



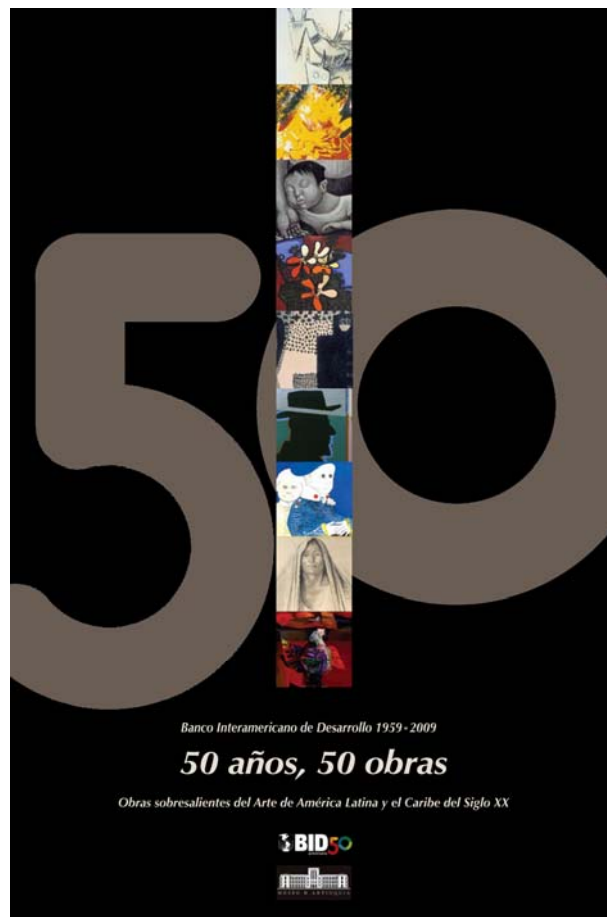
Cultural Center

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
1300 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20577

Information Bulletin No. 108

50 Years, 50 Works

The Art of Latin America and the Caribbean in the 20th Century



Bilingual-catalogue cover (Spanish-English)

Washington, DC
Open June 15 to August 14, 2009

The Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

announces the opening of

50 Years, 50 Works The Art of Latin America and the Caribbean in the 20th Century

Open June 15 to August 14, 2009

Selections from the exhibit presented at the Museo de Antioquia,
in Medellín, Colombia (from March 16 to May 17, 2009),
on occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Inter-American Development Bank,
and the celebration of the 50th Annual Meeting of Governors of the IDB.

The Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB),
has scheduled this same exhibition gathering selected artworks from the art collections
of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Art Museum of the Americas of the
Organization of American States (OAS) – both in Washington, D.C.

The exhibit represents, to a great extent, the development of the
arts in the Region throughout the 20th century.

Washington, D.C., May 22, 2009

An exhibition gathering paintings, drawings and engravings by some of the most important Latin American and Caribbean 20th century artists, drawn from the collections of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Organization of American States, in Washington, D.C., will open to the public on June 15, 2009 at the Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Inter-American Development Bank, as part of the year-long celebrations related to the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the IDB, and the 50th Annual Meeting of Governors of the IDB, which was held in Medellín, Colombia.

This exhibition held in Medellín has had few precedents in a city that, 35 years ago, cancelled the celebration of the art biennial, one of the most important artistic events in Latin America at that time. Between 1980-1995, Medellín suffered numerous social problems associated with drugs, violence, insecurity and social disintegration. In the last decade, however, Medellín has overcome all those problems thanks to a great effort to recover both socially and economically, restoring the good quality of life, prosperity and prestige as Colombia's industrial town.

The President of the IDB, Luis Alberto Moreno has said that, "Few cities in the Americas have made more progress in overcoming the obstacles of poverty, violence and inequality than Medellín... The city has transformed itself, often with financial and technical support from the IDB. Today Medellín is a model of creative urban renewal and high-quality services for all income levels."

In the introduction included in the exhibition catalogue, President Moreno states, "Over this half century, the IDB has consolidated its leadership role as a partner in the Region for all matters relating to the social and economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Additionally, the Bank has incorporated, in its traditional agenda of financial assistance, other items whose relevance in contemporary society is increasingly greater. Among these, culture occupies a place of preeminence.

"It is a source of great satisfaction for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to contribute, through its Cultural Center, to the cultural life of the cities of Medellín, Washington, D.C., and the Region at large, with a cultural agenda that includes the exhibition of works from many of the most prominent Latin American and Caribbean artists.

"The current exhibition comprises works from the collections of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Art Museum of the Americas of the Organization of American States. The Bank encourages artists to continue developing their creativity without ties of any kind and to devote themselves to creating art that in some way blurs the borders of our Americas."

Among the artists included in the exhibition are the Argentine **Emilio Pettoruti** (1892-1971), a seminal figure in the development of modernism in that country in the 1920s. Pettoruti is represented by a superb ink drawing from 1919, and an extraordinary oil on canvas entitled, "The Last Serenade" from 1937. The Uruguayan **Pedro Figari** (1861-1938) is represented with two oils on cardboard from 1935. The Brazilian **Cândido Portinari** (1903-1962), author of the mural "War and Peace" at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and two more in the Library of Congress, participates with a spectacular oil entitled, "The Return from the Fair" dated 1940.

