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PHILLIPS LATIN AMERICAN ART AUCTION

Phillips Latin American Art Auction shows positive results and a promising future for the art market.

Phillips Auction of Latin American Art in New York

By Saida Santana

The most recent meeting between Phillips and [Latin American art](#) took place on November 21st. The auction house reported excellent results with sales that exceeded \$6 million and a strong performance by the Cuban Contemporary Art Section, which achieved a 100% sell-through rate.

Laura González, head of Phillips Latin American Art Department, says she is very pleased with the works presented at this auction. "I'm very proud to continue the tradition that Phillips has set forth in terms of offering cutting-edge works, always ahead of the curve. "

On this occasion, Phillips auctioned 114 lots with an estimated worth between 5 and 8 million dollars, which eventually were sold for more than \$6 million. The catalog included works by the most prominent Latin American artists of the last 60 years, from collections in Europe and America.

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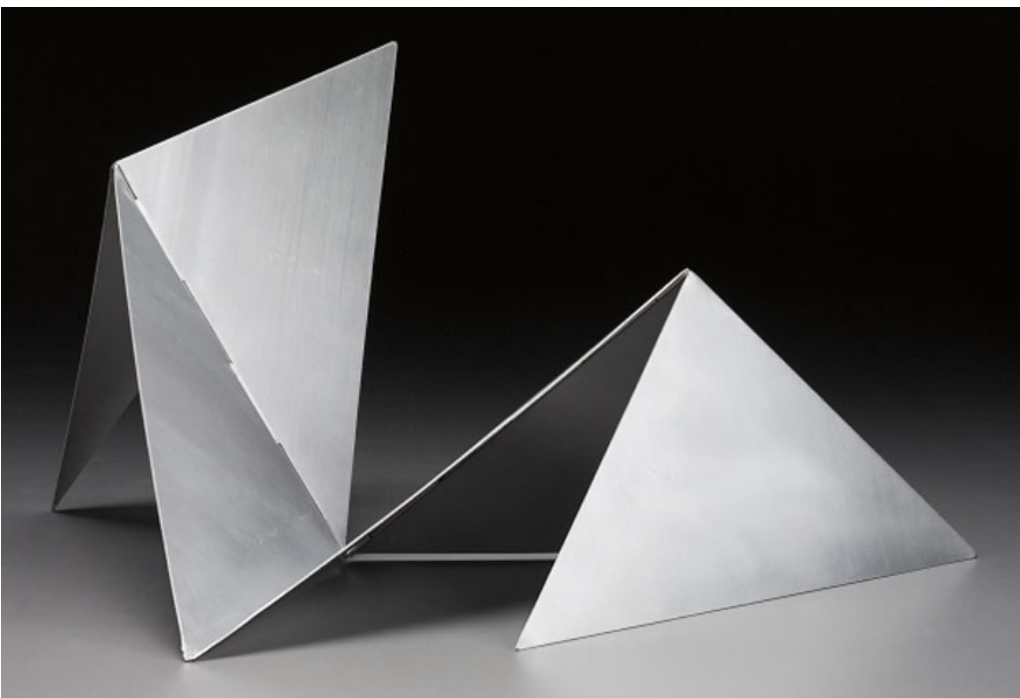
THE MOST READ ARTICLES OF THE DAY



MANUEL MENDIVE. *El ave*, 1985.

Artists such as **Lygia Clark**, **Hélio Oiticica**, **Sergio Camargo**, **Jesús Rafael Soto**, **Nelson Leirner**, **Guillermo Kuitca**, **Gabriel Orozco**, **Mira Schendel** and **Francis Alÿs**, were the stars of the exhibition. As a novelty, the auction house included its first independent section of Contemporary Cuban Art, represented by **Carlos Garaicoa**, **Manuel Mendive**, **René Peña**, **Belkis Ayon** and **Tania Bruguera**, among others.

"Cuba is going through an active metamorphosis at the moment, and the changes in government policy and international outlook have absolutely affected the arts. Cuba is an active participant in the global cultural dialogue—a great example of this is that they've participated in the last two Venice Biennales. It's time to highlight the work of these accomplished artists who, in many cases, have not had a chance to be listened to on the international stage. It's also great that there's an increasing amount of interest in Cuba's artistic contributions, not only on its political and social issues. It's always been an incubator for innovative thought, and it's important to emphasize that to the collecting public," said **González**.



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The crown jewel of the auction was **Lygia Clark's** *Bicho invertebrado* (1960), which brought in \$1,865,000. **Clark**, a Brazilian artist and leader of the Neo-Concrete movement, makes three-dimensional works, which set up an open dialogue with the viewer. Her *Bicho invertebrado* (Invertebrate Bug) is an example of her invitation to the viewers to become artists as they are allowed to manipulate the spine of the "bug" with their own hands. *Modulated Surface No. 2* (1957-1982) by the same artist was sold for \$461,000.

Another work included in the auction, **Hélio Oiticica's** *Metaschema 153*, consisting in partially dislocated geometric figures, was sold for \$260,000. *Untitled* (Relief No. 347) by **Sergio Camargo** sold for \$785,000 while his work, *Untitled* (1985), went for \$173,000.

Phillips has certainly found its niche in the auction business and clear knowledge of contemporary culture. With a large team of specialists around the world, the firm curated this selection, which arrived in New York with the aroma of autumn and got the warmest welcome by collectors and viewers. ■

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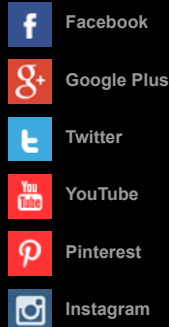
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