

MARTIN BLASZKO

b. 1920, Berlin, Germany

d. 2011, Buenos Aires, Argentina

BIOGRAPHY

Martín Blaszkó was born in Germany in 1920. He emigrated to Poland in 1933 and studied there under Jankel Adler and Enrique Barcsynski. He settled in Argentina six years later, where he met Carmelo Arden Quin and participated in the Madí group. During the 1940s, he produced paintings with trimmed frames and three-dimensional forms that he would later transform into monoliths, towers, and columns. In 1952, he completed his *Monumento al Prisionero Político Desconocido*, which was exhibited at the Tate Gallery in London and was awarded a prize by the Institute of Contemporary Arts. In the same year, his work was shown at the Biennale of São Paulo, and in 1956 he represented Argentina at the Venice Biennale. In 1958, Blaszkó was selected to participate in Expo 58 in Brussels, where he received a bronze medal for his work. In 1959, he became a citizen of Argentina.

Describing Blaszkó's work in 1960, Germaine Derbecq writes, "Measurement, geometry, balance of forces – in such terms he formulates personal ideas. He follows logical sequences of dialogue between planes, or their intersections; he outlines space by means of angles which he determines with mathematical precision; the language of numbers testifies to his total control of harmonies." Blaszkó has also written and published extensively about his work and his theories regarding sculpture.

In 1990, Blaszkó's work was included in the exhibition *Latin American Artists of the Twentieth Century* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 1996, he was included in the MADÍ exhibition at the Centro Reina Sofía in Madrid. A solo exhibition of his work was held at the Museum of Modern Art in Buenos Aires (MAMBA) in 2001, and the solo exhibition *Martín Blaszkó: Proyecciones Urbanísticas* was held at the Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA) in 2010.

His works are included in several public and private collections worldwide, including Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA) – Colección Costantini, Buenos Aires; Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (MAMBA), Buenos Aires; and the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, New York and Caracas.

BIOGRAPHICAL CHRONOLOGY

- 1933** Leaves Germany
- 1938** Meets Marc Chagall in Paris
- 1939** Arrives in Argentina
- 1945** Studies with Carmelo Arden Quin
- 1946** Co-founds the MADI Group
- 1952** Receives a prize from the Institute of Contemporary Art of London, England for his project *Monumento al Prisionero Político Desconocido*, which is exhibited at the Tate Gallery, London
Work included in the São Paulo Biennial, Brazil
- 1956** Participates in the *Exposicion de Arte Argentino*, a traveling exhibition organized by the Argentine Government
- 1958** Argentine representative at the Brussels World Fair, Expo 58
- 1959** First Prize at *Salon de Mar del Plata*, Argentina
- 1960** Works exhibited at the XXVIII Venice Biennale
- 1968** Co-edits an issue of *Sculpture International*, Oxford, England
- 1976** Delivers a lecture titled *Monumental Sculpture and Society* at the Ninth International Sculpture Conference at Tulane University, New Orleans
- 1991** Receives award from the Open Air Museum, Hakone, Japan, and builds commissioned sculpture in the hills of Utsugushi-Ga-Hara
Installs *Jubilee* in the Parque Centenario, Buenos Aires
- 1994** Donates works for the reconstruction of AMIA (Argentine Israelite Mutual Association, bombed in 1994)
- 2006** Lecture at the Madi Museum, Dallas, Texas, "The Origins of MADI"
- 2007** Exhibition at the MADI Museum, Dallas, Texas, USA
Premio Fundación Alberto J. Trabucco 2007, Centro Cultural Borges, Buenos Aires, Argentina

