

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC)?

The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC) was founded in the early 1990s by Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and Gustavo A. Cisneros with a mission to enhance the appreciation of the diversity, sophistication, and range of art from Latin America, and to advance scholarship of art from Latin America. The CPPC achieves these goals through the preservation, presentation, and study of the material culture of the Ibero-American world—ranging from the ethnographic to the contemporary. CPPC activities include exhibitions, publications, grants for scholarly research and artistic production, as well as other initiatives designed to create communities for discussion and reflection. The CPPC is based in New York City and Caracas.

Why is the CPPC making this major donation to The Museum of Modern Art?

Patricia Phelps de Cisneros is a longtime MoMA trustee and a member of several acquisitions and funding committees, including the Latin American and Caribbean Fund, of which she is chairman and founder. The establishment of the Cisneros Institute and the gift of the art works is a culmination of a long relationship between the CPPC and MoMA, and furthers the process of fully integrating art from Latin America into the narrative of modernism. It also underscores MoMA's long-term commitment to the inclusion of art from Latin America within the modern art narrative, the importance of sustained research of art from Latin America, and the continuing development of art and artists from Latin America.

What is the financial value of the gift? How much money is being given to support the Cisneros Institute?

The value of the Cisneros gift is the transformation of MoMA's collection and the impact that the Cisneros Institute will have in terms of furthering the research and scholarship of art from Latin America. Together, they will raise the visibility of art from Latin America and its place within the narrative of modern art. The gift of the works of art and the endowment for the Cisneros Institute are incredibly generous, though we are not disclosing any specific financial information related to the gift.

Are all of the works being given outright?

The works of art represent a combination of promised and outright gifts. The majority are being given outright.

What will the primary activities of the Cisneros Institute be?

The goals of the Cisneros Institute are:

- to conduct research on the visual arts, film, media, performance, architecture and design of the region, placing the works in their local and global contexts; to place special emphasis on research that is designed to enhance MoMA's collection of art from the region
- to manage related educational initiatives, including seminars, symposia, lectures and other public programs, and support a fellowship program that will bring scholars, curators, and artists from the region and beyond
- to foster long-term strategic partnerships with appropriate modern and contemporary art institutions throughout the world that are interested in art from Latin America
- to publish the results of its research, in printed and digital formats, making these findings available to the Museum's diverse audiences

What are MoMA's plans for exhibiting the works from this gift?

The Museum will organize and present a major exhibition of modern works drawn from the Cisneros gift within the next few years, following the expansion project that is expected to be completed in 2019 or 2020. MoMA will publish a scholarly catalogue to accompany the exhibition. In addition, works from the gift will be regularly displayed within the collection galleries.

What are the key highlights of the works entering MoMA's collection?

The works focus on the development of geometric abstraction in South America from the 1930s through the 1970s. Abstraction was largely developed in four countries: Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela, all countries committed in those years to development and progress, which is reflected in the utopian nature of the art. The Cisneros' were especially concerned that MoMA have deep and significant holdings of some of the key artists in this history, such as Lygia Clark, Hélio Oiticica, Jesús Soto, Gego, and Alejandro Otero.

Why were these particular works chosen?

The CPPC worked closely with MoMA's curators over many years to select works that would tell the story of abstraction in Latin America, with the best examples of work by each artist.

When will the works be on public view in the Museum?

The Museum will organize and present a major exhibition of modern works drawn from the Cisneros gift following the Museum's expansion, which is expected to be completed in 2019 or 2020, and will publish an accompanying scholarly catalogue.

Is the CPPC donating its entire collection to MoMA?

No, these works represent a portion of the collection. The CPPC will continue to actively collect across five areas of Latin American art, produce publications, provide grants, and conduct partnership programs and research.

With such an extensive collection of Latin American art, why did Gustavo and Patricia Phelps de Cisneros decide to donate these works of art, instead of opening a private museum?

The Cisneros' lifelong mission has been to place art from Latin America within a broader international context, and there is no better place to do this than MoMA. Abstraction was an internationalist language, and the Cisneros' believe that these works should be placed alongside the European and American artists with whom they were in dialogue at the time the works were made. MoMA has been building a significant Latin American collection since its foundation, and this is an effort that the donors fully support.

When will the Cisneros Institute open, and who will oversee its activities?

The Cisneros Institute is expected to open within a year, and will be located in the Museum's building at 25 West 53rd Street. A director will be appointed at a later date.