

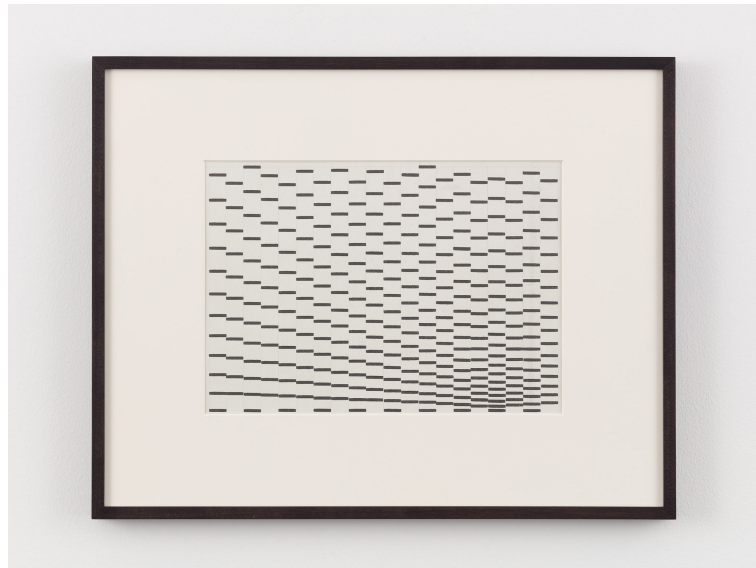
Stephen Friedman Gallery

Manuel Espinosa

**Black and White:
Works on Paper from the
1970s**

16 November 2018 –
18 January 2019

Private View: Friday 16
November 6-8pm



‘His playful, levitating lines create an emotional climate that is barely perceptible, highlighting their extreme sensitivity. Slim black strokes score white paper with a disturbing sense of melancholy. Their oscillation allows a glimpse of a tinge of fragility.’

- Laura Buccellato, ‘Manuel Espinosa’ (Colección Espinosa, 2018)

Stephen Friedman Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of monochrome works on paper by Argentine artist Manuel Espinosa (1912 – 2006) in Gallery Two. This small presentation will coincide with the launch of a new publication at the Royal Academy of Arts, London on Thursday 29 November 2018 that looks at the trajectory of Espinosa’s works on paper throughout his career.

Espinosa is a seminal figure in the history of Argentine Modernism. Espinosa travelled to Europe in the 1950s, forging friendships with members of the ‘Movimento di Arte Concreta’, ‘Forma’ and ‘De Stijl’ movements. Influenced by these artists, Espinosa embraced the idea that creating variations upon a theme could offer a systematic and precise understanding of a particular form. Line, colour and the optical sensations of movement and light subsequently became the artist’s primary concerns.

By concentrating on Espinosa’s black and white works, the exhibition highlights Espinosa’s ability to manipulate light and space in its purest form. In the 1970s, Espinosa became interested in how he could weave an optical illusion into a seemingly ordered composition. Several works in the exhibition feature regimented, graphite rectangles rendered in precise configurations that appear to reverberate like particles or atoms. Other works explore the kinetic effect of altering the thickness of horizontal and vertical lines, creating the optical illusion of ovals and circles emerging from two-dimensional space. All of the works in the exhibition have a deceptive beauty that belies the complex, scientific processes that inform their creation.

The formulaic nature of Espinosa’s works resonates with Channing Hansen’s solo exhibition in Gallery One, with both artists relying on a rigorous system of order as a central part of their practice.

Stephen Friedman Gallery

Gallery Hours

Tuesday to Friday, 10am-6pm
and Saturday, 11am-5pm

Social Media

Facebook: /Stephen-Friedman-Gallery

Instagram: @stephenfriedmangallery

Twitter: @SFGalleryLondon

For sales enquiries please contact:
sales@stephenfriedman.com

For further details please contact:
info@stephenfriedman.com

Reception and Book Launch

Thursday 29 November 2018

A Reception to view selected works on paper by Manuel Espinosa will be held at Stephen Friedman Gallery, 11 Old Burlington Street, London between 6-6:45 pm.

The Reception will be followed by the Book Launch of a new publication on Manuel Espinosa's works on paper at Royal Academy of Arts, London, Belle Shenkman Room between 7-8 pm.

RSVP essential. Please contact jonathan@stephenfriedman.com to reserve a place.

Artist Biography

Manuel Espinosa was born in 1912 in Buenos Aires, Argentina and died in 2006.

Recent solo exhibitions include: 'Manuel Espinosa - Light, colour and movement', Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Salta, Argentina; toured to Museo Emilio Caraffa, Córdoba, Argentina (2015); 'Manuel Espinosa', Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK (2014); 'Manuel Espinosa: Geometría en Movimiento', Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2013); 'Manuel Espinosa: Paintings and Works on Paper, 1960s and 1970s', Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas, USA (2013); 'Manuel Espinosa: Drawings and Paintings, 1950s - 1970s', Sicardi Gallery, Houston, Texas, USA (2010); 'Espinosa', Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Neuquén, Argentina (2009); 'Manuel Espinosa. Anthology on Paper', Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2003) and 'Manuel Espinosa. Rosario Prize 2001'; Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes, Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina (2001).

Notable group exhibitions include: 'Abstract Experiments: Latin America Art on Paper after 1950', The Art Institute Chicago, Chicago, USA (2017); 'Crónicas de Solidaridad y Resistencia, colección MSSA', Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador, Allende, Chile (2016-2017); 'The Illusive Eye', El Museo del Barrio, New York, USA (2016); 'Seeing Around Corners', Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK (2016); 'Real/Virtual, Arte Cinético argentino de los años sesenta', Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2012); '50 Years of the Asociación Arte Concreto-Invencción', Instituto Cultural Iberoamericano, Buenos Aires, Argentina (1995); 'Abstraction in the XX Century', Museo de Arte Moderno Buenos Aires, Argentina (1985); 'Two Trends: Geometry—Surrealism', Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina (1975); 'Manuel O. Espinosa—Tomás Maldonado', Sociedad Argentina de Artistas Plásticos, Buenos Aires, Argentina (1947); and 'First Exhibition of the Asociación Arte Concreto-Invencción', Salon Peuser, Argentina (1946).

Espinosa's work features in the permanent collections of numerous prominent institutions including Art Institute of Chicago, USA; Fondo Nacional de los Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, USA; Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Caracas Sofía Imber, Caracas, Venezuela; Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, USA; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA; Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection, New York, USA.