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1984** Bank of Interamerican Development, Washington, DC
- 1990** *Martín Blaszkó, Sculptures, Collages*, Galerie Edwige Herdé, Paris
- 2001** Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (MAMba)
- 2002** *Martín Blaszkó. Zeichnungen und Collagen*, Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Frankfurt, Germany
- 2010** *Martín Blaszkó. Proyecciones urbanísticas*, MALBA Colección Costantini, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1946** *Third Madí Exhibition*, Bohemien Club, Galerías Pacífico, Buenos Aires
- 1949** *Second Salón Argentino de arte no-figurativo. Abstracto – Concreto – Madí – Madimensor*, Galería Van Riel, Buenos Aires
- 1952** São Paul Biennale
- 1953** *Arquitectura, proyectos de urbanismo, escultura y pintura – Blaszkó, Kurchan, Melé, Ungar*, Intendencia Municipal de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires
- 1958** Expo 58, Brussels World's Fair
- 1960** XXVIII Venice Biennale
International Contemporary Sculpture, Musée Rodin, Paris
- 1965** *O. Anadon, M.Blaszko, D.Zalaya*, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Pablo, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 1985** *Abstraction in the XXth Century*, Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires
- 1990** *Latin American Artists of the XX Century*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, USA
Argentina. Arte Concreto Invención 1945. Grupo Madí 1946, Rachel Adler Gallery, New York
- 1994** *MADI en perspective*, Galerie Claude Dorval, Paris
- 1995** *Arte al Sur*, University of Buenos Aires and the Organización de los Estados Iberoamericanos.
- 1995-1996** *Les figures de la liberté, 1945*, Musée Rath, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1996** *Costantini Collection* exhibition, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires
MADI international, 50 years later, Centro de Exposiciones y Congresos, Zaragoza, Spain
- 1997** *Exposición de Arte Madí*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
- 1998** *The Costantini Collection* is exhibited at The Museum of Modern Art, Río de Janeiro, Brazil and the Museum of Modern Art, São Paulo, Brazil
The Constructive Tradition in MAMBA, Museo de Arte Moderno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 1999** *Da MADI a MADI (1946-1999)*, Mazzotta, Milan, Italy
- 2001** *Abstract Art from Río de la Plata. Buenos Aires and Montevideo, 1933-53*, The Americas Society, New York, New York, USA
- 2003** *Arte Abstracto Argentino*, Fundación PROA, Buenos Aires
International MADI movement, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Latinoamericano (MACLA), La Plata, Argentina
- 2007** *Vasos Comunicantes, Vanguardias Latinoamericanas y Europa 1900-1950*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Esteban Vicente, Castilla León, Spain
- 2009** *Sites of Latin American Abstraction*, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, CA
- 2010** *VIBRACIÓN. Modern Art from Latin America*. The Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection, Kunst und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

SELECTED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, New York
Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (Malba) - Fundación
Costantini, Buenos Aires
Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (MAMba), Buenos Aires
Von Bartha Collection, Basel, Switzerland

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Barraclough, Fabio. "Sculpture in Argentina: Martín Blaszko." *Sculpture International* 2:2 (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1968): 26-30.
- Blaszko, Martín. "La ciudad fuente de Emoción Estética." In *Arquitectura para el arte*. Buenos Aires: MALBA, 2002.
- . "Monumental Sculpture and Society." Proceedings of the Ninth National / International Sculpture Conference. Ed. Elden C. Tefft. Lawrence, Kansas: The University of Kansas, 1976.
- . "Nace una escultura." *Sculpture International* 3: 2-3. (London, 1970): 28.
- . "On the Making of Sculpture." *Leonardo* 4 (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1971): 255-256.
- . "Sculpture and the Principle of Bipolarity." *Leonardo* 1:3 (Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1968): 223-232.
- Derbecq, Germaine. "Blaszko o la constancia." In *Martín Blaszko, 15 años de escultura*. Buenos Aires: Galería Lirolay, 1961.
- Iturburo, Córdoba. *Catalogo Escultura Contemporáneo al aire libre*. Buenos Aires: Museo de Arte Moderno Buenos Aires, 1959.
- Maldonado, Tomás, et al. *Arte Concreto Invención – Arte MADI*. Basel: Galerie Von Bartha, 1991.
- Romero Brest, Jorge. "El monumento al prisionero político desconocido." *Ver y Estimar* 32, Buenos Aires, 1953.