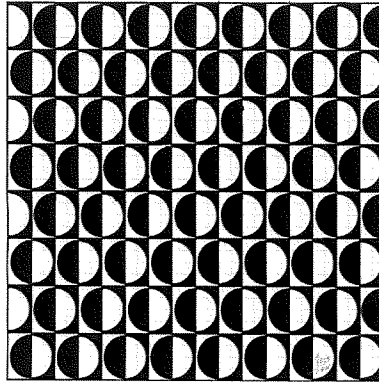


# SICARDI GALLERY

## Asis/Esmeraldo/Espinosa/Lizárraga: Works on Paper, 1960-2000



Antonio Asis, Untitled, 1961, Acrylic on paper, 11 5/8" x 8 14"

Sicardi Gallery is pleased to open the fall season with an exhibition of works on paper by four Latin American artists who have pushed the bounds of abstraction since the 1940s. Antonio Asis, Manuel Espinosa, Servulo Esmeraldo, and Antonio Lizárraga. An opening reception is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2011, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Over the past decade, scholarly studies and museum exhibitions have dramatically expanded our understanding of the rich and complicated networks of non-figurative art that developed in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela and other Latin American countries beginning in the 1940s. This was a time of dynamic transformation, with ideas and artists moving across national borders with increased urgency. Some, like Antonio Asis and Servulo Esmeraldo, as well as Jesús Rafael Soto and Julio le Parc, took up residence in Paris; others, like León Ferrari and Antonio Lizárraga, moved within Latin America, for political or professional reasons.

We inaugurate our 2011-2012 season with a show that features a variety of elegant works on paper, rendered in ink, acrylic, charcoal and pencil, by four masters from Argentina and Brazil who have recently come to greater critical attention.

**Antonio Asis** (b. 1932) moved to Paris from Argentina in 1956 and began to explore the possibilities of representing movement in the fixed picture plane, sharing certain concerns with Op Artists in Europe and the US. Also from Argentina, **Manuel Espinosa** (1912-2006) was a leading figure in post-war Argentinean Constructivism, and forged important contacts with Max Bill and others after traveling in Europe in the early 1950s.

**Servulo Esmeraldo** (b. 1929) left Sao Paulo for Paris only a year after Asis (he returned to Brazil in 1975); although he is best known for his "Excitables," in which static electricity generates actual movement, the present exhibition includes drawings close in spirit to the contemporaneous work of the Neo-Concretists. Born in Argentina, **Antonio Lizárraga** (1924-2009) moved to São Paulo in 1959, working as an illustrator as well as creating sculptures, paintings and public works that traverse abstraction and figuration. Esmeraldo and Lizárraga both explored printmaking, and collaborated on literary publications.

We hope this show not only introduces an elegant and compelling array of work by South American artists to our audience, but also challenges us to move beyond the expected in the ever-widening field of Latin American abstraction. The exhibition will be on view at the gallery until October 8, 2011. For more information, visit [www.sicardi.com](http://www.sicardi.com) or email [info@sicardi.com](mailto:info@sicardi.com).