

MUSEO JUMEX PRESENTS GEGO: MEASURING
INFINITY, ACCLAIMED RETROSPECTIVE
OF THE WORK OF GERTRUD GOLDSCHMIDT,
A LEADING LATIN AMERICAN ARTIST

GALLERY 2
19.OCT.2022 - 05.FEB.2023

Mexico City, October 18, 2022 – Museo Jumex presents the acclaimed exhibition, *Gego: Measuring Infinity*, a retrospective devoted to the work of Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt, Hamburg, 1912 – Caracas, 1994), one of the most important postwar avant-garde artists in Latin America. On view from October 19, 2022 through February 5, 2023, the exhibition highlights Gego’s organic forms, linear structures, and systematic investigations, charting her evolution and distinctive approach to abstraction.

Trained as an architect and engineer at the Technische Hochschule Stuttgart, Gego fled Nazi persecution in 1939 and immigrated to Venezuela, where she remained for the rest of her life. To this day, Gego is internationally recognized as one of the leading figures of artistic movements emerging throughout the latter half of the twentieth century, including Geometric Abstraction and Kinetic Art. Her works are distinct for their net-like structures that the artist intentionally differentiated from solid sculptural forms.

Gego: Measuring Infinity is installed chronologically in the museum’s second-floor gallery and includes more than 120 works created from the early 1950s through the early 1990s, encompassing every period in the artist’s evolution. The exhibition highlights her artistic production across disciplines through different yet interrelated fields: architecture, design, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, fabric, site-specific installations, spatial interventions, public art, as well as her pedagogy. The central display brings together 18 pieces from her most well-known series, among them the hung wire sculptures she titled *Chorros* (Waterfalls), *Troncos* (Trunks), and *Esferas* (Spheres), in relation to the forms from nature they resemble. Their arrangement allows the public to view the pieces from different angles and positions, a distinct requirement for Gego’s work.

Highlighting her drawing and printmaking practice in dialogue with her acclaimed three-dimensional series, the exhibition also includes examples from her earliest artistic explorations. On view is a significant selection of drawings and prints that investigate the effect of parallel lines and the spaces between them, watercolors and drawings that elaborate certain motifs, and a selection of her last body of work, the paper *Tejeduras* (Weavings).

A series of 27 *Dibujos sin papel* (Drawings without Paper) is shown installed at different heights, mimicking a gesture that Gego used in her 1984 exhibition at the Museo de Bellas Artes of Caracas. These works exemplify Gego’s refusal of the traditional division of artistic genres since they are simultaneously three-dimensional sculptures as well as playful drawings. Her use of unexpected materials such as everyday hardware and

remains of earlier pieces introduced a new direction in her work, which would continue through later series, such as the *Bichos* (Bugs).

Representing every series in the artist's prolific and diverse production, the exhibition includes loans from Fundación Gego along with selected works from institutions and private collections in Austin, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco, as well as Caracas and Barcelona.

Gego: Measuring Infinity is organized by Museo Jumex, Mexico City; the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand—MASP.

The exhibition was developed by Julieta González, Artistic Director, Instituto Inhotim, Brumadinho, Brazil; Geanine Gutierrez-Guimarães, Associate Curator, Guggenheim Museum Bilbao, and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York; Pablo León de la Barra, Curator at Large, Latin America, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York, and former Adjunct Curator of Latin American Art, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand—MASP; in collaboration with Tanya Barson, former Chief Curator, Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; and Michael Wellen, Senior Curator, International Art, Tate Modern, London.

Coordinated at Museo Jumex by Cindy Peña, Curatorial Assistant.

GEGO

Gego (Gertrud Goldschmidt) was born in 1912 to a liberal Jewish banking family in Hamburg, Germany. She studied under Paul Bonatz at the University of Stuttgart, where she graduated with an architecture and engineering degree in 1938. She was forced to leave Germany shortly after finishing her degree and immigrated to Venezuela in 1939. There, she worked as a freelance architect and operated her own furniture workshop. She became a Venezuelan citizen in 1952 and lived there for the remainder of her life.

In 1953, Gego began to develop her artistic practice full-time. Encouraged by the support of Alejandro Otero and Jesús Rafael Soto, she began to create three-dimensional works in 1956. Soon after, Gego participated in the exhibition *Arte abstracto en Venezuela* in 1957 and by 1959 the Museum of Modern Art in New York had begun acquiring her work. She made several extended visits to the United States for residencies and exhibitions until 1967. In New York, Gego attended the Pratt Institute, where she took engraving and printmaking classes. She also worked in the Tamarind Lithography Workshop in Los Angeles. For most of her career, Gego worked in her home studio in Caracas, creating a prolific and varied oeuvre consisting of sculptures and works on paper. She died in Caracas in 1994.

Her many solo exhibitions include *Questioning the Line: Gego, A Selection, 1955–90*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2002), and *Museo Tamayo* (2003); *Gego: Between Transparency and the Invisible*, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2005)

and The Drawing Center, New York (2007); *Gego: Defying Structures*, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto (2006) and MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (2007); *Gego: Line as Object*, Hamburger Kunsthalle, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart and Henry Moore Institute, Leeds (2013); and *Gego: The Architecture of an Artist*, Kunstmuseum Stuttgart (2022). Her work is in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Caracas; Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas; New York Public Library, New York; Tate Modern, London; and MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona; among others.

MUSEO JUMEX

Museo Jumex, Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo's main platform, opened its doors to the public in November 2013 as an institution devoted to contemporary art. Its aim is not only to serve a broad and diverse public, but also to be a laboratory for experimentation and innovation in the arts. Through its exhibitions, publications, research, and public programs, Museo Jumex familiarizes audiences with the concepts and contexts that inform current art practice. Through the use of critical and pedagogical tools, the museum's educational programs further the institution's commitment to build links between contemporary art and the public.

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