

## FACT SHEET

### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MODERN LATIN AMERICAN ART BRINGS LEADING SCHOLARS TO AUSTIN ON FEBRUARY 17

*Event held in conjunction with major exhibition **The Geometry of Hope:***

***Latin American Abstract Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection***

- WHAT** A major international symposium on modern Latin American art is presented by the **Blanton Museum of Art**, at **The University of Texas at Austin**, on February 17, 2006. The event is being held on the occasion of the exhibition ***The Geometry of Hope: Latin American Abstract Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection***. Organized by the Blanton, the exhibition is on view at the museum from February 20 through April 22, 2007.
- The symposium brings prominent scholars to Austin for a stimulating discussion of such topics as the relationship of Latin American abstraction to that of Europe, the role of modernity in twentieth-century Latin American culture, trends in new scholarship on Latin American abstraction, and more.
- The event has been organized by the Blanton in collaboration with the **Fundación Cisneros** and **New York University** (NYU). A second installment of the symposium will be held in New York in October 2007, when a version of the exhibition is presented at NYU's **Grey Art Gallery**.
- WHEN** **Saturday February 17, 2007; 9:00 a.m.-5:15 p.m.**
- WHERE** The University of Texas at Austin, Avaya Auditorium, ACE Building  
<http://www.utexas.edu/maps/main/buildings/ace.html>
- ADMISSION** The symposium is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. For more information and to register, the public should call (512) 471-8984 or e-mail [latinam@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:latinam@blantonmuseum.org).

**PROGRAM**

*Please note that the following information is subject to change.*

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

*Welcome*—**Jessie Otto Hite**, Director, Blanton Museum of Art

*Opening Remarks*—**Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro**, Curator, Latin American Art, Blanton Museum, and curator of the exhibition

10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

*Historical Models of Latin American Abstraction*—**Luis Pérez-Oramas**, The Estrellita Brodsky Curator of Latin American Art, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

*Alejandro Otero: A Case Study in the Interrelationship of Latin American and European Abstraction*—**Ariel Jiménez**, Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (*in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English*)

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

*Q & A*

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

*Lunch*

1:30 - 4:00 p.m. (including a break from 2:30 to 3:00)

*Panel discussion with PhD candidates: New Scholarship on Geometric Abstraction*

- **María Amalia García**, Universidad de Buenos Aires (*in Spanish with simultaneous translation into English*)
- **Juan Carlos Ledezma**, Columbia University, New York
- **Adele Nelson**, New York University and The Museum of Modern Art, New York
- **Ana Pozzi-Harris**, The University of Texas at Austin

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

*Respondents*—**Jacqueline Barnitz**, Professor, Department of Art and Art History, The University of Texas at Austin, and **Andrea Giunta**, Professor of Art History, Universidad de Buenos Aires, and

Harrington Fellow, The University of Texas at Austin.

4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Q & A

5:00 - 5:15 p.m.

*Closing Remarks*—Gabriel Pérez Barreiro

**GEOMETRY**

*The Geometry of Hope: Latin American Abstract Art from the Patricia*

**OF HOPE**

*Phelps de Cisneros Collection* comprises some 130 works of art from the acclaimed Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC). The exhibition, along with its catalogue and related public programs, is the product of the **Cisneros Graduate Research Seminar at The University of Texas at Austin**, a multi-year scholarly collaboration between the New York- and Caracas-based CPPC and the Blanton. Together, the exhibition and catalogue provide the most comprehensive scholarly overview to date of Latin American Geometric Abstraction from the 1930s to the 1970s.

Organized chronologically, *The Geometry of Hope* focuses on key cities in the development of abstraction in the Americas: Montevideo (1930s), Buenos Aires (1940s), São Paulo (1950s), Rio de Janeiro (1950s-60s), Paris (1960s), and Caracas (1960s-70s). In tracing the development of ideas from one socio-geographic context to another, the exhibition 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. The exhibition's inclusion of Paris as a "Latin American" city underscores the cosmopolitan and international nature of Latin American abstraction.

Generous funding for the exhibition is provided by the Eugene McDermott Foundation. The catalogue and symposium are made possible by the support of the Fundación Cisneros.

**BLANTON**

The Blanton Museum of Art at The University of Texas at Austin, one

**MUSEUM  
OF ART**

of the foremost university art museums in the country, has the largest and most comprehensive collection of art in Central Texas. The museum welcomes and engages all visitors by offering extraordinary experiences that connect art and ideas, reaching within and beyond The University of Texas campus to stimulate the thriving, creative community that is Austin, Texas, and beyond. The Blanton's permanent collection of more than 17,000 works is recognized for its European Old Master paintings, an encyclopedic collection of prints and drawings, and modern and contemporary American and Latin American art. The collection of Latin American art is one of the largest, longest-held, and most comprehensive in the country, and includes works by many artists not represented in other U.S. collections.

**CPPC**

The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros focuses on modern and contemporary art from Latin America, and includes as well Latin American landscapes from the seventeenth century to the present day and Venezuelan colonial art, among other items. The CPPC is the primary visual-arts program of the Caracas- and New York-based Fundación Cisneros, which initiates and supports a range of innovative programs focusing on education and culture, frequently leveraging the resources of the Cisneros Group of Companies to reach ever-greater audiences. For additional information, visit [www.coleccioncisneros.org](http://www.coleccioncisneros.org).

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**Press Information**

For additional information about the *Geometry of Hope* exhibition, publication, and symposium, or about 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](mailto:info@jcollinsassociates.com).

For the **Blanton Museum of Art**, please contact Sheree Scarborough or Brady Dyer, 512-475-6784 / 512-232-5171; [sheree.scarborough@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:sheree.scarborough@blantonmuseum.org) / [brady.dyer@blantonmuseum.org](mailto:brady.dyer@blantonmuseum.org).