

Latin American Modernism in a Global World

Prof. Leticia Squeff

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Dates: September, 25-26 and October, 2-3, 9am – 5pm

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To deal with modernity in the Americas involves questioning traditional concepts and procedures. To what extent can concepts of traditional art history be applied to understand the arts phenomena in the Americas? This course analyzes some central aspects of artistic modernity in Latin America, especially in Brazil, between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We intend to provide a historical contextualization, based on the analysis of case studies related to the circulation of prints and artworks, exhibitions, museums, in addition to other themes. We also intend to discuss some methodological perspectives on Latin American art. The course will be based on seminars and lectures.

The course does not intend to cover all the art histories of Latin America, but deals with major themes tackled by the historiography that consolidated the narrative of art in Latin America. Therefore, while taking Latin America as a whole, the seminars and discussions will focus on case studies from Mexico, Cuba, Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil.

Main Readings:

ADES, Dawn. *Art in Latin America. The Modern Era*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1989.

GUTIERREZ & VIÑUALES. *Historia del arte iberoamericano*. Barcelona: Lunwerg Editores, 2000.

ICAA; MFA. *Documents of 20th-century Latin American and Latino Art*. A digital Archive And Publications Project At The Museum Of Fine Arts, Houston, 2012
(<http://icaadocs.mfah.org/icaadocs/>)

SCHWARTZ, Jorge. *Vanguardas Latino-americanas: polémicas, manifestos e textos críticos*. São Paulo: Edusp: Iluminuras: Fapesp, 1995.

Course requirements

Prior to the course students should select one of the seminars listed below. In addition, students should also read all texts and participate actively in the discussions.

Seminars

Each student should summarize and discuss the main issues of the text. In addition, the students should also present and examine the works of two artists mentioned in each text.

Classes Outline

25th September

Introduction – the notion of Latin American Art: historical and theoretical issues

Seminar: Urban space, colonial past and modernity

- *Reading:* NIELL, P, "Neoclassical Architecture in Spanish Colonial America: a negotiated modernity" in *History Compass*, 12;3 (2014), 252-262.
- *Reading:* MALOSETTI COSTA, Laura, "Land transformed", in *Picturing the Americas – From Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic*. Edited by Peter John Brownlee, Valéria Piccoli, and Georgiana Uhlyarik. Art Gallery of Ontario and Yale University Press, 2015, pp.180-188; Linari, Gabriel Pellufo, "Joaquín Torres-García *Constructive City with universal man*", 216-217;

26th September

Case study: Exposition d'Art Américain-Latin (Paris, 1924)

Seminar: Objects from the Americas - the exotic and the fantastic

- *Reading:* MAJLUF, Natalia. "Pattern book of nations: images of types and costumes in Asia and Latin America, c.1800-1860", in *Reproducing nations: types and costumes in Asia and Latin America, c.1800-1860*, curated by Natalia Majluf, Americas Society, 2006.
- *Reading:* TYTHACOTT, Louise. Part II- "The primitive object", *Surrealism and the exotic*. London: Routledge, 2003, pp.85-105.
- *Reading:* RAMIREZ, Mari Carmen. "Beyond "the fantastic": framing identity in US exhibitions of Latin American art", in *Beyond the fantastic: contemporary art criticism from Latin America*, Gerardo Mosquera, ed, Cambridge: the MIT Press, 1996.

Visit to Rietberg Museum

2nd October

Seminar: The “Radical Leap” in the 1950s e 1960s

- *Reading:* GIUNTA, Andrea, “Art of the Sixties in Buenos Aires: words, images and frontiers”, in *Versions and Inversions: perspectives on Avant-Garde Art in Latin America*, OLEA and RAMÍREZ (editors), Yale University Press, 2006, 51-87.
- *Reading:* BRITO, Ronaldo, “Fluid Geometry”, in *Art in Brazil 1950-2011*. Exhibition Catalogue. Europalia, 2012, pp. 17-37.

Visit to Daros Collection

3rd October

Seminar: Indigenism, Anthropophagy and the Retour à l’ordre

- *Reading:* RAMÍREZ, Mari Carmen, “Regressive utopias? (avant-garde radicalism in Siqueiros and Oswald)” in *XXIV Bienal de São Paulo: antropofagia e histórias de canibalismo / Fundação Bienal de São Paulo; curadoria Paulo Herkenhoff e Adriano Pedrosa*. São Paulo: A Fundação, 1998, 326-335.
- *Reading:* GREET, Michele, “1- Foundations”, in *Beyond National Identity: pictorial indigenism as a modernist strategy in Andean Art, 1920-1960*, The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009, 8-21.
- arts in the 1950s e 1960s
- *Reading:* GRENIER, Catherine, “Réalismes pluriels”, in *Modernités Plurielles 1905-1970*. Sous la Direction de Catherine Grenier. Paris: Centre Georges Pompidou, 2013, pp. 86-97.

Film Screening