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

Set 180 Delta Solar

- A. The west facade of the Air and Space Museum, on Independence Avenue & 7th Streets, S.W. Washington, D.C.. In the garden, to the left, stands "Delta Solar", a monumental sculpture by the renowned Venezuelan artist Alejandro Otero.
- B. The structure is composed of a rigid grill of stainless steel in the shape of a pyramid of four sides. In each of the cubes formed by the grill there are very light wheel-blades propelled by the wind.
- C. The sculpture is reflected in a pond that surrounds it.
- D. View of front and right side, in the background is the Mall, the promenade that runs in front of the Nation's Capitol.
- E. View of right side of structure. The building on the left is the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.
- F. This time the left side is viewed with the Air & Space Museum in the background. The reflection on the water is particularly impressive, forming another similar form, but reversed.
- G. View of back of sculpture showing clearly the shape of the wings.
- H. Another detail of the wings and the handsome reflection.
- I. Detail of the extreme right showing the situation of the wings in the center of each cube. The most impressive moment is when all these elements move following the rhythm and speed of the wind.
- J. The sculpture stands quietly surrounded by the snow on a winter day. By its reflecting capabilities it takes the color and the mood of the seasons adapting itself in the changes of nature.

Photographs by Angel Hurtado
Texts by Mary Noll & Luly Delgado





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AUDIO/VISUAL PROGRAM

"Delta Solar, A Monumental Work of Alejandro Otero"

Alejandro Otero was born in Venezuela in 1921. After his initial studies at the Plastic and Applied Arts School in Caracas, he begins with what is known as his figurative analytic period, which has the marked influence of Cezanne's work. He later goes to Europe where following the style of Picasso, he begins his coffee-pot period, which consists of the disintegration of planes and lines of simple objects. At the end of this epoch in Paris, together with other Venezuelan painters, he founded the magazine Dissidents, whose objective was to analyze the current situation of art in Venezuela. After this he develops his horizontal-vertical collages series, which precedes his "Colorhythms," one of his most important periods. Later he begins his exploration with white painted relief objects and a series of small collages made out of cardboard, envelopes and postage stamps. In regards to his work, Otero explains: "To weigh these apparent ruptures my painting is no more than an uninterrupted search of a space, of a time, of a structure, as well as a drama where 20th century man can recognize his own image..."

Inside of this constant search, he returns to his Cubist tendencies and experiences a period of elaborate collage making, the base of which is colored newspaper. At the end of the 60's and beginning of the 70's he begins his foray in sculpture, which leads to a grant at the Guggenheim Foundation in the United States promoting his in spatial sculpture.

Included among the many museums and galleries where Otero has presented his work are the Modern Museum of New York, the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America in Washington, D.C., the Gallery Wulfegasse in Klagenfurt, Austria, Signals Gallery in London, as well as the Gallery of Contemporary Art and Fine Art Museum in Caracas.

Alejandro Otero has accomplished some major works out of moving wind reels. These can be seen at the Sforza Palace in Milan, in Bogota, Caracas and Washington.



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The sculpture in Washington, is situated in the garden of the Air and Space Museum, entitled "Delta Solar." It owes its name to the delta structure, and it contains in its interior dozens of rustproof steel reels, very lightweight, that move at the slightest breeze. Reflected in its form is the ambience that surrounds it, which has made its integration with nature more evident. This constant game of color and movement that is produced by its moving reels is duplicated in the reflecting pool of water in which it stands. "Delta Solar" was donated to the people of the United States by the government of Venezuela to commemorate the Bicennntnial of the United States of America.