

GALERIE MITTERRAND

FRANCISCO SOBRINO

MODUS OPERANDI

05 MAY > 08 JUL 2017

PRESS KIT

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS
-
T +33 1 43 26 12 05
F +33 1 46 33 44 83
INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM
WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

FRANCISCO SOBRINO

MODUS OPERANDI

05 MAY > 08 JULY 2017

OPENING THURSDAY 04 MAY 2017

6 > 9 PM

CURATOR: MATTHIEU POIRIER

Galerie Mitterrand is pleased to present a retrospective of Spanish artist Francisco Sobrino in both spaces of the gallery. This exhibition entitled *Modus Operandi* and that will take place from May 5th to July 8th, 2017 is curated by Matthieu Poirier. In 2015, a Museum Francisco Sobrino was inaugurated in Guadalajara (Spain), where the artist is originally from.

Text by Matthieu Poirier:

Francisco Sobrino (1932-2014) was an iconic representative of Kinetic art, particularly through his involvement with the Group for Research in Visual Art (G.R.A.V.), of which he was one of the founding members in Paris in 1960. As early as 1958, he developed a radical, systematic and minimalist *modus operandi* which took its inspiration as much from the historic avant-garde movements—Constructivism, Bauhaus, Dada, Neo-plasticism—as it did from the cognitive sciences—the psychology of form, information theory, phenomenology of perception, etc. His visual vocabulary therefore was reduced to the 'good forms', that is to say, to the simplest ones, those that are the most immediately accessible to the spectator's perceptual grasp, limited to a handful of values, most often the primaries, and indeed, a single one at a time, leaning towards monochrome, and the appearance of the raw materials which he uses as a solid or unified whole, devoid of all traces of manual creation. Sobrino pursued this work up until 1968 along with his peers from the G.R.A.V. Movement—Julio Le Parc, Joël Stein, François Morellet, Horacio Garcia-Rossi and Yvaral—and sought to reject the passivity of the work of art and abstract composition, typical of both lyrical and informal movements, as well as concrete art—celebrated at the Salon des Réalités nouvelles (Salon of New Realities)—or the type of art practised by Auguste Herbin or Max Bill.

Sobrino's clear intention was to reform abstract art, on the basis that if even if its composition were 'energetic', the painting or sculpture would still ultimately remain an inert or soothing object, on both a sensory and spatial level. Thus, whether paintings or sculpture, Sobrino's work can be said to have a strikingly complex appearance in space and time, a quality that is strictly 'relational', given the extent to which these open, participative and even penetrable structures resonate with their immediate environment, constructed or human. In addition to the kaleidoscopic and rhythmic structures for which the artist is best known, some of his twisted helical forms are surprising: they endow Sobrino's incredibly minimalist lines with a baroque consonance, evoking the famous twisted columns supporting the baldachin created by Bernini for Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome. Nevertheless, whatever their level of visual complexity, Sobrino's works always arise from basic procedures, involving rotation, inversion, sequencing, grids, swinging and other articulations, which are used as a substitute for all kinds of traditional structures or organization.

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

This rigorous anti-pictorial, even anti-artistic logic, associated with ZERO and Nouvelle Tendence (New Tendencies) Movements foreshadows numerous realizations associated with North American Minimalism, for example the post-painterly works depicting linear structures by Frank Stella, the parallelepipeds developed in space by Robert Morris, the industrial and slightly 'unreal' stamp of Donald Judd, the repetitive scansions of Carl Andre, the essentialist and kaleidoscopic geometry of Robert Smithson, particularly in his relationship to landscape, or the interlocking modular structures of Charlotte Posenenske.

