

Judith Lauand (Brazil, 1922-2022)

Born in Pontal, São Paulo in 1922, Judith Lauand graduated from the Escola de Belas Artes de Araraquara in 1950, and moved to the city of São Paulo as the influence of European Concrete artists such as Max Bill and Josef Albers was taking hold. She is renowned in Brazil as the ‘Dama do Concretismo’ or ‘First Lady of Concretism,’ being the sole female member of Grupo Ruptura, the artist group who defined in their manifesto a rational and cerebral approach to geometric abstraction that would set in motion a distinctly Brazilian course of avant-garde art. Joining the group in 1955, she developed a practice within the bounds of their geometric language, working with precise sequences and mechanical order. Her work, however, is characterised by a sensibility towards contradiction and poetic deviation. Forms are held in tension across the picture plane within mathematical linear structures, frequently destabilised and animated by decisive ruptures to her pattern.

Following this formative decade, Lauand continued to work into the 21st century, developments in her practice reflecting the course of art and politics in Brazil. While the status of artists was harshly affected by the censorship and persecution of intellectuals by the military regime, members of Grupo Ruptura continually sought to position themselves within an international art dialogue. In 1963, Lauand co-founded the Galeria Novas Tendências with fellow Ruptura members, where she exhibited her assemblages, a movement away from the polished canvases of Concretism to incorporate quotidian and often traditionally feminine materials, puncturing the surface with clothespins and thumbtacks and applying textured fabrics. Her association in the late 1960s with a movement termed *Popcreto* by the São Paulo artists, identifying a dialogue between international Pop and local Concretism, reflects her responsiveness to international directions in art. Her figurative and text-based works from this period utilise the wordplay of Concrete poetry and a new visual language of Pop art, offering an avenue to explore themes of gender and political violence, including protestations against the Brazilian military regime and war in Vietnam. In choosing to exhibit much of this work at the 10th São Paulo Biennial in 1969, boycotted by many countries opposed to the military dictatorship, Lauand participated in political conversations on censorship and on gender, and positioned herself amongst a younger generation of female artists exploring the same themes. This period of Lauand’s work also reflects a perpetual revision of the visual language of Concretism that continued to define her work throughout her lengthy career.

Lauand was awarded first prize in 1952 at the 15th Salão de Belas Artes de Araraquara, and held her first solo exhibition in 1954 at Galleria Ambiente. Her prominence in the Brazilian art scene is reflected in her inaugural presence at the 3rd São Paulo Biennial in 1955 and the 1st Exposição Nacional de Arte Concreta in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro (1956-57), and the 1960 group exhibition *Contribuição da Mulher às Artes Plásticas do País* at Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, celebrating women artists in Brazil. Meanwhile, her international importance as a Concrete artist is cemented by her inclusion in Max Bill’s 1960 Zürich retrospective *Konkrete Kunst: 50 Years of Development*. Important retrospectives of Lauand’s career include *Judith Lauand: Experiências* at Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (2011), *Judith Lauand: Desvio Concreto* at Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil (2022-23) and her first US solo exhibition, *Judith Lauand: Brazilian Modernist, 1950s-2000*, Driscoll Babcock Galleries, New York (2014).

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For more information, please contact the gallery

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Born in São Paulo, Brazil, 1922-2022

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 1954 Galeria Ambiente, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1962 Galeria Aremar, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1965 Galeria NT – Novas Tendências, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1971 Galeria Alança Francesa, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1977 Museu de Arte Contemporânea – USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1986 Choice Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1992 Museu de Arte Contemporânea – USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1994 Casa de Cultura Manoel de Vasconcelos Martins, Pontal, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1996 *Obras de 1954-1960*, Sylvio Nery da Fonseca Escritório de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2007 *Judith Lauand – 50 Anos de Pintura*, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2008 *Judith Lauand – 65 Anos de Arte – Xilogravuras*, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, Brazil and Palacete da Esplanada das Rosas, Araraquara, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2011 *Judith Lauand: Experiências*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil,
- 2012 *Judith Lauand: Guaches, Desenhos e Colagens Anos 50*, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2013 *Judith Lauand: the 1950s*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, UK
- 2014 *Judith Lauand: Brazilian Modernist, 1950s-2000s*, Driscoll Babcock Galleries, New York, US
- 2015 *Judith Lauand: os anos 50 e a construção da geometria*, Instituto de Arte Contemporânea, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2017 *Judith Lauand: Brazilian Concrete Abstractions*, Driscoll Babcock Galleries, New York, US
- 2022-3 *Judith Lauand: Desvio Concreto*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil (2022-23)

