled to Europe, the United States and other South American countries. During her stay in Paris (1920-1930) she attended the Othon Friesz courses. Has had numerous individual shows in her country and abroad and has participated in international Biennials and exhibitions. Has won many national and international prizes. Her work is presented in important private and public collections including the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

B. Nelly Freire - Argentina

"Women", ink drawing - Dramatic, semi-abstract composition in contrasting black and white. It shows four ambiguous, pathetic silhouettes: three white shadows surrounding a black figure in the center. Hands play an important role suggesting anguish, sorrow. The figures are bald.

Freire was born in Chaco, Argentina, in 1933. Studied drawing with Puig, Alonso and Szalay, while working for a degree in education which she completed in 1959. She took painting with Leopoldo Presas. During 1954-1965 she was Director of the Antigone Gallery in Buenos Aires. In 1971, she was awarded the grand prize for drawing at the Manuel Belgrano Municipal Salon in Argentina. Her work is represented in public and private collections in Argentina, Peru and the United States.



C. Carmen Gracia - Argentina

"Bishop", intaglio (color) - Symmetrical, simplified organic form painted in pale radiant, sedative hues. Influence of Art Deco.

Gracia was born in Mendoza, Argentina, in 1935. She initiated graphic arts courses in Argentina and continued in 1960 at Atelier 17 in Paris. In 1965 she enrolled at the Slade School in London, Tokyo, Caracas and several Canadian cities. Her work is presented in important collections in Europe and in the Americas, including that of Slade School, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London; the National Library and the Municipal Museum in Paris, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje, Yugoslavia, and the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America in Washington, D.C.

D. Elsa Gramcko - Venezuela

"Composition No. 2", oil on canvas - Assemblage of rhythmic curvilinear forms that complement one another in an oblique fashion. Different tones of grey with touches of bright colors. Influence of Art Deco.

Gramcko was born in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela. She attended the School of Fine Arts in Caracas and studied, at the same time, Philosophy at the National University. She has exhibited widely in her native country, the United States and in Europe.

E. Sarah Grilo - Argentina

"Motif in Blues", oil on canvas - Abstract. Poised composition of rectangular forms painted in flat areas of icy blues, yellows and greens. Harmonic and serene mood.

Grilo was born in Buenos Aires in 1920. She is a self-taught artist. Has held individual shows in Madrid (Spain), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Sao Paulo (Brazil), and Buenos Aires (Argentina). Her work is represented in collections in South America and in the United States.

F. Asilia Guillen - Nicaragua

"Heroes and Artists of the Americas Meet at the Pan American Union", Oil on canvas board - Naive, pointillist. In a sense, a symbolic statement of the OAS function. Brilliantly colored, ingenious composition depicts the heroes of the American nations,

each on horseback and each bearing the banner of his country, marching toward the PAU as artists symbolically protect the building. Brush work recalls the stitches of her embroidery.

Guillen was born in Granada, Nicaragua. She studied music, painting and embroidery like all girls of her class in that city. She embroidered until 1952 when a friend suggested that she paint the extraordinary compositions that she had been creating with needle and thread. She has participated in numerous group and individual shows. She is considered one of the outstanding primitive painters of Latin America.

G. Camila Hernandez - Mexico

"Maternity" - inlaid on amate bark. Naive composition of exquisite simplicity, reminiscent of early cave drawings and of the works of Picasso, Miro, Klee and Dubuffet. Cut on the bark of the amate tree that is -- according to Hernandez's people -- endowed with powers of evil and good.

Hernandez is an Otomi Indian woman of Mexico, born in Sierra Madre, State of Puebla. She is also a medicine woman, a "curandera."

H. Joyce - Guatemala

"Cataclysm", chromed metal. Abstract sculpture. When placed in a natural setting, the hard-edge, geometrical forms contrast with the freedom and romantic feeling of vegetation while there is a harmonizing effect produced by the surrounding reflected in the shiny surfaces of the work. Inspired by pre-Columbian Mayan stellae.

Joyce was born in Mexico in 1938. She moved to Guatemala as a child and is now a Guatemalan citizen. Studied at the University of Mexico, the University of Wisconsin and Silpakorn University of Fine arts in Bangkok, Thailand. She has exhibited her work widely in Latin America and in the United States.

