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WALDO BALART

Paysage géométrique

13 May 2023 > 29 July 2023

Waldo Balart

Paysage géométrique

Exhibition from 13 May to 29 July 2023

Bendana | Pinel Art Contemporain is pleased to present «Paysage géométrique», the first solo exhibition of Waldo Balart at the gallery, more than fifty years after his introduction to the Parisian art scene by Galerie Iris Clert in 1967, a major post-war gallery.

Of Cuban origin, Waldo Balart frequented the New York artistic and cultural milieu in the 1960s. Impacted as much by the teachings of Peter Forakis as by the ideas of Hans Hoffman and Josef Albers, Balart is imbued with the aesthetics of abstract art, which shaped the direction of his career.

The works, which the artist calls «propositions», offer an original and unique plastic solution, in which linear rhythms, currents of chromatic energy and forms compose geometric landscapes that have meaning only by themselves. It is the absence of interpretive references outside the reality of the work, which, executed by means of mathematical rules of Balart's own invention, that link his work to concrete art.

Through a systematic development in series, Balart first expressed himself instinctively through color. As in the series *Conjuntos no Vacios*, the artist balanced the weight transmitted by the geometric volumes with the emotional weight of color - placing the cold colors on top and the warm colors on the bottom, also considering the law of gravity. His reflection then led him to systematize his work around a language of his own created from the structure of light. Balart numerically codifies the seven colors of the light spectrum from 1 to 8, adding magenta, generating the *Codigo de la Estructura de la Luz (CEL)* [Code of the Structure of Light]. Their organization in an *Orden Axiomatico* [Axiomatic Order] gave rise to *El Desarrollo cromatico del CEL* [Chromatic Development of the CEL], a mathematical seriality from which the artist can extract combinations of colors forming his «propositions». Like the musical notes of a score producing rhythms and melodies according to their composition, Balart mentally visualizes the colors from his Axiomatic Order to define the forces that will form his image. This mental organization became the intellectual core of his entire work, bringing him closer to the reflections of conceptualists such as Sol LeWitt, whose training he followed at MoMa in New York.

In principle, this method of creation may seem very rational and limited. However, Balart has been able to reinvent it with flexibility. The systematization of his work gives him the freedom to search for infinite variations of his creativity, which he develops in different series such as *Imagen Fragmentada Integrada de Ángulo Variable*, *Imagen Ortogonal Fragmentada Integrada*, or *Nudos* which are part of this exhibition.

Interested in the sensory effect produced by colors and their sensitive action on the human being, Balart tries to arouse reactions in the viewer that open the way to personal investigation and a need for introspection. In this sense, Balart shares a reflection on the possibility of art to induce a certain spirituality through contemplation with the avant-gardes of the 1920s, such as Vassily Kandinsky, Piet Mondrian, or Kasimir Malevich. Through this research and the expression of a chromatic sensation, the rational and the rule give way to a more emotional approach. Like a Sunday stroll through the gardens of the Château de Versailles, where one would appreciate the symmetrical design and the combination of colors, Waldo Balart's geometric landscapes invite the viewer to take an intimate walk.

Waldo Balart (Banes, Cuba, 1931) lives and works in Madrid, Spain

SOLO EXHIBITION (Selection) : « Ritmos y campos de sentido », Museo Francisco Sobrino, Guadalajara, Spain (2021) | « Color, Color, Color...Del Manierismo al Arte Concreto, Pinturas de Waldo Balart », Museo del Greco, Toledo, Spain (2018) | « Waldo Balart : Summertime is already here », Mies van der Rohe Haus, Berlin, Germany (2009) | « Cinco Dialogos », Museo Casa de los Tiros, Granada, Spain (2004) | Galerie Iris Clert, Paris, France (1967) | **GROUP EXHIBITION (Selection)** : « Cromático, Centro de Holografía y Artes Dados Negros », Villanueva de los Infantes, Spain (2023) | « This must be the Place: Latin American Artists in New York, 1965-1975 », Americas Society, New York, United States (2021) | « Conciencia Perceptiva. Arte Concreto español en la Colección Escolano », Museo de Teruel, Spain (2017) | « 60 años de geometría », Museo de la Universidad de Alicante (MUA), Saint Vicent del Raspeig, Spain (2015) | « Neon - Vom Leuchten der Kunst », Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany (2013) | « 30 Pintores de una Generación Irrepetible », Museo Salvador Victoria, Rubielos de Mora, Spain (2012) | « Hommage an eine gründergeneration. Projekt im Rahmen « 90 Jahre Bauhaus », Forum Konkrete Kunst, Erfurt, Germany (2009) | « Ein Jahr, 31 Positionen, 30 Räume », Museum Modern Art Hünfeld, Germany (2008) | « Ausgerechnet... Mathematik und Konkrete Kunst », Museum Kulturspeicher Würzburg, Germany (2007) | **COLLECTIONS (Selection)** : Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, United States | The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The MET), New York, United States | Pérez Art Museum Miami (PAAM), Miami, United States | Chrysler Museum of Art, Virginia, United States | Sammlung Peter C. Ruppert, Konkrete Kunst in Europa nach 1945, Würzburg, Germany | Sammlung Siegfried Grauwinkel, Berlin, Germany | Görlitzer Sammlungen, Kulturhistorisches Museum Görlitz, Germany | Museum of Modern Art, Hünfeld, Germany | Mondriaanhuis, Amersfoort, The Netherlands | Museum de la Communauté française de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium | Museo Paraguayo de Arte Contemporáneo, Asuncion, Paraguay | Museo Nacional y Centro de Artes Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain | Museo Postal y Telegráfico, Madrid, Spain | Sammlung Simpfendorfer, Wiesbaden, Germany

UPCOMING :

> Exhibition of Dias & Riedweg, September > November 2023, Bendana | Pinel Art Contemporain, Paris

Artists : Francisca Aninat | Irit Batsry | Débora Bolsoni | Thomas Broomé | Dias & Riedweg | Maria Friberg | Mauro Giaconi | Niklas Goldbach | Lake Vereia | Alejandra Laviada | Steven Le Priol | Pablo Lobato | Pedro Motta | Christiane Pooley | Matthias Reinmuth | Caio Reisewitz | Olivier Richon | Florencia Rodriguez Giles | Julio Rondo | Miguel Rothschild | Giancarlo Scaglia | Sandra Vásquez de la Horra

Invited Artists : Daniel Alcalà | Giulia Andreani | **Waldo Balart** | Ernesto Ballesteros | Iulian Bisericar | Cathy Burghi | Alberto Cont | Luca Cutrufelli | Arnaud Dezoteux | Pablo Hare | Hirofumi Isoya | Adam Jeppesen | Lunga Kama | Aspasia Krystalla | Jarbas Lopes | Niccolò Montesi | Ronald Morán | Bernardo Ramalho | Thiago Rocha Pitta | Dineo Seshee Bopape | Camila Sposati | Peter Stridsberg



Knots: Untitled, 2015
Acrylic on canvas
97 x 146 cm
Unique



3 5x3 modules, 1.3.5.6.7., 60°, 2003
Acrylic on canvas
90 x 40 cm | 40 x 40 cm (Each)
Unique



Force fields No.4, 1997
Painted wood and acrylic
40 x 40 cm | 18 x 18 x 2 cm (Each)