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Largest loan in the history of the collection of the OAS Art Museum of the Americas

Arte en América exhibition at the Centro Cultural Palacio La Moneda (Santiago, Chile) On view December 17, 2010-March 20, 2011

The OAS Art Museum of the Americas (AMA) announces the cross-continental exchange of more than one hundred jewels of its collection as part of the exhibition *Arte en América* at the Centro Cultural Palacio La Moneda in Santiago. This exhibition is the largest of its kind to date in Chile, and offers viewers an unprecedented glimpse into the OAS collection of modern and contemporary art of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Arte en América is highlighted by outstanding examples of individual artistic expression from 28 countries of the western hemisphere, that simultaneously inform about commonalities of the region. Comprised of more than 200 works, the show is the latest- and largest- example of years of collaboration between the OAS AMA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Cultural Center, which also loaned a substantial part of its collection for this exhibition.



Roberto Matta (Chilean, b. 1911 – d. 2002) Los fuegos del agua, from the "Verbo America" portfolio, 1985 Collection OAS Art Museum of the Americas

For sixty-five years, the OAS has been on the cutting edge of the Latin American and Caribbean contemporary art scene, having provided the venue for the first exhibitions of many important artists of the region outside of their own countries. From the mid-1940s to the early 1980s, the OAS visual arts program was curated by Cuban-born art critic José Gómez-Sicre, whose eye for talent brought young and emerging talents such as Alejandro Obregon (Colombia), Jose Luis Cuevas (Mexico), Jesus Rafael Soto (Venezuela), Oswaldo Guayasamin (Ecuador), and Rafael Ferrer (Puerto Rico). The first decades of the arts program also saw additions to the collection of works Roberto Matta (Chile), a pioneering figure in the development of modern abstract painting, and master artists such as Mario Carreño (Cuba-Chile), Amelia Pelaez (Cuba), Emilio Pettoruti (Argentina), and Hector Poleo (Venezuela). Collection cornerstones such as Matta's *Verbo America* and Pelaez' *Blue Angel* feature in *Arte en América*, as well as more recent additions such as Tony Capellan's (Dominican Republic) barbed-wire and flip-flop installation *Mar Caribe* and Antonio Segui's (Argentina) painting *Mucha Gente*.

Through artworks of various media- painting, photography, sculpture, installation, engraving- *Arte en América* allows viewers to draw connections between the artists and countries of the region. As a cohesive look into the OAS AMA art collection, the exhibition highlights the great diversity of artistic identities- as well as the social and cultural histories- that characterize the 20th century in the Americas.

For more information, images, or a list of works, please contact Greg Svitil at 202 458 6016 or ssyline.col/www.ccplm.cl/ www.museum.oas.org