I. Raquel Lazaro - Cuba

"Space Ships in Yellow"- Oil on canvas. Surrealist. Inspired by science fiction spatial ships. Child-like composition, reminiscent of the fantasy work of Klee and Chagall. Sophisticated.

Lazaro was born in Havana, Cuba, in 1917. She studied art at the Biscayne College in Miami, Has a Ph.D. in Pedagogy from the University of Havana. Has exhibited in her native country and in Miami, Florida. Solo and group shows. Has received important awards in her country.

J. Carmen de Millan - Venezuela

"Women", oil on canvas. Naive. Massive, doll-like feminine forms dressed in colorful festive costumes. They are grouped in a tight composition. Very decorative reminiscent of the dolls by Faith Ringgold.

Carmen de Millán was born in Venezuela (Departamento Vargas) in 1910. She was a self-taught artist. With her husband, painter Victor Millán- she has exhibited widely in her native country. Her work is represented in important public and private collections in her native country and in the Museum of Modern of Latin America in Washington, D.C.

Text by Berta Schaefer

Photos by Angel Hurtado



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Sets No. 175, 176, 177

Glossary

Aquatint: See Engraving Techniques

Chiaroscuro: In drawing, painting, and the graphic arts, the rendering of forms through a balanced contrast between pronounced light and dark areas. The technique, which was introduced in the Renaissance, is effective in creating an illusion of depth and space around the principal figure of a composition. Leonardo and Rembrandt were painters who excelled in its use.

Collage: The technique of creating a pictorial composition in two dimensions or very low relief by gluing paper, fabrics, or any natural or manufactured material to a canvas or panel; also, a work of art so produced.

Curandera: Spanish word meaning "Medicine woman."

Guajiro: Indians living in the "Peninsula de la Guajira" in Columbia/Venezuela.

Nipo-Brazilian: Name given to Japanese immigrants in Brazil or to Brazilians of Japanese ancestry.

Papier mache: A molding material made of paper torn into strips or pulped and soaked in a binder of starch or flour paste or dextrin. It is easily made, and it is widely used to make decorative and functional objects which are usually painted and varnished. The term is French for "chewed paper."

Pointillism: A branch of French Impressionism in which the principle of optical mixture or broken color was carried to extreme or applying colors in tiny dots or small, isolated strokes. Forms are visible only from a distance, when the viewer's eyes blends the points of color to create visual masses and outlines. The inventor and chief exponent of pointillism was George Seurat (1859-1891).

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A. Ruth Bess - Brazil

"Inheritance" - etching and intaglio. Highly original interpretation of the development of a fetus inside the mother's womb. Reminiscent of the cave drawings of prehistoric times.

Bess was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1942 and studied there at the Academy of Fine Arts and at the Ecole Paul Colin in Paris. In 1964 she studied engraving at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro. Before moving to Brazil she spent several years in Venezuela as a magazine illustrator and freelance artist. She has had several exhibitions in Europe, Latin America and in the United States. She is one of the leading graphic artists in South America.

B. Yolanda Mohalyi - Brazilian

"Painting No. 4" - oil on canvas. Abstract expressionism. The composition consists of elaborated zones and simple areas beautifully combined. Each area vibrates intensely appealing to both emotion and intellect with equal force.

Mohalyi was born in Transylvania, Hungary and attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. In 1931 she went to Brazil where she became involved in the modern art movement. She has held many individual and group shows in Brazil and Argentina. She also participated in the International Biennials held in Tokyo.

C. Maria Bonomi - Brazil

"Palco" - woodcut. Intricate work with streaking white masses and strong, black shapes skillfully combined that suggest the structures and artificial lighting of a metropolis. Also reminiscent of Oriental characters. Abstract Composition.

Bonomi is a citizen of Brazil born in Italy in 1935. She lived in Sao Paulo since her childhood where her art and graphic studies initiated. She has held several one-man shows in Brazil and in the United States.



