

Judith Lauand: The 1950s

8 February – 9 March 2013
Private View 7 February 2013, 6 – 8pm



Stephen Friedman Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition of works by Brazilian artist Judith Lauand. Born in 1922, this is the artist's first solo show in Europe and brings together a unique selection of paintings, drawings, gouaches and collages from the 1950s. The exhibition traces Lauand's creative development and charts her pioneering of Concrete Art over the course of this important decade.

The first works in the exhibition date back to 1954, a turning point in Lauand's career in which she was introduced to concrete art. In the following years, Lauand became closely associated with the São Paulo based Grupo Ruptura, an avant garde group of international artists lead by Waldemar Cordeiro and self declared followers of Max Bill. The Grupo Ruptura artists were the first proponents of Concretism in Brazil, spearheading ground-breaking exhibitions with a clear ideology and manifesto. Their actions were to completely transform the artistic landscape in Brazil and prefigure the now well-known future generation of Neo-Concretism. Lauand was the only woman to ever participate in Grupo Ruptura and the later works exhibited in the show date to 1959, the last year of the group's existence. By unifying a body of work previously unseen in Europe, the exhibition provides new insight into Lauand's unique contribution to the exploration of Concretism in Brazil over this incredibly influential time.

Lauand's rigorous *modus operandi* is immediately evident in this group of works as each gouache, drawing, collage and painting was systematically catalogued and preserved by the artist with a unique number. These works on paper remained unseen and united as a whole set for over fifty years. Her meticulous practice is also revealed in the mathematical rigour and precision of the works. Lauand's loyalty to Concretism is unmistakable, and yet the distinct freedom of her approach is also powerfully evident in her extraordinary dialogue with form, space, colour and rhythm. Organic lines and playful geometric elements multiply themselves in convergent, divergent or random directions. Shapes gather or disperse, overlay or create intersecting points that present a pronounced dynamism and desire to experiment.

'Judith Lauand: The 1950s' offers both a renewed examination of this important period of Brazilian art and also the genesis of Lauand's own search for new ways of working in the Concretist tradition. Moreover, these works highlight the beauty of her unique interpretations and the rigour and subtlety in the construction of her poetics.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, which includes an essay by curator and writer Celso Fioravante.

Judith Lauand (b. 1922 in São Paulo, Brasil) lives and works in São Paulo, Brasil.

Recent solo exhibitions include; 'Judith Lauand: Guaches, Desenhos, e Colagens Anos 50', Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo (2012); 'Judith Lauand: Experiências', Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo (2011); 'Judith Lauand - 65 Anos de Arte - Xilogravuras', Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo; and Palacete da Esplanada das Rosas, Araraquara, São Paulo (2008).

Group exhibitions include; 'Concrete Invention: Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros', Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid (2013); 'Concretos Paralelos /Concrete Parallels', Dan Galeria and Centro Brasileiro Britânico, São Paulo (2012); 'Desenhar o Espaço', Fundação ibere Camargo, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul; and Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo (2010-2011); 'Abstraction-Creation - Post-War Geometric Abstract Art From Europe and South America', Austin Desmond Fine Arts, London; and Matteo Lampertico Arte Antica e Moderna, Milan (2010); 'Constructive Spirit: Abstract Art in South and North America', Newark Museum, Newark, New Jersey (2010); 'The Sites of Latin American Abstraction: Selections from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection', Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California; Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani de Palma, Palma de Mallorca; and Kunst und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn (2009-2011).

Gallery hours are: Tuesday to Friday, 10am - 6pm and Saturday, 11am - 5pm