

89 VENEZUELA 10 contemporary Venezuelan sculptors

89A Mural on front of fountain, Hilton Hotel, Caracas, by HARRY ABEND

Harry Abend began experimenting with sculptured forms in 1958

under the guidance of Miguel Arroyo in the Architecture School of
the University of Caracas. In 1961 Abend participated in the
Official National Salon with bronze sculptures; since then, he has
continued seeking effects of expression with lost wax process.
Abend has attended the workshops of artists such as Armitage,
Paolozzi, and Moore. In 1963 he was awarded Venezuela's National
Prize for Sculpture.

89B "Floating Sculpture", form suspended above inverted magnetic field,
by ALBERTO COLLIE

Alberto Collie was born in 1939 in Caracas. Upon completing secondary school he began private study in art and continued his formal education at Boston University, working toward a degree in landscape architecture. Later he enrolled in the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University. Examples of Collie's work are to be found in the Dallas Museum of Modern Art, the Chrysler Museum (Provincetown Massachusetts), and in many important private collections in the United States. Collie has participated in group shows both in Venezuela and in the United States (Albany, Berkeley, Boston, New York, San Francisco). In 1964 he was invited to participate in the Pittsburgh International, organized by the Carnegie Institute. One-man shows of his compositions have been given at the Atelier Chapman Kelly Gallery in Dallas (1963), at the Comara Gallery in Los Angeles (1964), and at the Nordness Gallery in New York (1964). In an extensive review of the last-mentioned exhibit, the New York Times commented that "Collie's spatial-absolutes represent a marriage of technology and art, but science is clearly the stronger partner," and it qualified the effect of the sculptures as "playful and magical."

An exhibit of his work was held at the OAS Headquarters in 1966.

89C Door, Phelps Building, Caracas, by CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ

Cruz-Diez was born in Caracas in 1923. He graduated in 1945 from the School of Fine Arts of Caracas. Between 1946 and 1951 was art director for the McCann-Erickson Editorial of Venezuela; later, he became illustrator of the daily "El Nacional" in Caracas; from 1955 to 1956 lived and worked in Barcelona, Spain, and from 1958 to 1960 was professor at the School of Fine Arts of Caracas, as well as

typographic design teacher for the School of Journalism of the University of Venezuela. Since 1960 he has lived and worked in Paris. He has exhibited extensively in Latin America, the United States and Europe. His works may be found in museums such as The Victoria and Albert Museum, London; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Statches Museum Leverkusen, Germany; Casa de la Cultura, Havana, Cuba; Museum of Fine Art, Caracas; Museum of Contemporary Art, Montreal. He was awarded Venezuelan National Prize in 1971. A. Hurtado, painter/film-maker, has made a film on Cruz-Diez: "Fisicromias".

89D Outdoor aluminum sculpture, Institute of Scientific Investigations, Caracas, by GEGO

Gertrudis Goldsmichdt, born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1912, graduated as architect-engineer in Stuttgart. Has been a resident of Venezuela since 1939 and became a Venezuelan citizen in 1951. Since 1958 has directed the Basic Composition Workshop of the Department of Architecture at the University of Caracas. Gego painted landscapes until 1953. Her current work consists of geometric constructions in iron.

89E Hanging steel sculpture, Hilton Hotel, Caracas, by ELSA GRAMCKO

Miss Gramcko was born in Puerto Cabello, Venezuela, in 1925. She attended the School of Fine Arts in Caracas. She has been exhibiting her works since 1957 and has obtained national as well as international recognition. Was awarded Venezuelan National Prize in 1968. A presentation of her work took place at the OAS Headquarters in 1959.

89F Sculpture in homage to Andrés Bello, Institute of Scientific Investigations, Caracas, by MARISOL

Marisol Escobar was born in Paris in 1930 of Venezuelan parentage, spent her childhood in Venezuela, went back to France, studied at the Academie des Beaux Arts in Paris and moved to New York at the age of 20. She attended the Jepson School in Los Angeles, the Art Students League in New York, and was a pupil of Hans Hoffmann. Extraordinarily skilled artist and craftsman--carpenter, woodcarver, patternmaker, draughtsman, engraver, colourist, and sculptor. Frequently makes plaster casts of her own face, hands and feet which are integrated into her work. Her works have been exhibited since 1954 in group shows and one-man shows. Museum collections: Museum of Modern Art, New York City; Albright Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York City; Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University.

89G "Toninas" Fountain, Plaza El Silencio, Caracas, by FRANCISCO NARVAEZ

Francisco Narváez was born in Margarita, Venezuela, in 1908. Entered the School of Fine Arts of Caracas in 1923. Narváez worked with wood sculpture until 1928 when he went to Paris to study at the Julien Academy. In 1932 returned to Venezuela to Exhibit at the "Ateneo de Caracas". This period marks the beginning of his transition to abstract composition influenced by Moore and Arp. Narváez works primarily with iron and stone, especially the "Araya stone". Is one of the most important sculptors of Venezuela.

89H Wind-structure, Institute of Scientific Investigations, Caracas, by ALEJANDRO OTERO

Alejandro Otero was born in Upata, Bolívar, in 1921. He completed his education in Caracas and attended the School of Fine Arts where he later became professor of mural painting and stained glass techniques. Afterwards went to Paris on a scholarship first awarded him by the French Government and extended by the Venezuelan Government (1945-1947). Otero exhibited his works at OAS Headquarters in 1949. He was awarded the Venezuelan National Prize in 1958. Thereafter he established his reputation as one of the most progressive artists in the new generation of creators in Latin America. In 1972 received a grant to work with Georgy Kepes at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, currently working on monumental outdoor sculptures that reflect sunrays.

89I Exterior murals, Institute of Scientific Investigations, Caracas, by JESUS RAFAEL SOTO

Soto was born in Ciudad Bolívar in 1923. In 1947 graduated from the School of Fine Arts of Caracas. From 1947 to 1950 was director of the School of Fine Arts of Maracaibo. Since 1950 Soto has lived and worked in Paris. He is known as an artist of subtle optical constructions. In 1964 he won the Grand Prize at the Cordoba Biennale, in Argentina. His prestige is well established in Latin America, the United States and Europe. Was awarded the Venezuelan National Prize in 1960. The painter/film-maker A. Hurtado has made a film on his life and work: "Soto". Soto has had retrospective exhibitions of his work in cultural centers such as: Royal Museum, Brussels (1968); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam (1968); Museum of Modern Art, Paris (1969); Chicago Art Institute (1971); Museum of Fine Arts, Caracas (1971); and, Museum of Modern Art, Bogotá (1972).

89J Outdoor sculpture, Institute of Scientific Investigations, Caracas,
by VICTOR VALERA

Valera was one of the first in Venezuela to work with iron sculpture. Prior to that he was painter, having attended the School of Fine Arts of Maracaibo and Caracas, graduating from the former. In 1950 he moved to Paris, where he participated in the workshops of Dewasne and Vasarely. Three years later Valera returned to Venezuela and in 1957 began to work in iron sculpture. In 1964 he received First Prize for Sculpture in the Salon of Young Latin-American Artists, the acquisition prize of the OAS. Valera was awarded First National Prize for sculpture in 1958.