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## 50 Years, 50 Works, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*An exhibit organized by the IDB Cultural Center in collaboration  
with the OAS Art Museum of the Americas*

**On view February 16-March 31, 2010**

Art Museum of the Americas  
201 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20006

**Washington, DC:** Organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Cultural Center in collaboration with the Art Museum of the Americas of the Organization of American States (OAS), "50 Years, 50 Works, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" celebrates 50 years of the Inter American Development Bank and 100 years of the OAS House of the Americas architectural complex. The exhibit was first presented at the Museo de Antioquia in Medellin, during the 50th Annual Meeting of the IDB Board of Governors. **50 Years, 50 Works, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** includes works reflecting significant Latin American and Caribbean movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from the Mexican mural school and early modernists to the WWII avant-garde and the generation of the post-war years that produced some of the artists whose work provided the foundations of the OAS art collection beginning in the late 1940s.

**50 Years, 50 Works, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** draws exclusively from the collections of the IDB Cultural Center and the OAS Art Museum of the Americas. According to exhibit curator Felix Angel of the IDB Cultural Center "the exhibit represents the development of the arts in the region through the 20<sup>th</sup> century," and that "the variety of techniques selected responds to...the region's unpredictable and recurrent economic and social crossroads."



Diego Rivera (Mexico)  
*Sueño (Dream)*, 1932  
(IDB Art Collection)

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Three seminal Mexican muralists- Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and José Clemente Orozco- are represented here in the form of several engravings; two of the Rivera engravings relate to his landmark frescoes in Mexico.

Also present are early modernists such as Emilio Pettoruti (Argentina), Pedro Figari and Joaquín Torres García (Uruguay), and Cândido Portinari (Brazil). Portinari's painting "Return from the Fair" (1940) was donated in 1949 to the fledging OAS art program.

The avant garde from the time of the Second World War is reflected here in the work of artists such as Carlos Mérida (Guatemala), Rufino Tamayo (Mexico), and Roberto Matta (Chile) Wifredo Lam, René Portocarrero, and Amelia Peláez (Cuba). Of this latter group, Colombian-Argentina art critic Marta Traba wrote "They took varying directions, but all agreed that the artist should have complete freedom to reinvent and represent ambient reality. Peláez painted *The Hibiscus* in 1943. It shows some similarity to the work of Henri Matisse. However, the colors—which recall the stained-glass windows of old Havana residences—the architectural moldings, and the weave in the cane-bottomed chairs bespeak a masterly fusion of native and imported elements."



Amelia Peláez (Cuba)  
*Marpacífico (Hibiscus)*, 1943  
(OAS Art Collection, Gift of IBM)

Alejandro Obregón (Colombia), Jesús Rafael Soto and Carlos Cruz-Diez (Venezuela), José Luis Cuevas (Mexico), Rogelio Polesello and Mauricio Lasansky (Argentina), Maria Luisa Pacheco (Bolivia), Manabú Mabe (Brazil), and Fernando de Szyszlo (Peru) were all among the generation of artists who exhibited at the OAS in the early years of its art program.

Also included in *50 Years, 50 Works, 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* are artists who were considered in their day to be quite outside of the mainstream, such as Everaldo Brown (Jamaica) and Joseph Jean-Gilles (Haiti). Brown's "Victory Dance" (1976) depicts an exuberant and joyful religious celebration in a village square, providing a contrast to the serene rolling hills found in Jean-Gilles' "Haitian Landscape" (1973).

The **Art Museum of the Americas** is located at 201 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20006 and it is open to the public Tuesdays-Sundays from 10 am until 5 pm. The museum is closed on Federal holidays. For more information about the museum, visit the website [www.museum.oas.org](http://www.museum.oas.org).