Similar to Malevich, Rodchenko, Gabo, Tatlin, Brancusi and Moholy-Nagy, as early as 1959, Sobrino privileged industrially made materials, whose stability and initial simplicity he disturbed by experimenting with transparency, reflections and opacity. In both his sculptures and reliefs, the artist frequently made use of the modern substitute for glass—Plexiglas—which had already been appropriated by Moholy-Nagy. Sobrino had discovered this industrial material during a visit to Georges Vantongerloo's studio in 1959 and purchased rectangular and square sections of colour-impregnated Plexiglas at the Bazar de l'Hôtel de Ville department store, which he would then cut into smaller squares or circles, and pile on top of each other in such a way that the material itself became the supporting structure of the artwork. Sobrino's art is difficult to categorize: both concrete and perceptual, kinetic and minimalist, it is at a distance from narration so as to achieve the most perfect silence, the most perfect immediacy of sensorial vibration. A shared principle of reduction and acceleration is at work here: by stripping the statue of all narrative elements and decorum, Francisco Sobrino plunges his essentialist structures into the both corrosive and revelatory flux of real space and time.

Practical information:

Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris
T 33 1 43 26 12 05 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - www.galeriemitterrand.com

Opening hours :

Tuesday to Saturday 11 AM > 7 PM and on Monday by appointment

Press contact:

Alice Pointet – Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris
T 33 1 43 26 26 32 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - alice@galeriemitterrand.com

GALERIE MITTERRAND

IMAGES

-



Francisco Sobrino

Libre dans le Vent R, 1969

Deux éléments mobiles sur structure métal rouge / Two mobile elements on a red metal structure

H 285 x 240 x 140 cm / H 112 x 94 x 55 in

© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand. Photo : Rebecca Fanuele

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05
F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM
WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND



Francisco Sobrino

Sans titre, 1959

Collage cartons colorés / Collage of coloured cardboard

H 89 x 89 cm / 35 x 35 in

© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

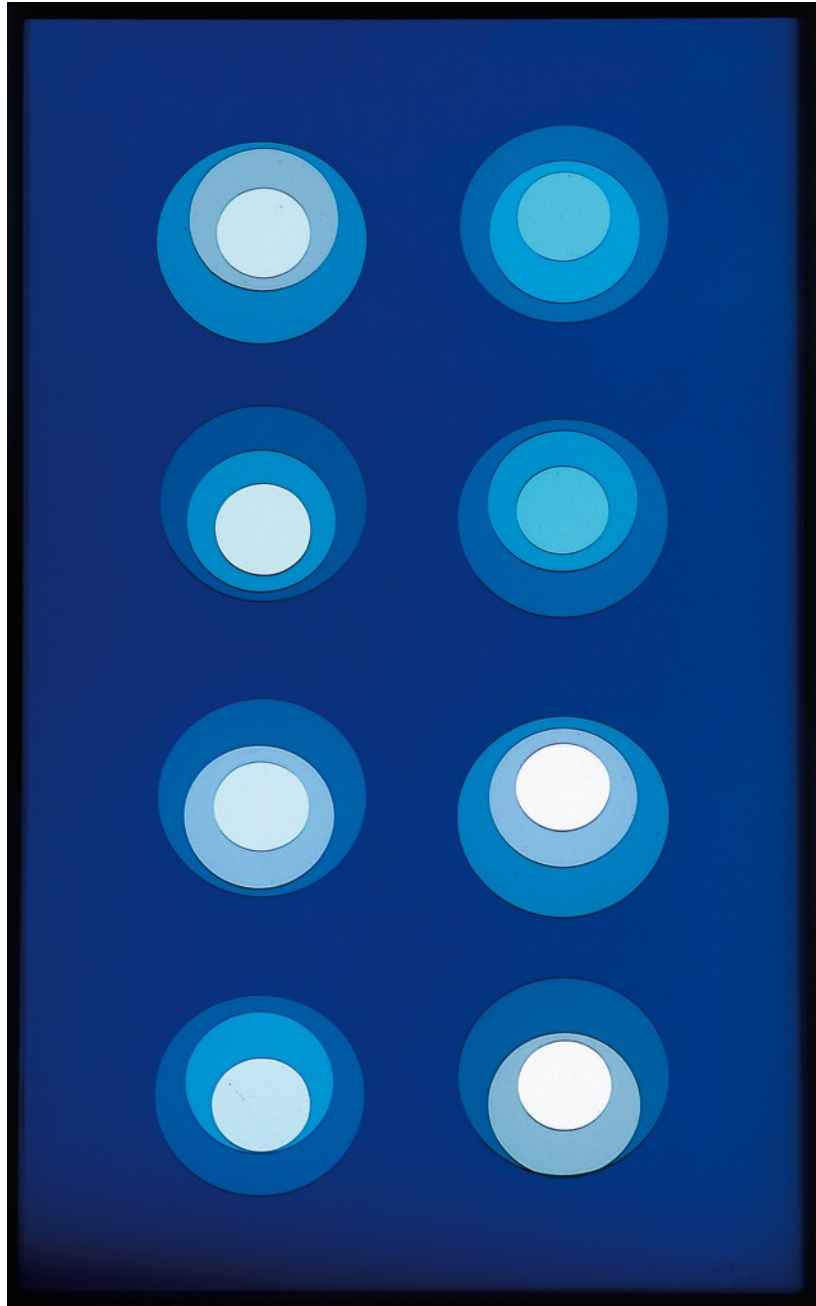
T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIEMITTERRAND