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2017-18 *Making Art Concrete: Works from Argentina and Brazil in the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros*, The Getty Center, Los Angeles, US
- 2014 *Vontade Construtiva na Coleção Fadel*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2012 *Concretos Paralelos / Concrete Parallels*, Dan Galeria and Centro Brasileiro Britânico, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2012 *Do Concretismo ao Pop Anos: 50, 60 e 70*, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2010-11 *Desenhar o Espaço*, Fundação Iberê Camargo, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul and Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2010 *Abstraction-Creation: Post-War Geometric Abstract Art from Europe and South America*, Austin Desmond Fine Arts, London, England and Matteo Lampertico Arte Antica e Moderna, Milan, Italy
- 2010 *Constructive Spirit: Abstract Art in South and North America, 1920s-50s*, Newark Museum, New Jersey
- 2010 *Preto no Branco, do Concreto ao Contemporâneo*, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2009-11 *The Sites of Latin American Abstraction: Selections from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection*, Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach, California; Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporani de Palma, Palma de Mallorca, Spain; and Kunst und Ausstellungshalle der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn, Germany
- 2009 *Anos 50 50 Obras*, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2006 *Concreta 56: A Raiz da Forma*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2002 *Caminho do Contemporâneo 1952-2002*, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2001 *Geometric Abstraction: Latin American Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection*, Fogg Art Museum and David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, US
- 2000 *Un Siècle d'Art Concret*, Centre d'Art Contemporain, Mouans-Sartoux, France
- 1998 *Arte Construtiva no Brasil – Coleção Adolpho Leirner*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1991 *Mostra Coletiva*, Galeria Choice, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1987 *Abstração Geométrica 1*, Funarte, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1984 *Tradição e Ruptura*, Pavilhão da Bienal, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1983 *Exposição Waldemar Cordeiro*, Centro Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1977 *Projeto Construtivo Brasileiro na Arte 1950-1962*, Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo and Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1968 *Os Concretistas*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil

- 1960 *Konkrete Kunst: 50 Jahre Entwicklung*, curated by Max Bill, Helmaus Zürich, Switzerland
- 1959 *Mostra Arte Brasileira Atual*, Munich, Germany; The Hague, Holland, and Vienna, Austria
- 1956 *Exposição Nacional de Arte Concreta*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo and Museum de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1956 *Prêmio de Arte Contemporânea*, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil
- 1955 Pavilhão da Bienal, 3º Bienal Internacional de São Paulo, Brazil

Selected Awards and Honours

- 1964 13º Salão Paulista de Arte Moderna – Prêmio Aquisição
- 1959 8º Salão Paulista de Arte Moderna – Prêmio Aquisição
- 1958 7º Salão Paulista de Arte Moderna – Prêmio Aquisição
- 1955 4º Salão Paulista de Arte Moderna – Pequena Medalha de Prata
- 1954 3º Salão Paulista de Arte Moderna – Grande Medalha de Bronze
- 1953 16º Salão de Belas Artes de Araraquara – Prêmio Cidade de Araraquara
- 1952 15º Salão de Belas Artes de Araraquara – Primeiro Lugar
- 1945 9º Salão de Belas Artes de Araraquara – Prêmio Estímulo de Desenho

Selected Public Collections

Fundação do Livro do Cego no Brasil
Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói
Museu de Arte Contemporânea de São Paulo
Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro
Museu de Arte Moderna de Grenoble, France
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Museum of Modern Art, New York
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo