

ANTONIO ASIS

[1932, Argentina - 2019, France]

Antonio Asis began studying art at the Escuela de Bellas Artes when he was 14 years old. Subsequently, at the Escuela de Bellas Artes Prilidiano Pueyrredón, he studied composition with Héctor Cartier, who encouraged the young artist to explore the principles of design as a foundation for his work. The class was influential for Asis, as were the after-class conversations with his classmates which continued at the Bar Splendid, a local café at the intersection of Ayacucho and la Avenida Las Heras in Buenos Aires. Throughout the 1940s, Asis explored abstraction and non-representational art; with the publication of *Arturo* magazine in 1944 and the creation of the Asociación Arte Concreto-Invención (AACI), Buenos Aires was an important site for the development of post-war abstraction, and Asis was an active member of this creative community.

In the spring of 1956, Asis moved to Paris where he soon became part of an international circuit of kinetic artists. Among others, he befriended Yaacov Agam, Nicolas Schöffer, Jesús Rafael Soto, Jean Tinguely, and Victor Vasarely. Surrounded by this dynamic milieu, he began a series of work in which he considered how the phenomenon of light could be mediated through photography. Shortly afterward, he began to study vibrations between colors and the many possibilities within monochromatic compositions. He also began working on his iconic series of perforated metal plates superimposed over painted surfaces. The combination of the metal “grille” and the geometric compositions of circles and squares create a surface that seems to change and move as the viewer changes position. Like many of his Rioplatense colleagues, Asis was deeply influenced by the ideas of Max Bill and Georges Vantongerloo, important artists and theorists of European abstraction. In 1971, Asis co-founded an artist group, *Groupe Position*, which included Carlos Agüero, Armando Durante, Hugo Demarco, and Horacio García Rossi, all Argentine artists living in Paris, and all interested in movement and the vibrations of light.

Asis's works have been shown in numerous important exhibitions, including *On and Off the Grid*, The Drawing Room, East Hampton, New York, USA (2021); *Paintings on Paper 1960-76*, The Drawing Room, East Hampton, New York, USA (2017); *Hommage à Antonio Asis*, Espace Meyer Zafra, Paris, France (2009); Estudio Actual, Caracas, Venezuela (1971); Galerie J. & J. Donguy, Paris, France (1983); Galerie Krebs, Bern, Switzerland (1970); *Antonio Asis: Interferencias Celestes*, Galerie N Mariño, Paris, France (2011); *Expression visuelle*, Galleria Arte Struktura, Milan, Italy (1995); Galleria La Polena, Genoa, Italy (1975); *DYNAMO: A Century of Light and Movement in Art, 1913-2013*, Grand Palais, Paris, France (2013); *Atelier Antonio Asis, Oeuvres des années 50 à 70*, Hôtel Drouot, Paris, France (1989); *Untitled Booth D5*, KaBe Contemporary, Miami, Florida, USA (2016); Maison de la Culture, Rennes, France (1972); *Cinétisme, Spectacle, Environnement*, Maison de la Culture de Grenoble (MC2), France (1968); *Lumière et Mouvement*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France (1967); *Antonio Asis: Un Universo Vibrante*, Museo de la Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (MUNTREF),

Caseros, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina (2012); *The Illusive Eye*, El Museo del Barrio, New York City, New York, USA (2016); *Los Cinéticos*, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (MNCARS), Madrid, Spain (2007); and *Real/Virtual: Arte Cinético argentino de los años sesenta*, Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina (2012).

Asis's works are represented in numerous collections, including Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, Florida, USA; Musée National d'Art Moderne - Centre Pompidou, Paris, France; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Latinoamericano (MACLA), La Plata, Argentina; Museo de Arte Moderno Jesús Soto, Ciudad Bolívar, Venezuela; Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende (MSSA), Santiago, Chile; Museo de la Universidad Nacional de Tres de Febrero (MUNTREF), Caseros, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (MNCARS), Madrid, Spain; and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Texas, USA.