Francisco Sobrino

Sans titre, 1961

Boîte en Plexiglas / Plexiglas box

H 122 x 70 x 11 cm / 48 x 27.6 x 4.3 in

© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

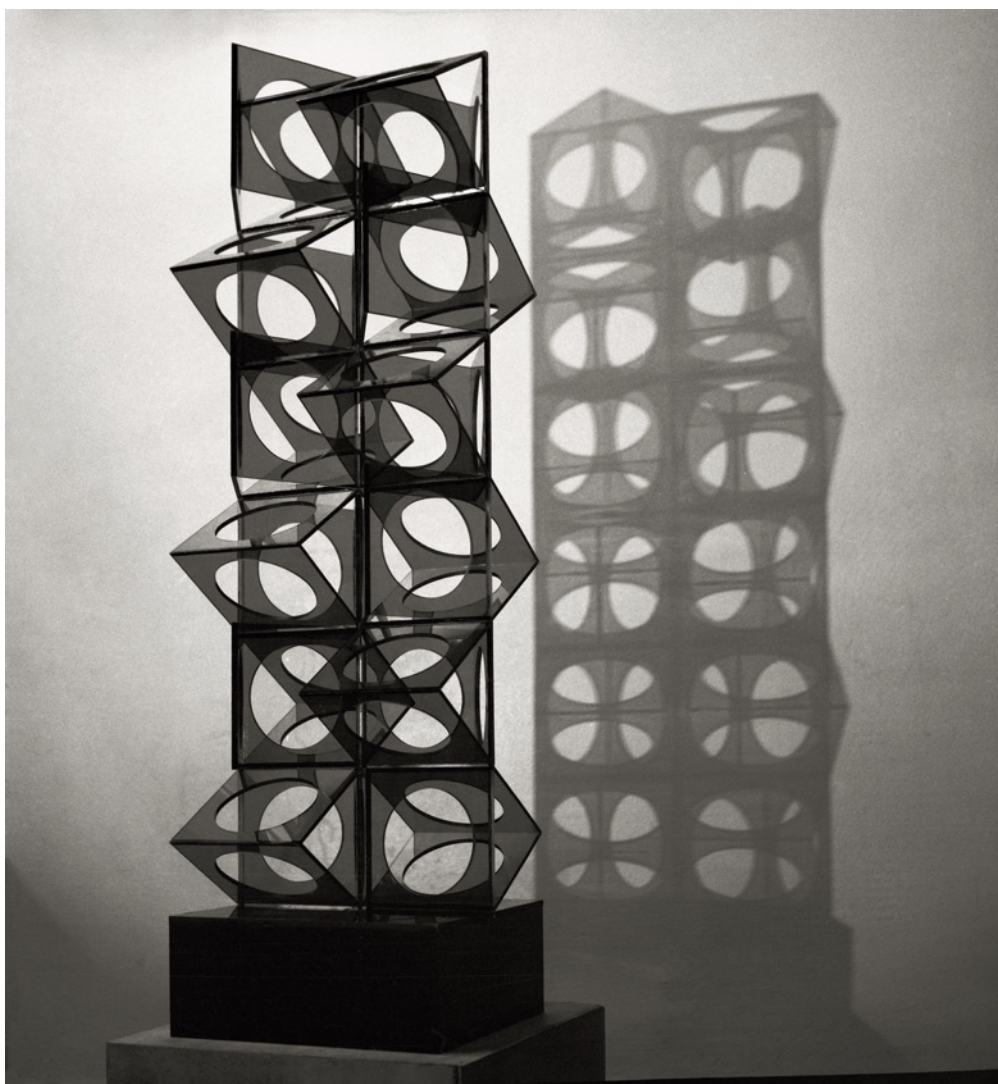
-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM



