

AMERICAS SOCIETY AND COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

NOVEMBER 9, 2012, 12:00–5:00 PM

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SCHERMERHORN BUILDING, RM 612

“Gego at One Hundred Years”

In conjunction with the exhibition *Gego: Origin and Encounter, Mastering the Space* on view at Americas Society until December 8, 2012



“Gego at One Hundred Years” will bring together a select group of art historians, cultural critics and curators to explore the historical relevance of Gego’s art at the centenary of her birth. What is the relationship between Gego’s early kinetic sculpture and the widely held belief in technological progress that in Venezuela was fueled by the oil and construction boom of 1950s and 60s? How did the context affect her decision to become a practicing artist? More broadly, what is the nature of the relationship between Gego’s early training in architecture and engineering and the constructivist-based sculpture (e.g., the series of *Reticuláreas*) that she later went on to develop? And to what extent did her unique position as a European woman émigré of Jewish descent affect her artistic production in Venezuela? This symposium will explore these and other issues in order to assess the historical importance of Gego’s art as well as the degree to which it continues to resonate in the present.

The one-day symposium is co-sponsored by Columbia University’s Department of Art History and Archaeology, the Institute for the Study of Latin American Art, and the America’s Society. The proceedings will be introduced by Gabriela Rangel, Director of Visual Arts at the Americas Society, and moderated by Alexander Alberro, Virginia Bloedel Wright Professor of Art History at Barnard College and Columbia University.

Speakers include:

Mónica Amor, Assistant Professor of Art History, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore

Nuit Banai, Professor, Visual and Critical Studies, Tufts University, Boston

Bruno Bosteels, Professor of Romance Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca

Sylvia Cedeño, Founder, Pogodesign, New York

Hannia Gómez, President, Fundacion de la Memoria Urbana, Founder and Vice President of Docomomo Venezuela, and former Curator of Gio Ponti’s Villa Planchart, Venezuela

Catherine de Zegher, Curator of the 18th Sydney Biennale (2012), the 5th Moscow Biennale (2013) and the Australian Pavilion in the 55th Venice Biennale (2013)

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