

MUSEO JUMEX

LAS IDEAS DE GAMBOA

AVAILABLE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2013

Las ideas de Gamboa [Gamboa's Ideas], compiled by Mauricio Marcin, is the result of extensive research in the archives of Fernando Gamboa (1909–1990); this publication emphasizes the inherent potentials of the collection for being exhibited.

Examining four specific periods in Gamboa's career, the book demonstrates the undeniable influence of this promoter of culture in contributing to the professionalization of museum work in Mexico.

Las ideas de Gamboa includes texts by Alfonso Reyes, Michel Onfray, Carlos Molina, and Mauricio Marcin, the compiler of the work, among others.

An analysis of the current artistic scene in Mexico would be incomplete without considering the role that Fernando Gamboa played in the construction of this field. This task involved a critical study of the documentary evidence—photographs, films, catalogues, and curatorial projects—that document his work, along with his library and files containing his diaries and correspondence.

The curator and researcher Mauricio Marcin immersed himself in Gamboa's extensive archives, one of the most important collections of art and cultural promotion in Mexico, to give us *Las ideas de Gamboa*, an editorial project that emphasizes the potentials of this archive of modern art for exhibition.

The cultural promoter Fernando Gamboa preserved his collection, which includes official documents, material of historic and ethnographic significance, and photographs, under the direction of Patricia Gamboa. The collection is an invaluable resource for investigating the origins of curatorial activity in Mexico.

The publication examines four specific periods during which Fernando Gamboa undertook curatorial projects that resulted in exhibitions, cultural activities that increased the holdings of Mexican museums, and administrative activities that professionalized museography and museology in Mexico.

The periods treated are:

- 1) The inauguration of the Modern Art Society (1944).
- 2) The formation of the School of Curatorship at the Mexico City School of Anthropology (1943–1945).
- 3) Fernando Gamboa's participation in the rescue of Colonial works of art.
- 4) The artistic expedition to Bonampak organized by Gamboa (1949).

In addition to extensive research on these four periods, the publication includes texts and images from Gamboa's archives. Other highlights of the publication include three essays: one that examines Gamboa's career by Carlos Molina, who holds a doctorate in the History and Theory of Art; the second is a republishing of the essay *Atenea Política* (1939) by the essayist, diplomat, and thinker Alfonso Reyes; the third is an essay on contemporary art by the French philosopher Michel Onfray.

✱ FUNDACIÓN JUMEX ARTE CONTEMPORÁNEO

MUSEO JUMEX

An epilogue written by Mauricio Marcin expands upon the possibilities the archives offer for curating exhibitions that go beyond the presentation of objects in a physical space.

The overall intention of the publication is to trace a line that brings together museographical activity surrounding Mexican modernism with contemporary curatorial practice.

ABOUT FERNANDO GAMBOA

(Mexico, 1909-1990)

Fernando Gamboa was museographer, cultural promoter, diplomat, museum director and filmmaker; he dedicated his life to the promotion of Mexico's culture and art. He was responsible for 135 exhibitions of Mexican art in important museums and cultural institutions on five continents, more than 600 exhibitions of Mexican art in Mexico, and of artists from abroad in Mexico.

He was a pioneer in museography, which he began professionally in 1936, planning, organizing, and achieving the founding of six museums, the Museo Nacional de Artes Plásticas in the Palacio de Bellas Artes, the Museo de Arte Moderno, and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Rufino Tamayo, among others. His intervention directly or indirectly enriched Mexico's artistic heritage through acquisitions and donation of approximately 6,500 works of art in different media.

ABOUT MAURICIO MARCIN

Marcin is curator and researcher at the Museo Experimental El Eco. In 2007 he founded El Clauselito, a project room of contemporary art projects at the Museo de la Ciudad de México, where he has curated more than 20 solo exhibitions of Mexican artists.