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**MAJOR BOOK PUBLISHED BY BLANTON MUSEUM IN FEBRUARY
2007 EXAMINES DEVELOPMENT OF ABSTRACT ART IN LATIN
AMERICA**

***Geometry of Hope: Latin American Abstract Art from the Patricia Phelps de
Cisneros Collection* accompanies exhibition of same name**

AUSTIN, Texas – The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin, has announced that in **February 2007** it will publish an important **scholarly examination of the development of abstraction in Latin America** as seen through the work in the **Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC)**. The CPPC (www.coleccioncisneros.org), a comprehensive and critically acclaimed collection of modern and contemporary Latin American art, provides an effective lens through which to view the history of abstraction from across the continent.

Titled ***The Geometry of Hope: Latin American Abstract Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection***, the fully illustrated, bilingual (English-Spanish) book is published in conjunction with an exhibition of the same name. The exhibition is organized by the Blanton, where it is on view from February 20 through April 22, 2007. Generous funding for the exhibition and catalogue is provided by the Eugene McDermott Foundation.

Both the book and the exhibition are the outgrowth of the **Cisneros Graduate Research Seminar at The University of Texas at Austin**, a multi-year scholarly collaboration between the CPPC—a program of the Caracas- and New York-based Fundación Cisneros—and the Blanton.

The Geometry of Hope includes an introduction by Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro, curator of Latin American art at the Blanton and project director of the Blanton-Cisneros collaboration. This is followed by scholarly essays on each of six cities that were crucial to the development of Latin American geometric abstraction, and which are explored in the exhibition, an

extended essays presenting new research on forty individual works of art. This focus on individual objects makes the book unusual among publications on Geometric Abstraction. In addition to Dr. Pérez-Barreiro, authors include scholar Cecilia de Torres; Erin Aldana, University of Texas doctoral candidate; Paulo Herkenhoff, independent curator; Luis Pérez-Oramas, The Estrellita Brodsky Curator of Latin American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, New York; and Serge Guilbaut, professor of art history, visual art, and theory, University of British Columbia, as well as thirteen graduate students from The University of Texas, New York University, and other universities who participated in the Cisneros Seminar.

The 300-page book will include forty-five color and ten black-and-white illustrations. It is being published in both soft- and hardcover.

The Geometry of Hope traces the development of ideas from one socio-geographic context to another, highlighting Montevideo (1930s), Buenos Aires (1940s), São Paulo (1950s), Rio de Janeiro (1950s–60s), Paris (1960s), and Caracas (1960s–70s). In so doing, it challenges the view of Latin American art as a single phenomenon, revealing important differences and tensions among various artistic proposals articulated during the decades being examined.

Exhibition

The exhibition includes some 130 works by approximately forty artists. Among them are **Joaquín Torres-García**, from Montevideo; **Gyula Kosice** and **Tomás Maldonado**, from Buenos Aires; **Geraldo de Barros** and **Waldemar Cordeiro**, from São Paulo; **Hélio Oiticica** and **Lygia Clark**, from Rio de Janeiro; and **Jesús Rafael Soto** and **Carlos Cruz-Diez**, from Paris and Caracas.

In the fall of 2007, a variation of the exhibition will be presented in New York City, in collaboration with New York University's Grey Art Gallery.

Cisneros Seminar

The Blanton Museum of Art and the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros have enjoyed an exceptionally fruitful relationship, beginning in 1999 with the establishment of a multifaceted loan and research program. The aim of the collaboration—which has included components for students, scholars, and the general public—has been to showcase the work of Latin American artists in a major U.S. teaching and research museum, and to promote research on modern and contemporary Latin American art. In addition to

publications, seminars, scholarly symposia, and public programming, this relationship has yielded the Cisneros Graduate Research Seminar.

Begun in 2005, the Seminar has provided a unique opportunity for academic and curatorial research on crucial theoretical and practical issues associated with the presentation in the United States of abstract art from Latin America. Topics have included previous approaches to modern Latin American art, establishing a curatorial framework for the presentation of Latin American geometric abstraction, theories of the avant-garde, and how an understanding of Abstract Expressionism and Minimalism is relevant to Latin American Geometric Abstraction. The many guest-presenters to the Seminar have included Ariel Jiménez, curator at the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros; artist and theorist Luis Camnitzer; Ms. de Torres; Andrea Giunta, professor of art history, University of Buenos Aires; and Dr. Pérez-Oramas, among others.

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Press Information

For additional information about the *Geometry of Hope* exhibition and publication, the Cisneros Graduate Research Seminar, or the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, please contact Jeanne Collins or Laura Brown, Jeanne Collins & Associates, LLC, New York City, 646-486-7050, or info@jcollinsassociates.com.

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