



nara roesler

cross-cuts

curated by luis pérez-oramas

chapter 5

tomie ohtake

nara roesler | new york

february 09–13, 2021

Nara Roesler is pleased to present *Cross-cuts*, an exhibition curated by Luis Pérez-Oramas unfolding in five different installations to inaugurate the gallery's new location in New York's Chelsea neighborhood, on view from January 12 through February 13, 2021. The show was envisioned as a means to focus on the richness and variety of the Roesler portfolio by highlighting nine significant artists: Antonio Dias, Paul Ramirez Jonas, Berna Reale, Cristina Canale, Karin Lambrecht, Maria Klabin, Milton Machado, Artur Lescher, and Tomie Ohtake.

'*Cross-cuts* proposes chapters focusing on a specific body of work by an individual artist or a conversation between two or three artists. We believe in an open-minded observation of art capable of discovering, through meaningful juxtapositions, in a comparative and analogical way, new meanings that could amplify their aesthetic and political resonance,' states Luis Pérez-Oramas, Senior Curatorial Director.

Each of the exhibition's installations address outstanding issues that concern contemporary art in both Brazil and the United States.

cover Tomie Ohtake. *Untitled*, 2013 (detail)
photo © Erika Mayumi

chapter 1

antonio dias
january 12–16

chapter 2

**berna reale and
paul ramirez jonas**
january 19–23

chapter 3

**cristina canale,
karin lambrecht
and maria klabin**
january 26–30

chapter 4

**artur lescher
and milton machado**
february 2–6

chapter 5

tomie ohtake
february 9–13

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Tomie Ohtake (b. Kyoto, Japan, 1913 - d. São Paulo, Brazil, 2015) was 101 years old when she produced the purest, most pristine and essential version of her sculptural work, shown here for the first time in North America. An unavoidable figure in Brazilian late-modern art, Ohtake achieved, at the blossoming of her last age, an ultimate three-dimensional calligraphy in space with her late sculptures: floating, joyful lines featuring their playful doodles in the exhibition space.

Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 2010
acrylic paint on canvas
150,5 x 100,5 x 3,5 cm
59.3 x 39.6 x 1.4 in
photo © Erika Mayumi

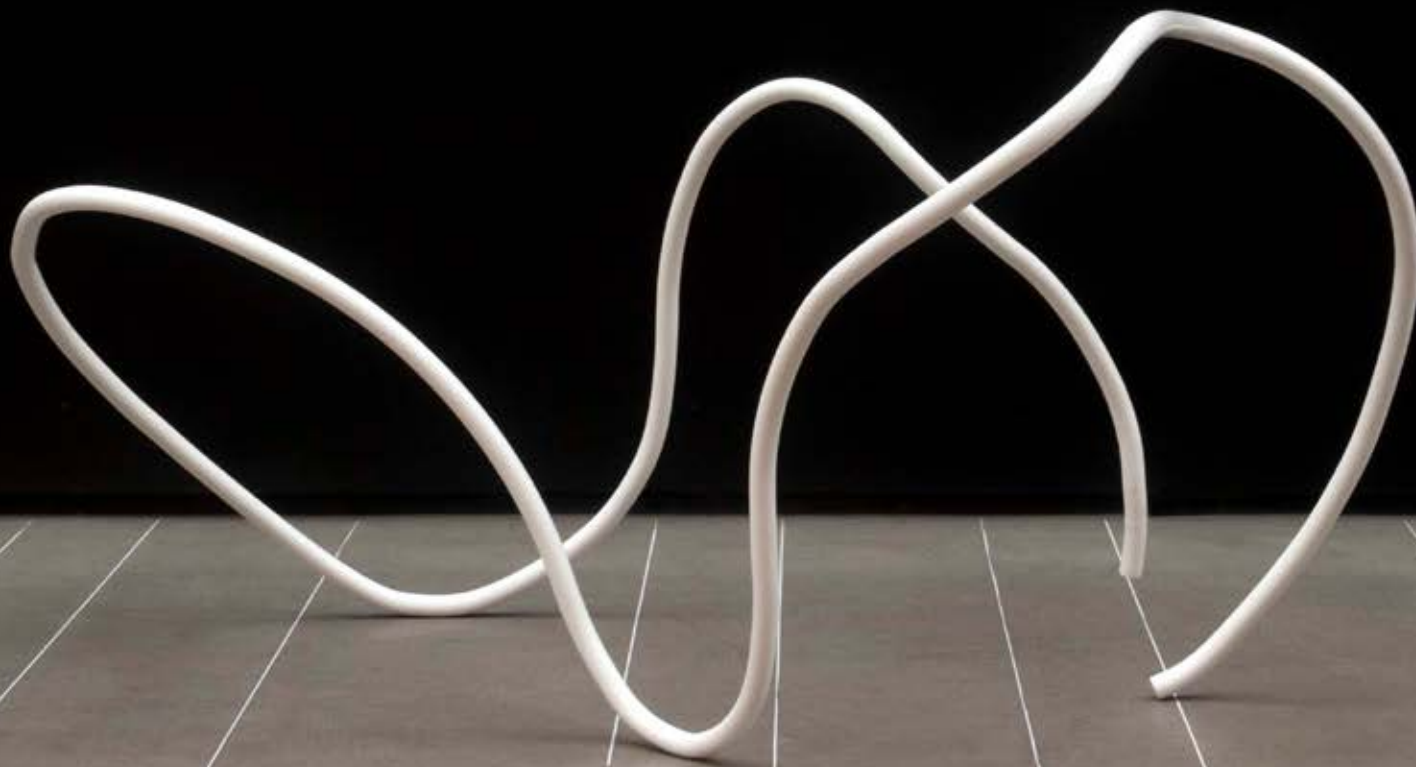


Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 1987
Oil paint on canvas
100 x 100 cm
39.4 x 39.4 in
photo © Erika Mayumi