The group of artworks assembled represents the most cherished group of Latin American and Caribbean artists, bearing the names of the Mexicans **Diego Rivera**, **José Clemente Orozco** and **David Alfaro Siqueiros**; the Uruguayan **Joaquín Torres García**; the Guatemalan **Carlos Mérida**; the Colombian **Alejandro Obregón**; the Haitian **Joseph Jean Gilles**; the Bolivian **María Luisa Pacheco**; the Cuban **Amelia Peláez**; and the Jamaican **Everald Brown**, among many others.

The Cultural Center of the IDB is directed by the Colombian architect and artist, Medellín-born Félix Ángel, who was in charge of the curatorship of the exhibition, with the support of the Museo de Antioquia. Ángel says, "The scope of the exhibition is the 20th century, and that serves as a reminder that the 21st century is just beginning, and it is important to learn from past experiences, personal and otherwise, so one can be both innovative and original while advancing into the future.

"This selection gathers two-dimensional works: paintings, drawings and engravings, although a couple of pieces may escape such a strict definition. The selection allows for an overview of many of the most important moments in the artistic life of Latin America and Caribbean art during the last century. The variety of techniques responds to undeniable and obvious facts related to the Region's unpredictable and recurrent economic and social challenges; these trends are often oblivious of the rules that the international art market is constantly attempting to establish. "

The introductory essay that accompanies the exhibition is a summarized version of the last book written in 1982-83 by the late Colombian-Argentine art critic and historian Marta Traba. The text for her *Art for the Latin America 1900-1980* was dormant until 1993 when the IDB Cultural Center, in agreement with the Organization of American States which owns the copyrights, published the book as part of the "Encounter of Two Worlds" celebrations. Many of the individual labels annotating the artworks are also authored by Marta Traba; others are by late Syracuse University Professor Emeritus Stanton L. Catlin, a pioneer in the appreciation of Latin American and Caribbean art in the United States.

Selection of works in the exhibition



Diego Rivera • Mexico
Guanajuato, Mexico, 1886–Mexico City,
Mexico, 1957
Zapata, 1932
lithograph 85/100; 19¾ x 15 inches
Inter-American Development Bank Art Collection
Photo: Courtesy of the IDB Cultural Center,
Washington, D.C.



Joaquín Torres García • Uruguay
Montevideo, Uruguay, 1874–Montevideo,
Uruguay, 1949
Composición constructivista
(*Constructivist Composition*), 1943
oil on canvas; 26 x 30 inches
OAS Art Museum of the Americas, Gift of Nelson
Rockefeller, 1963
Photo: Courtesy of the Art Museum of the Americas, OAS,
Washington, D.C.



Emilio Pettoruti • Argentina
La Plata, Argentina, 1892–Paris, France, 1971
Cuadernos de música (Music Notebooks), 1919
ink on paper; 7½ x 9½ inches
Inter-American Development Bank Art Collection
Photo: Courtesy of the IDB Cultural Center,
Washington, D.C.



Amelia Peláez • Cuba
Yaguajay, Cuba, 1896–Havana, Cuba, 1968
*Marpacífico (Hibiscus [Marpacífico is the name used
in Cuba for the Hibiscus flower])*, 1943
oil on canvas; 45 ½ x 35 inches
OAS Art Museum of the Americas, Gift of IBM, 1969
Photo: Courtesy of the Art Museum of the Americas, OAS,
Washington, D.C.

Exhibition

The exhibition will run from June 15 to August 14, 2009. The Art Gallery is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., free of charge.

- A full color, bilingual (English and Spanish) catalogue is available on a CD upon request or download a PDF file from www.iadb.org/topics/culture/cultural/Catalogues.cfm
- Photographs of the exhibit are available upon request. Call 202 623 1213.
- See video of the exhibit www.youtube.com/profile?user=IDB&view=videos&start=20

For guided tours of groups of ten or more (in English and Spanish) and for additional information about the IDB Cultural Center and its programs, please call (202) 623-3774.

Inter-American Concert, Lecture and Film Series all events are free, open to the public and held at the Enrique V. Iglesias Conference Center, 1330 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20577, and one block from Metro Center. Photo ID required. For more information, please call 202 623 3558.

The IDB Cultural Center Art Gallery is located at 1300 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The nearest Metro station is Metro Center (13th Street exit). All events are free of charge.

The Cultural Center home page is located at: www.iadb.org/cultural
Tel. (202) 623 3774 – Fax (202) 623 3192
E-mail address: IDBCC@iadb.org

For information about the IDB Cultural Center programs contact:

- Félix Angel, Director and Curator (202) 623-3325
- Soledad Guerra, Assistant General Coordinator (202) 623-1213
- Anne Vena, Inter-American Concert, Lecture and Film Series Coordinator (202) 623-3558
- Elba Agusti, Cultural Development Program Coordinator (202) 623-1239
- Debra Corrie, IDB Art Collection Management and Conservation Assistant (202) 623-3278
- Pablo Angulo, Intern, Universidad de los Andes, Humanities and Education Faculty, Mérida, Venezuela (202) 623-3870