





# The Light of Spirit

Espace Expression gives La Patinoire Royale - Galerie Valerie Bach (Brussels) carte blanche on the presentation of works by the Colombian artist Olga de Amaral. Represented by the gallery in Europe, that dedicated from March to June 2018 a major retrospective in Brussels to the last fifteen years of her artistic production, Olga de Amaral gained henceforth worldwide notoriety, with her works featuring in the largest private, institutional and public collections.

This unclassifiable artist and her production, whose eternal strength is shrouded in gold, glorious and divine stainless material that characterizes her form of expression, are presented here for the first retrospective in Miami, at the time as the imperative appointment with Art Basel Miami, with a selection of thirty exceptional works covering the last 15 years of her production.

Her luminous works re-explore the textile tradition of South America through a direct resurgence of the colors, shapes, graphics and materials of the pre-Columbian world, through the use of gold or silver leaf, as well as the natural pigments of indigo, amaranth, turquoise, and earth-colors, in a great fireworks show, on a background of Andean music.

Her great sensitivity, towards a meticulous textile practice and an innate taste for intertwining, mosaics and mats, makes Olga de Amaral a transient between the ancestral spirituality of the Incas and our contemporary society, enclosing in many artefacts a poignant testimony of this immense civilization, disappeared in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The work of Olga de Amaral, characterized by a great homogeneity and fidelity to herself for more than sixty years, would undoubtedly be betrayed in its meaning if we saw in it a simple visual manifestation, flattering our eyes, without any other finality than that, very decorative, which confers to it its colors and its metal splinters. The works made by weaving, cutting and combing textile fibers, sometimes freed from linen straps or arranged in falling wire curtains, dipped in the gesso, or the practice of gluing Japanese paper stiffened by the rope, reveal surprising techniques directly inspired by the expertise of Amerindian civilizations.

A great power characterizes these colors and metallic tones, ranging from bronze to silver, from gold to mother of pearl, focusing our imagination on a sort of rain of colors and reflections and borrowing this strength from that of Russian icons or Buddhist stupa. There is therefore a very spiritual, almost sacred perspective, invested by the artist in these murals, condensing in the finesse of the result a creative process similar to prayer or meditation. Each of Olga de Amaral's work appear, in its uniqueness and originality as the narrative of an inner journey, recounting the joys and sorrows, the difficulties and the dazzling, the worries and the certainties of the artist who, at the height of her glory and international fame, continues to practice her art as a tireless and humble researcher to contemplate a work of Olga de Amaral is like being dazzled by the light of a spirit.

At the heart of Wynwood art district in Miami, Espace Expression is an exhibition centre created by Carlos Cruz-Diez Jr and Jose Ramon Moreno, committed to present thematic exhibitions and other cultural events organised and designed by guest galleries or curators.



Strata XII, 2008 Linen, gesso, acrylic and gold leaf, 205 x 180 cm Courtesy of Casa Amaral © Diego Amaral

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Olga de Amaral studied fabric art at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan. Amaral is a renowned artist whose evolving technique, incorporating fiber, paint, gesso and precious metals transforms two-dimensional textiles into sculptural works that seamlessly integrate art, craft, and design. In their engagement with materials and process her works become essentially unclassifiable and self-reflexively authentic. Amaral is an important figure in the development of post-war Latin American abstraction. Her creation of "off stretcher" works, using non-traditional materials, acquires greater historical resonance with each passing year.

Amaral's work is deeply driven by her exploration of Colombian culture and her own identity. Architecture, mathematics, landscape, and socio-cultural dichotomies in Colombia are woven together through the use of fiber. Understanding and being understood is an important part of her work. Through a complex system based on artisanal technique, she finds answers to inner questions. Her golden surfaces of light thus embody the secrets of her soul.

