

PROYECTOS MONCLOVA

Opening of the exhibition *Conceptos estéticos, encuentros científicos* (Aesthetic concepts, scientific encounters) by Manuel Felguérez

- Proyectos Monclova opens the exhibition la exposición *Conceptos estéticos, encuentros científicos* (Aesthetic concepts, scientific encounters) by the Mexican artist Manuel Felguérez on November 17th, from 12 pm until 8 pm.
- The exhibition is comprised of never before seen kinetic works made in the 1970s, alongside other works from his famous project *La máquina estética, La fábrica del arte* (The aesthetic machine, The art factory) and other projects of public sculpture within Mexico.
- The exhibition addresses the importance of Manuel Felguérez as a precursor to cybernetic art.

Proyectos Monclova is thrilled to present the exhibition *Conceptos estéticos, encuentros científicos* (Aesthetic concepts, scientific encounters) by the Mexican artist Manuel Felguérez, pioneer of cybernetic art in Mexico and member of the Rupture Generation or Breakaway Generation, made up of a group of artists who contravened the nationalist precepts of muralism and reacted against the Mexican School of Painting during the 1950s.

This exhibition features works produced by Felguérez in the seventies that arise as a result of several of his projects, one of them being *La máquina estética* (The aesthetic machine; 1975-1977), an artistic-scientific investigation that he developed at Harvard University, with the support of the Guggenheim grant, and in collaboration with the systems engineer Mayer Sasson. For three years, the two designed mathematical models to convert stylistic information into numerical data, using geometry, mathematics and cybernetics to develop a system that would generate designs with a large number of possible compositions. The exhibition presents some compositions yielded by this system, as well as paintings and drawings that Felguérez made from them. The exhibition also highlights polychrome metal kinetic sculptures, whose main characteristic is the geometric abstraction in their forms. These pieces are essential to understand the aesthetic model of the artist, developed mainly during the time of *La máquina estética*.

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The exhibition also has a model made for *La fábrica del arte* (1972), a sculptural project he carried out for *La montaña sagrada* (The holy mountain; 1973), a science fiction and surrealist-themed film directed by Alejandro Jodorowsky. Finally, the exhibition presents models for public sculptures, some made with cardboard as a first stage of production, followed by a selection of medium-format sculptures made of metal.

With this exhibition, Proyectos Monclova continues its interest in revising, exhibiting and showing, on a national and international level, the work of artists who belonged to the Rupture Generation, as is the case of Manuel Felguérez and Fernando García Ponce, whose work has been introduced to the foreign market through the gallery's participation in international fairs. This reaffirms the gallery's commitment to position the work of artists who have been fundamental in the development of contemporary art in Mexico, such as Helen Escobedo, Ángela Gurría and the aforementioned artists.

Manuel Felguérez, (Zacatecas, 1928 – Mexico City, 2022). He was a Mexican painter and sculptor. He studied at the Academia de San Carlos, from which he left months later due to his disagreement with the emphasis placed on the Mexican School of Painting. Later he continued his studies at the National School of Painting, Sculpture and Engraving, La Esmeralda, at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris thanks to a scholarship granted by the French, and begins to work at the studio of sculptor Ossip Zadkine. Upon his return to Mexico, he joined the first movement of national abstract artists that formed the Rupture Generation. From 1956 he worked in the academic field within various institutions such as the Universidad Iberoamericana, the National School of Fine Arts of the UNAM (1970) and the Institute of Aesthetic Research of the UNAM. Throughout his career, Manuel Felguérez has been the recipient of various awards and recognitions, including the National Prize for the Arts of Mexico (1988), the Guggenheim Foundation scholarship and the Grand Prize of Honor at the XIII São Paulo Biennial in Brazil (1975); He was also named Creator Emeritus by the Fonca National System of Art Creators (1993) and obtained the Fine Arts Medal (2015).