Francisco Sobrino

Sans titre, 1962

Sculpture plexiglas transparent gris / Sculpture in transparent grey plexiglas

H 25 x 88 x 22 cm / H 34.6 x 10 x 8.7 in

© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

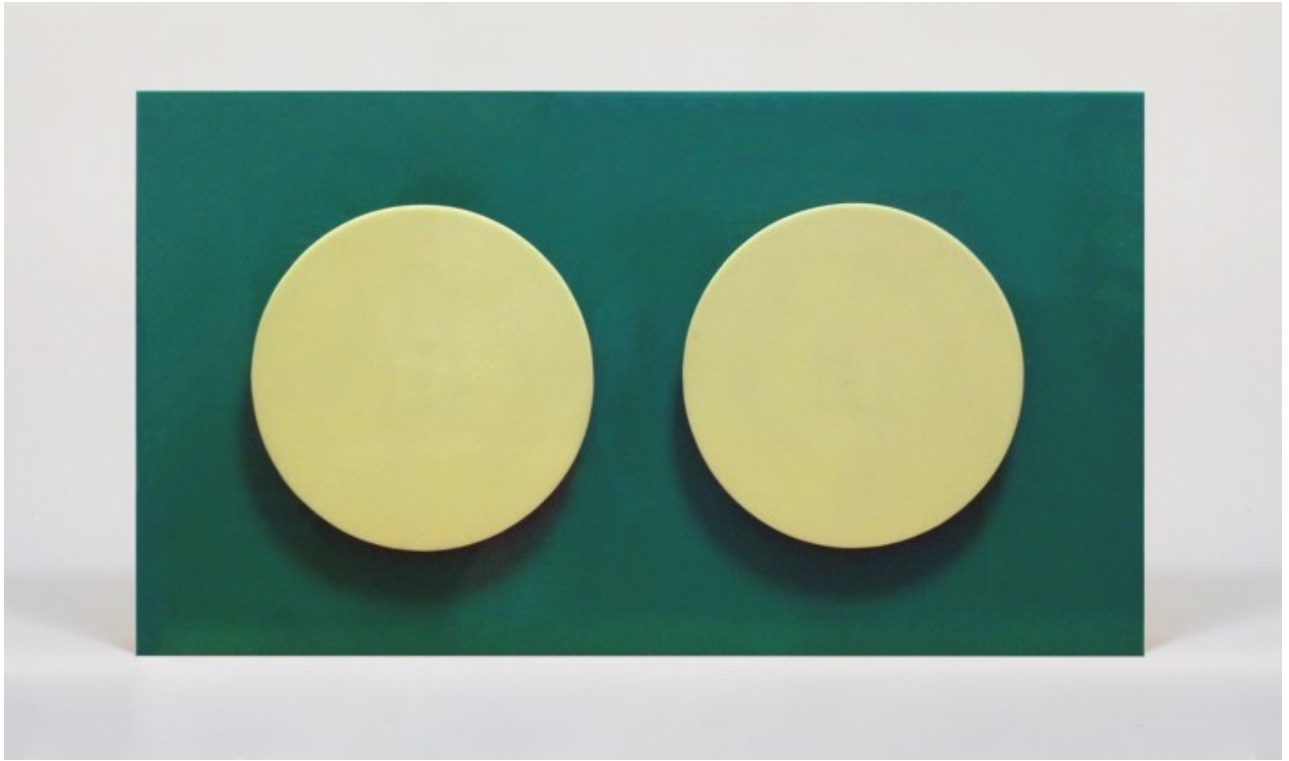
T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND



Francisco Sobrino

Sans titre, 1965

Mobile, boîte plexiglas verte, deux disques jaunes / Mobile, green plexiglas box, two yellow discs on springs

H 33 x 59 x 7 cm / H 12.9 x 23.2 x 2.8 in

© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

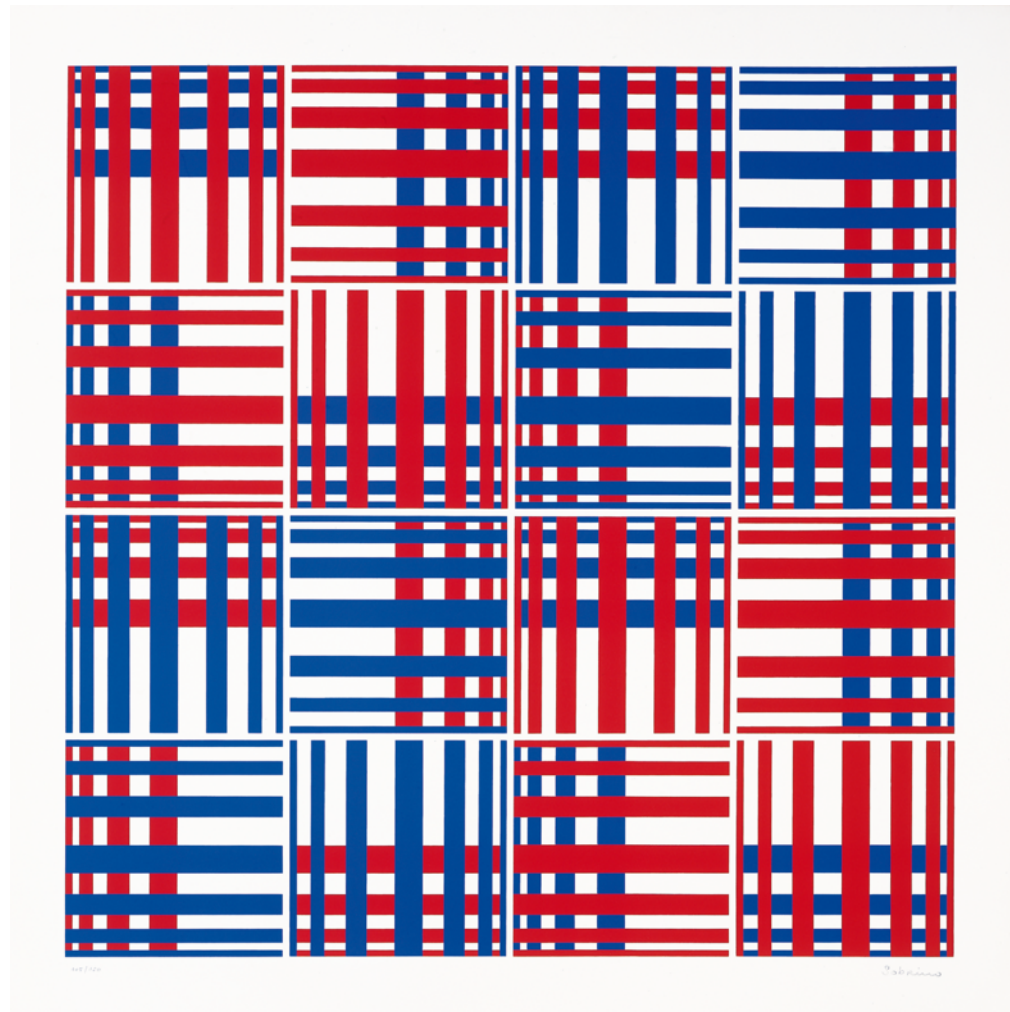
-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

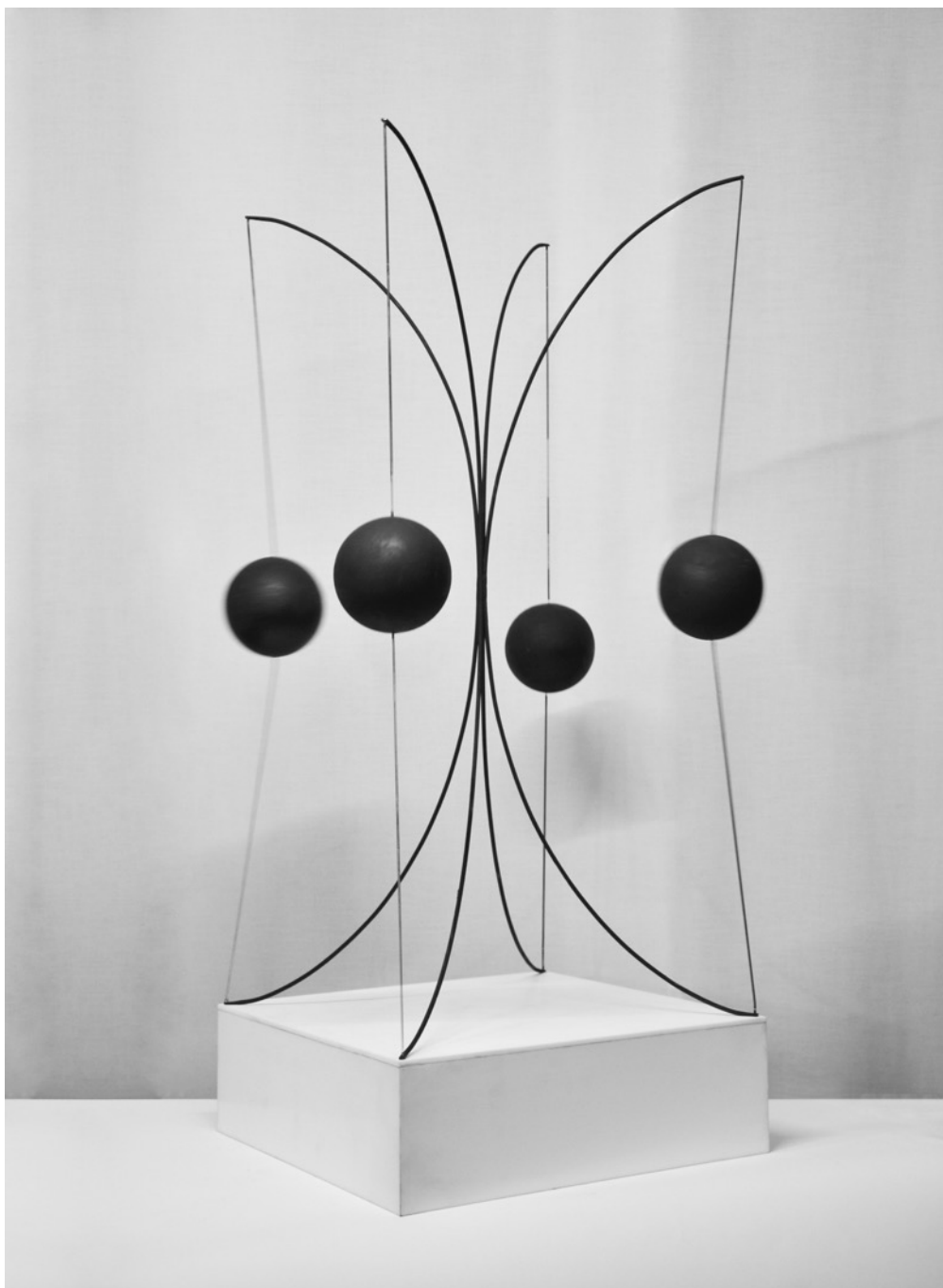
F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM



Francisco Sobrino
Sans titre, 1969
Sérigraphie rouge et bleu / Red and blue silkscreen
H 80 x 80 cm / H 31.5 x 31.5 in
© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand



Francisco Sobrino

Sphères pulsations, 1970

Boules noires en liège sur ressorts / Black cork balls on springs

H 91 x 38 x 38 cm / H 31.8 x 15 x 15 in

© Sobrino, Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM



Francisco Sobrino

Transformation Instable, 1963-1971

Acier poli miroir / Mirror polished steel

H 600 x 180 X 180 cm / H 236.2 x 70.9 X 70.9 inches

© Francisco Sobrino. Courtesy Galerie Mitterrand. Photo : J.C. Lett

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

ARTIST

-

FRANCISCO SOBRINO

Born in 1932 in Guadalajara (Spain) and died in 2014 in Bernay (France).
Worked and lived in France and Spain.

EDUCATION

Studies at Madrid School of Arts and Crafts in 1946 and in 1949 in Buenos Aires National School of Fine Arts.

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

-

2017

« Modus Operandi », Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France

2015

« Obra Arquitectural », Francisco Sobrino Museum, Guadalajara, Spain

2014

« Francisco Sobrino : Structure & Transformation », Siccardi Gallery, Houston, USA

« Francisco Sobrino : Geometria, luz y movimiento », Galeria Guillermo de Osma, Madrid, Spain

2013

« Sobrino. Tours et Alentours, 1958-1971 », Galerie Philippe Jousse, Paris, France

« Sobrino. Blanc et Noir », Galerie Marino Neri, Paris, France

« El arte cinético de Francisco Sobrino », Galeria Tiempos Modernos, Madrid, Spain

2007

« Francisco Sobrino », Galeria Lélia Mordoch, Paris, France

2006

« Sobrino », Galleria Torozzi, Pordenone, Italy

« Sobrino », Museo Nazionale di Villa Pisani, Strà, Italy

« Sobrino », Národní Muzeum, Prague, Czech republic

2005

« Francisco Sobrino », Palazzo del Senato, Milano, Italy

2003

« Noir et blanc, couleur », Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Paris, France

2000

« Noir et blanc », Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Paris, France

1999

« Exposition rétrospective », Palais del Infantado, Musée de Guadalajara, Spain

« Exposition de sculptures en plein », Guadelajara, Spain

1995

« Blanco, sobre blanco », Fondation d'art moderne Jesus Soto, Bolivar, Venezuela

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

1994

« Un signo, un movimiento », Galerie l'imaginaire, Alliance Française, Merida, Venezuela

1993

Galerie Graphic/CB.2, Caracas, Venezuela
Galerie Ateneo, Tovar & Galerie Edo, Merida, Venezuela

1988

Sala Luzan, Saragosse, Spain
Galerie Aritza, Bilbao, Spain

1982

Galerie A.A.B., Brescia, Italy

1981

Galerie AM.16, Rome, Italy

1977

Galerie Aritza, Bilbao, Spain

1976

Galerie Aizpuru, Séville, Spain

1975

Galerie Propac, Madrid, Spain
Pamplume, Espagne et Guadelajara, Spain

1973

Espace 2000, Bruxelles, Belgium

1972

Galerie Art Contacto, Caracas, Venezuela

1971

Galerie Denise René, Rive droite et Rive gauche, Paris, France
Galerie Denise René, New-York, USA

1969

Galerie 58, Rapperswil, Switzerland

1968

Galerie Suzanne Bollag, Zürich, Suisse.
Galerie Denise René, Paris, France.

1967

Galerie Grises, Bilbao, Spain

1966

Esslingen, RFA.