A major painter and sculptor, Ohtake is also known for her work in theater design, monumental scale and public spaces, notably in buildings designed, among other significant architects, by Oscar Niemeyer and her son Ricardo Ohtake.

Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 2013
tubular carbon steel painted with
automotive paint
218 x 40 cm
85.8 x 15.7 in





Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 2013
tubular carbon steel painted with
automotive paint
115 x 200 x 210 cm
45.3 x 78.7 x 82.7 in
photo: © Everton Ballardin

Since the 1950s Ohtake devoted herself to art, stressing her interest in the materiality of art, exhausting all the potential of lines and chromatic fields, often by reaching radical decisions such as blinding herself in order to paint her famous blind-paintings in the early 1960s. As if extracting the truth of her art from the most basic materiality, by the 1970s Ohtake accomplished one of the most significant bodies of work in organic color abstraction in the Americas.

Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 2013
tubular carbon steel painted
with automotive paint
260 x 120 x 140 cm
102.4 x 47.2 x 55.1 in
photo: ©Arquivo Instituto
Tomie Ohtake





Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 1984
Acrylic paint on canvas
100 x 100 cm
39.4 x 39.4 in



The fluidity of color fields and lines are leitmotifs of her work as well as essential elements of her late production, both painterly and sculptural, as shown here. Lines that surge from the density of absolute color, dancing and shaping wavy visual fields were ultimately materialized by Ohtake in her last body of work, as free sculptural lines in space: a poetic, lasting message written in the air.

Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 1987
acrylic paint on canvas
150 x 150 cm
59.1 x 59.1 in



Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 1986 (detail)
Oil paint on canvas
135 x 270 cm
53.1 x 106.3 in
photo © Erika Mayumi



Tomie Ohtake
Untitled, 1986
Oil paint on canvas
135 x 270 cm
53.1 x 106.3 in
photo © Erika Mayumi

tomie ohtake

b. 1913 in Kyoto, Japan

lived and worked in São Paulo, SP, Brazil

d. 2015 in São Paulo, SP, Brazil

One of the main representatives of abstract art in Brazil, Tomie Ohtake was born in Kyoto in 1913 and moved to Brazil in 1936. Her career as an artist began at the age of 37 when she became a member of the Seibi group, which brought together artists of Japanese descent. In the late 1950s, when she left behind an initial phase of figurative studies in painting, she immersed herself in abstract explorations. In this phase, she performed a series of paintings which became known as *blind paintings*, where she would blindfold herself in experiments that challenged the ideas which grounded the Brazilian Neo-concrete movement, also bringing sensibility and intuition to the fore of her practice.

In 1957, invited by critic Mário Pedrosa, she presented her first solo exhibition at the Museu de Arte Moderna in São Paulo, which was followed by her participation in the São Paulo Biennial in 1961. Ohtake began to experiment with various printmaking methods during the 1970s and, beginning in the late 1980s, she undertook large-scale sculptural projects and public works in São Paulo and neighboring cities. Having worked until very late in life, Tomie Ohtake passed away in 2015, when she was 101 years old.

selected exhibitions

- **solo** *Pinturas Cegas*, Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2013)
- **solo** *Fundação Iberê Camargo*, Porto Alegre, Brazil (2012); Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil (2011)
- **solo** *Retrospectiva*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil Rio de Janeiro (CCBB-RJ), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **solo** *Paço das Artes*, São Paulo, Brazil (2000)
- **solo** *Tomie Ohtake*, Americas Society, New York, USA (1995)
- **solo** *Retrospectiva*, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan (1988)
- **solo** *Tomie Ohtake: Retrospectiva, 30 anos de trabalho*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil (1983)

- **group** *Oito décadas de abstração informal – Coleções Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo e Instituto Casa Roberto Marinho*, Instituto Casa Roberto Marinho, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (MAM-SP), São Paulo, Brazil (2018)
- **group** *The World is our Home. A Poem on Abstraction*, Para Site, Hong Kong, China (2015)
- **group** *Fusion: Tracing Asian Migration to the Americas Through AMA's Collection*, Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, USA (2013)
- **group** *30x Bienal*, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (2013)
- **group** *Panorama dos Panoramas*, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (MAM-SP), São Paulo, Brazil (2008)
- **group** *Banzai Brasil*, Banco Santander, São Paulo, Brazil (2008)
- **group** *Mostra do Redescobrimento*, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (2000)

selected collections

- Dallas Museum of Art, USA
- Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Caracas, Venezuela
- Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection in the Museum of Modern Art Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- M+, Hong Kong, China
- Tate Modern, London, UK
- Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil

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