

Relational subjects, objects, and institutions (Amsterdam, 8-9 Jun 23)

University of Amsterdam, Jun 8-09, 2023

Felipe Martinez

"Relational subjects, objects, and institutions: Artistic Convergences between Latin America and Europe after 1945", June 8th-9th, 2023, University of Amsterdam.

Despite the apparent postwar reordering of power and influence towards New York, between 1962 and 1976 an influx of artistic exiles left Latin America for Europe. Their orientation was de-centered, opting to move to the Netherlands, the UK, Italy, among other dispersed locations, but also settling in France. Their motivations for migrating were varied and complex. While dictatorial repression was often a factor, artists were attracted to other social, political, economic and cultural alternatives. The artistic practices and work that developed from their displacement mirrored their own mobility, with poetic and experimental correspondences, collaborations and networks set in motion across Europe and between Latin America.

Inversely, European artists were attracted to Latin America as institutions, like MAC-USP (formerly the Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo), built their collections of modern European art and the Biennial of São Paulo offered international participation and reception. One such example is the case of Dutch painter Frieda Hunziker, who exhibited the abstract painting *Insects* (1953) in the second edition of the Biennial. The same work was eventually donated by the Dutch Colony in São Paulo to MAC-USP's collection. Other artworks by artists of different European nationalities followed similar routes, ultimately ending up in the museum's collection.

These examples point to the circulatory nature of both artists and artworks that contributed to multicentered pathways and dynamic trajectories between Latin America, Europe and the larger world after 1945. This two-day symposium explores the trajectories of thought, material exchanges and cultural transfers between Latin America and Europe from 1945-1980, and the kinds of transformations that emerged from such circulations. In contrast to the linear perspectives that have characterized the dialogues and exchanges, this symposium aims towards a non-centrist view and relational paradigm that can challenge persistent binaries between so-called centers and peripheries, local and global. Such a topic of focus is part of the interdisciplinary shifts towards what Homi Bhabha describes as a "'new geographical consciousness' composed of multicentered circuits, ex-centric itineraries and contingent configurations of time, sign and sensibility." For this symposium, we propose to re-evaluate the conditions that may have contributed to such alternative phenomena.

Organized in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art at the University of São Paulo (MAC USP), this event engages new and interdisciplinary research on the relationship between art

and institutions in Europe and Latin America in the postwar period.

Keynote lectures:

Diana Sorensen (James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages & Literatures, and of Comparative Literature, Harvard University)

Ana Magalhães (Director, Museu de Arte Contemporânea - Universidade de São Paulo)

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, June 8th, 2023

Location: UB Singel Library, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, Netherlands

10:30 Welcome (UB Singel, Room: Potiegeterzaal)

11:00-12:30 Panel 1 – Artistic forms of solidarity (UB Singel, Room: Potiegeterzaal),

Moderator: Florian Göttke, University of Amsterdam

Christopher Williams Wynn, Harvard University, USA

Opening the cage, breaking the jail: Artistic solidarity between Argentina and the German Democratic Republic in the 1970s

Benjamin Murphy, National Gallery of Art, Washington DC, USA

Screening Solidarity: Video between Europe and Latin America in the Work of Lea Lublin and Jonier Marin

Anna Corrigan, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Convergences in Crisis: Locating Reciprocity in the Mail Art Network

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30 Panel 2 – Institutional exchanges (UB Singel Library, Room: Potiegeterzaal),

Moderator: Rachel Esner, University of Amsterdam

Fabiola Martinez, Saint Louis University – Madrid, Spain

Artistic exchanges between Poland and Mexico during the Thaw

Alexis Salas, University of Arkansas, USA

Official Rebels: Los Grupos at the 1977 Tenth Paris Youth Biennial

Felipe Martinez, MAC USP, Brazil

Dutch Art in the São Paulo Biennial (1951-1961)

15:30-16:00 Break (Coffee and tea)

16:00-17:30 Keynote Lecture (UB Singel, Room: Doelenzaal)

Diana Sorensen, James F. Rothenberg Professor of Romance Languages & Literatures, and of Comparative Literature, Harvard University

Rethinking cartographies: circulation and new geographic imaginaries

17:30-18:30 Drink Reception/Borrel (UB Singel, Room: Doelenzaal)

FRIDAY, June 9th, 2023

Location: UB Singel Library, Singel 425, 1012 WP Amsterdam, Netherlands.

10:30 Welcome (UB Singel, Room: Vondelzaal)

11:00-12:30 Panel 3 - Artistic crossings (UB Singel, Room: Vondelzaal),

Moderator: Matisse Huiskens, Utrecht University

Heloisa Espada, MAC USP, Brazil

Sculptures or showcase design? The contribution of Leopold Haar to Concrete Art in São Paulo

Giulia Lamoni, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

Passing through the mirror: Latin American artists and feminisms in Europe in the 1970s

Sonia de Laforcade, Radboud University, Netherlands

Sambaqui Ecology

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Panel 4 - New centers of convergence (UB Singel, Room: Vondelzaal),

Moderator: Jeroen Boomgaard, University of Amsterdam

Elize Mazadiego, University of Bern, Switzerland

Queer migrations: Latin American artists in Amsterdam in the 1960s and 1970s

Martinho Alves Junior, University of Juiz de Fora, Brazil

Mauricio Wellisch, pessimism and renewal

Lara Demori, Biblioteca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History, Italy

Diasporic Narratives across Italy and Latin America (1960s-1980s)

15:30-16:00 Break (Coffee and tea)

16:00-17:30 Keynote Lecture (UB Singel, Room Doelenzaal)

Ana Magalhães, Director, Museu de Arte Contemporânea - Universidade de São Paulo

Cold War and Modern Art in South America: The Origins of Modern Art Collections in Brazil and the Collection of MAC USP

17:30-18:30 Drink Reception/Borrel (UB Singel, Room: Doelenzaal)

The event is free and open to everyone.

Registration is required at the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/relational-subjects-objects-and-institutions-tickets-55129516768>

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Reference:

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