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05
F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM
WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

-

2016

Le Domaine du Muy, France

« Movimientos », Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France

« Heterotopias », Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Alicante (MACA), Alicante, Spain

2015

« Abstracción. Del Grupo Pórtico Al Centro De Cálculo. 1948-1968 », Francisco Sobrino Museum, Guadalajara, Spain

2014

« Couleur Et Transparence », Galerie Nery Marino, Paris, France

« move, move! ... », Galerie Zaloudek, Prague, Czech Republic

« Arte Cinetica », Museo di Santa Giulia, Brescia, Italy

2013

« Dynamo Un Siecle De Lumiere Et De Mouvement Dans L'art 1913-2013 », Galeries nationales du Grand Palais, Paris, France

« Foundation Collection 2013 », The Collection of the Pablo Atchugarry Foundation, Maldonado, Uruguay

« The System of Objects », Deste Foundation -, Athens, Greece

2012

« Intercambio global. Abstracción geométrica desde 1950 », MACBA - Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

« Tomorrow was already here », Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico

« European Art: 1949-1979 - Marion R. Taylor: Paintings, 1966-2001 », Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy

2011

« Géométrie onirique », Galerie Lélia Mordoch, Paris, France

2009

« Derivas de la geometría. Razón y orden en la abstracción española, 1950-1975 », Fundación Museo Jorge Oteiza, Alzuza, Spain

« North Looks South: Building the Latin American Art Collection », Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA

MAIN ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTIONS

-

2000

« Transformations instables V », acier inoxydable, 280 x 280 x 150 cm, Université de Valencia, Spain

« Transformations instables A », acier inoxydable, 480 x 180 x 180 cm, Place Santo Domingo, Alicante, Spain

1999

« Aguja Serial », sculpture 23 m de hauteur, ciment blanc, Route nationale Madrid-Cuenca, exit Penalver, Spain

1996

Sculpture « Fuente de Luz », 240 x 80 x 120 cm, plexiglas transparent, Diputacion Guadalajara, Spain

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05
F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM
WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

1994

Sculpture « formes modulaires IDEA », 400 x 200 x 200 cm, aluminium, Université de Caracas, Venezuela

1989

« Relaciones » (formes modulaires), sculpture métal, 20m de hauteur, Autoroute de Madrid - Barcelone km. Spain

Sculpture « blanc-noir », (formes modulaires) 60 x 60 x 350 cm, plexiglas, Renfe, Madrid, Spain

1979

Conception plastique et réalisation « d'une banque cinétique », Banco Exterior d'Espagne Guadalajara, Spain

1976

Murale Mosaïque (640 x 175 cm et 700 x 100 cm), Broons, France.

Mural Mosaïque (11m x 3 m), Roctrenen, France

1975

Sculpture (300 x 300 x 430 cm), acier inoxydable, poli miroir, Machecoul, France

1974

Mur lumineux (2 x 12m), Palais des Congrès, Paris, France

1973

Mobile (Hauteur 12 m), Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canaries Islands, Spain

1972

Sculpture (1800 x 150 x 150 cm), acier inoxydable, poli miroir, Musée de plein air, Madrid, Spain

1971

Sculpture (200 x 180 x 180 cm), acier inoxydable, poli miroir, Grenoble, France

1965

Sculpture (620 x 225 x 225 cm), acier inoxydable, Sarcelles, France

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

-

Tate Gallery, London, England

National Museum of Fine Arts, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Albright Knox Museum, Buffalo, USA

Beacon collection, Boston, USA

Hirschhorn collection, Washington, USA

Tel Aviv Museum, Israel

Peggy Guggenheim Foundation, Venise, Italy

Peter Stuyvesant Foundation, Hollande

Collection d'Etat, Paris, France

Museum of Modern Art, Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela

Contemporary Art Museum of Villafanes, Spain

Contemporary Art Museum of Madrid, Spain

Contemporary Art Museum of Bilbao, Spain

Moderne Art Museum of Alicante, Spain

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS

-

T +33 1 43 26 12 05

F +33 1 46 33 44 83

INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM

GALERIE MITTERRAND

Open-air Sculpture Museum, Madrid, Spain
Collection Diputation Provincial, Guadalajara, Spain
Art and History Museum of Cholet, France, (Labyrinthe du GRAV)

79 RUE DU TEMPLE
75003 PARIS
-
T +33 1 43 26 12 05
F +33 1 46 33 44 83
INFO@GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM
WWW.GALERIEMITTERRAND.COM