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D. Beatrix Briceño - Panama

"The Dollies" - oil on canvas. Charming and skillfully composed work in which the frustrations of our present day society, rather than literal content, seem to be the true subject matter with which the artist is primarily concerned. Influence of fantasy, Surrealism, Primitivism and Pop Art in a very personal interpretation.

Briceño was born in London in 1911 and moved to Panama, where she became a citizen in 1943. She studied art at the University of Panama and at the workshop of painter Frank Schaeffer in Rio de Janeiro. She has held several solo shows in Panama, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and in the United States with great success.

E. Constanca Calderon - Panama.

"Homage to the A" - oil on canvas. Geometric form of abstraction composed of horizontals and verticals softly emerging into and out of their environment. Blues and greens with touches of red.

Calderon, born in Panama in 1937, began to draw and paint in childhood. She studied in Philadelphia and received her degree in art at the Grande Chaumiere Academy and at the Sorbonne in Paris. Later, studying in Spain, Calderon improved her technique and artistic expression. She has exhibited in Paris, Washington, D.C., New York and Munich, as well as in her native Panama. She is also a poet.

F. Aida Carballo - Argentina

"Self-Portrait with Autobiography" - aquatint. Intense, strong powerful work filled with emotion and feeling. A profile portrait occupies a large area of the composition, with a handwritten autobiography of the artist as a background. The left hand, on the right foreground, shows the lines of life.

Carballo was born in Buenos Aires in 1916. She studied art at the national schools of Prudenciano Pueyrredon and Ernesto de la Carcova. She also studied mural painting and graphic arts. She has been awarded several prizes and a fellowship from the Government of France to study in Paris for one year. She has had many individual shows in Argentina, Spain, Poland and in the United States. An etcher and lithographer, Carballo generally works directly on the metal or stone.

G. Ines Cordova - Bolivia

"Lake" - Collage. Abstract. Highly imaginative way of using cloths and traditional patchwork techniques to create a composition of fabrics of different textures and colors result in a serious expression that resembles an Andean landscape.

Córdova was born in Potosí in 1927 and studied at the National School of Fine Arts in La Paz. Later she attended workshops in Montevideo, Madrid, Barcelona and Ayacucho (Perú). She is also an accomplished ceramist. Her work has been exhibited in individual and group shows in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the United States. She was awarded first prize at the II INBO Biennial in La Paz. She has executed numerous ceramic murals in public buildings in La Paz and is represented in public and private collections in Bolivia, Colombia, and Venezuela.

II. Olga Donde - Mexican

"Tangerines" - oil on canvas. Still life treated in a very unique manner, which is related to magic realism. Organic, sensuous forms, conceived in minute detail, are projected into the infinite. Touches of Surrealism.

A self-taught painter, Donde was born in Mexico City in 1935 and has been involved in the art world for several years both as a painter and as a owner of an art gallery. She had her first solo show in 1969 in Mexico City. Her works have been included in group exhibits in Mexico and in the United States.

I. Lola Fernandez - Costa Rica

"Return of the Americas" - oil on canvas. Abstract landscape Sober, sedate composition that is reminiscent of Pre-Columbian forms. Large areas of color. Greys, dark blues. Oriental influence.

Fernandez studied in San Jose, Costa Rica as well in Bogota, Colombia and Florence, Italy where she was awarded the "Laurea in Pittura." She has traveled extensively in the United States, Europe, the Middle and the Far East. Fernandez has exhibited in Paris, Mexico, San Jose, Bogota, Santiago, Panama, Guatemala, Venice, Rome, Milan, Florence and London. She is part of the "New Vision" group of London and of the Group of Eight in San Jose.

J. Beatriz Echeverri - Colombia

"Woman" - sculpture. Torso and head made of papier mache hardened with gesso and covered with irregular pieces of thick, rough leather. The patching and stitching as well as the textural quality of the leather itself give the torso a particular appearance. It is a fecundity symbol, with large body and small head. It has only one empty eye and the mouth is sewn.

Echeverri was born in Salamina, Colombia in 1938. She is considered one of the most promising figures in Colombian art. She began studies at Catholic University in Bogotá and later at the David Manzur Workshop in the same city. She has exhibited in that country and in the United States.

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