Her use of gold, inspired by the interwoven histories of pre-Hispanic and Colonial art, gives her work a presence at once sensual and otherworldly. In his prologue essay to the book Olga de Amaral: El Manto de la Memoria (2000), Edward Lucie-Smith comments on the transcendent qualities of her art: "A large part of Olga's production has been concerned with gold, but there are in fact no equivalents for what she makes in Pre-Columbian archaeology. Nevertheless one feels that such objects ought in logic to exist that she has supplied a lack."

Amaral founded and directed the textiles department at the Universidad de los Andes (University of the Andes) in Bogotá in 1965. She was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973, and in 2005 was named «Artist Visionary» by the Museum of Art and Design in New York. In 2008, she was honorary Co-Chair for the benefit of the Multicultural Audience Development Initiative, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Amaral has exhibited in institutions worldwide and the full range of her work is represented in the collections of over forty museums including the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art, Kyoto, Japan, San Francisco's De Young Museum, the Museum Bellerive in Zürich, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the Renwick Gallery of the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. She currently lives and works in Bogotá, Colombia.

## Not to be missed

### ART BASEL MIAMI BEACH

Olga de Amaral is one of the selected artists by Fondation Louis Vuitton to reinvent its famous Lady Dior bag. This new creation, in limited edition, will be presented at Art Basel Miami, during a dedicated evening in presence of the artist.

### FONDATION CARTIER, PARIS

Her works are showcased in all their majesty at the Cartier Foundation in Paris for the show "Southern Geometries, from Mexico to Patagonia", from October 14<sup>th</sup> to February 24<sup>th</sup>: the exhibition focuses on the idea of geometry in Latin America, as much in the so-called

popular arts, heirs of the pre-Columbian tradition, as in modern and contemporary arts.

### HOUSTON, TEXAS

During 2020, Olga de Amaral will be the subject of a large retrospective at The Cranbrook Academy of Art, with the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

### **NEW YORK**

Olga de Amaral has just been awarded the prestigious prize "2019 WCA Lifetime Achievement (LTA)", which will be given in New York in February 2019.

#### Exhibitions (selection)

**2018** - La Patinoire Royale - Galerie Valérie Bach, Brussels, Belgium

2017 - "Cortex de notre terre",

galerie Agnès Monplaisir, Paris, France

**2017** - De linea al espacio Jim Amaral, Olga de Amaral y Ricardo Cardenas, MAMBO, Colombie

2015 - Gold, curated by Jose Carlos Diaz,

Bass Museum, Miami

**2015** - Fiber: Sculpture 1960–present, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, travelling to Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio et Des Moines Art Center, Iowa

**2014** - Now, when, then, Musée des Beaux-arts de Nantes, Nantes

2013 - Olga de Amaral: Selected Works,

Louise Blouin Foundation, London

**2012** - "Olga de Amaral", galerie Agnès Monplaisir, Paris, France

**2008** - Golden Fleece, Eretz Israel Museum, Tel Aviv, Israel

**2008** - One of a Kind, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

2002 - Museo de Arte Moderno,

Barranquilla, Colombia

**1995** - National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C.

1995 - Center for the Fine Arts, Miami, Florida

#### Permanent Collections (selection)

- > The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
- > Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland, USA
- > American Craft Museum, New York, New York
- > De Young Museum, San Francisco, USA
- > Kunstendustrimuseum, Throdheim, Norway
- > Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
- > Museo de Arte Moderno, Bogotá, Colombia
- > Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
- > Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France
- > Musée Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland
- > Musée Jean Lurçat et de la Tapisserie Contemporaine, Angers, France
- > Museo Nacional (Cancillería), Bogotá, Colombia
- > Museum Bellerive, Zurich, Switzerland
- > The Renwick Gallery of the National Gallery, Washington D.C., USA

