



Inverted Utopias: Avant-Garde Art in Latin America

By Mari Carmen Ramirez, Hector Olea

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In the twentieth century, avant-garde artists from Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean created extraordinary and highly innovative paintings, sculptures, assemblages, mixed-media works, and installations. This innovative book presents more than 250 works by some seventy of these artists (including Gego, Joaquin Torres-Garcia, Xul Solar, and Jose Clemente Orozco) and artists' groups, along with interpretive essays by leading authorities and newly translated manifestoes and other theoretical documents written by the artists. Together the images and texts showcase the astonishing artistic achievements of the Latin American avant-garde. The book focuses on two decisive periods: the return from Europe in the 1920s of Latin American avant-garde pioneers; and the expansion of avant-garde activities throughout Latin America after World War II as artists expressed their independence from developments in Europe and the United States. As the authors explain, during these periods Latin American art was fueled by the belief that artistic creations could present a form of utopia - an inversion of the original premise that drove the European avant-garde - and serve as a model for a new society. As an insightful source for new ideas about the nature and function of modern art, Inverted Utopias is an essential book that will become a classic text in the field.

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Editorial Review

Review

This landmark book showcases the innovative works of Latin American avant-garde artists of the twentieth century. Lavishly illustrated with more than 500 images, the volume features interpretations by leading authorities and newly translated manifestoes by the artists themselves.-->

“[This] ample catalog . . . is packed with writings and manifestoes of the Latin avant-garde that have never before been translated into English.”—Lyle Rexer, New York Times

From the Publisher

This book is the catalogue for a major exhibition at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (June 20 to September 12, 2004). Published in association with The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

About the Author

Mari Carmen Ramírez is the Wortham Curator of Latin American Art and the director of the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

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