- > San Antonio Museum of Art, San Antonio, USA
- > Toledo Museum of Art, Ohio, USA
- > Ararat Gallery, Australia
- > Arthur Young Company, Houston, USA
- > Colgel the Clinton Exchange, Syracuse, USA
- > Dreyfus Corporation, New York, USA
- > Federación Nacional de Cafeteros, Bogotá, Colombia
- > First National City Bank, Miami, USA
- > Flagship Bank, Miami, USA
- > Florida National Bank, Jacksonville, USA
- > Forth Worth National Bank, Houston, USA
- > Four Seasons Hotel, Hong Kong, Japan
- > GBC International, London, Great Britain
- > Interamerican Development Bank, Washington D.C., USA
- > International Trade Mart, Brussels, Belgium
- > Palacio Presidencial Antonio Nariño, Bogotá, Colombia
- > Phillip Morris Collection, New York, USA
- > Regent Hotel, Hong Kong
- > The Landmark Group, Atlanta, USA
- > UCSD Medical Center, La Jolla, USA

#### Awards (selection)

2011 - Honoree of the Multicultural Benefit Gala, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York 2010 - Member of the Academia Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2009 - Olga de Amaral Prize awarded at 5<sup>th</sup> International Biennial of Textile Art, organized by the World textile Art Organization (WTA), Buenos Aires, Argentina

**2008** - Honorary Co-Chair for the benefit of the Multicultural Audience Development Initiative, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York

**2006** - Olga de Amaral Prize awarded at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Biennial of Textile Art, San Jose, Costa Rica

2005 - Visionary Artist recognition by the Museum of Art & Design, New York, New York

1989 - Chair, UCLA, Los Angeles, California

1973 - Guggenheim Fellowship, New York

**1972** - First Prize in the Tercera Bienal de Artes de Coltejer, Medellin, Colombia

**1971** - First Prize in the XXII Salón Nacional de Artistas, Bogotá, Colombia



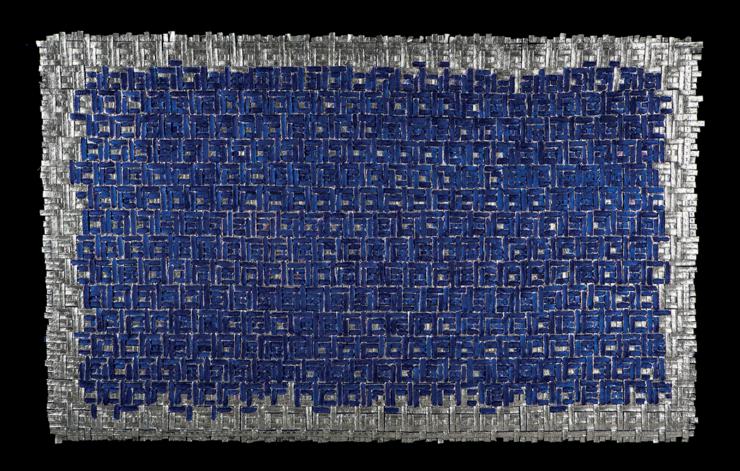
Corteza 2 (diptico), 2015 Linen, gesso, gold leaf and acrylic paint, 80 x 50 cm (each) Courtesy of Casa Amaral © Diego Amaral



Umbra Azul, 2015 Linen, gesso and acrylic paint, 200 x 100 cm Courtesy of Casa Amaral © Diego Amaral



Nébula 7, 2015 Japanese paper, linen, gesso, gold leaf and acrylic paint, 80 x 80 cm Courtesy of Casa Amaral © Diego Amaral



Cobalto, 2014 Linen, gesso, palladium leaf, pigments and acrylic paint, 100 x 160 cm Courtesy of Casa Amaral © Diego Amaral

# Practical Information



Espace Expression 317 NW 28<sup>th</sup> St Miami, FL 33127, USA +1 305 591 8223 www.espaceexpression.com

Opening on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 from 6 pm - 9pm

Exhibition from December  $4^{th}$  2018 to February  $28^{th}$  2019 Monday to Friday from 10am - 5pm

#### Information

Visuals and documentation available upon request: contact@prvbgallery.com / info@logisticsfinearts.com

