

ENGLISH

# GALLERIA CONTINUA

SAN GIMIGNANO BEIJING LES MOULINS HABANA ROMA SAO PAULO PARIS DUBAI

Rayo 108 entre Zanja y Dragones, Barrio Chino; Centro Habana, Cuba  
habana@galleriacontinua.com - www.galleriacontinua.com

## JULIO LE PARC

### REGRESO

---

GALLERIA CONTINUA | Habana - 02.12.23 - 03.02.24

*The viewer should not feel subdued. They are not dominated in the presence of my proposals; they are rather on an equal standing. What is important for me is that they walk out of the exhibition with greater optimism.*

**Julio Le Parc**

Galleria Continua is pleased to announce the opening of the exhibition "Regreso" ("Return") by painter, sculptor and visual artist Julio Le Parc, in our venue in Havana. Universally known as a pioneer of Kinetic Art and Op Art (movements related to South American art in the late 1950s and influenced by the Concrete Art and Constructivism movements), the artist is also a great friend of Cuba. Le Parc insisted on stressing the importance of valuing the work of Latin American artists inside and outside the continent and consequently agreed with the idea creating "Casas de las Américas" ("Houses of the Americas.") **"Many of us would be happy to bear witness to the existence of numerous Casas de las Américas throughout our continent and even in Europe. This would be an ideal instrument for the promotion of Latin American creation."**

"Regreso" is the title of this exhibition that pays tribute to the creative work of the Argentinean artist, thirteen years after his last exhibition in Havana, at Casa de las Américas. The bond between Le Parc and the island has been well known. Multiple exhibitions between the 1960s and 1980s as well as the proactive participation

he showed in the institutional re-activation of a transcendental event like the Havana Biennial, have turned him into a referent in the Cuban and international art scenes. For years, the artist presented several personal exhibitions at Casa de las Américas, institution with which he maintained a close and special relationship, even exhibiting experimental pieces. Some of his works are currently preserved as part of the institution's collection and as a legacy of his relationship with the island. One of Le Parc's most significant and special events in 1985 was when he personally animated a creative workshop with 12 local artists who, as a group, created a unique artistic experience on the streets: **"From 10.00 a.m. until it lasts. Even when some elements were broken, young people and children still made the best of them, inventing new things with the pieces."**

To celebrate this "return", the exhibition offers a selection of nearly thirty-five pieces, representative of Le Parc's unique artistic language since 1959, when he developed an independent approach by applying rigorous organizational principles in his paintings, to the present day. It encompasses a

variety of formats and media, such as paintings, modulations in steel, wood or metal. The zenith of the exhibition is highlighted by the monumental work of a mobile installation, more than five meters high, that hangs from the top of the gallery's ceiling.

Full color canvases are presented in homage to the beauty and complexity of Julio Le Parc's "Los sistemas" ("The Systems"), based on the notion of surface. Also included are a set of "folders of colored sheets" from 1971 and an important group of gouache from 1959, from the time when Le Parc expanded his research to include color in his work. To this end, he eliminated all traces of manual, compositional and subjective execution by creating his own range of 14 colors, considered essential and used exclusively, pure, without nuances, combined with each other to represent all possible chromatic variations.

The exhibition presents some works from the renowned *Alchimie* (*Alchemy*) series. Julio Le Parc began to develop this series in 1988, from small sketches inspired by fortuitous and casual observations that materialized little by little. He thus began the process of repetition and comparison that led to the creation of a multitude of drawings, some of which, once perfected, became small paintings. Alchemy is synonymous with transformation, playful experimentation and optical illusion. In this series, lines undergo a metamorphosis, transforming into colored dots that frantically chase each other in space. In an act of creative defiance, these particles

of color go beyond the limits of painting, invading the dimension of the observer's perception.

"Regreso" is enriched by a specimen of another of Le Parc's most famous series, *Continuels Mobiles* (*Continuous Mobiles*), specifically the red sphere mobile or *Sphère Rouge* (2001-2013). Composed of hundreds of translucent red Plexiglas plates, the monumental installation, suspended from the ceiling, creates an interplay of transparencies, movement, colors, lights and shadows. The irregularity of the shapes makes each point of light create the sensation of having a life of its own. In this way, several elements are questioned, such as the diversity of situations within a single experience. Also discussed are the notions of movement, instability and probability and the consideration of contingencies external to the work, in a characteristic estrangement from the idea of a stable, unique and definitive body of the work of art. These processes are carried out by means of diaphragms capable of transforming geometric shapes through the modulation of light.

This exhibition reveals an essential constant in Julio Le Parc's practice: the desire for the viewer to experience his or her participation in the perception of the work of art in a completely novel way, thus altering the conception of the role of the artist, of the exhibition space and of the viewer him or herself. Le Parc creates a situation of uncertainty and visual instability, making the viewer's perception and experience an integral part of the work.

---

Julio Le Parc was born in 1928 in Mendoza (Argentina). He has lived and worked in Cachan (France) since 1958. A leading figure in kinetic and contemporary art, he was one of the co-founders of the *Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel (GRAV)* in Paris in 1960, alongside Horacio Garcia Rossi, Francisco Sobrino, Francois Morellet, Joel Stein and Jean-Pierre Vasarely (Yvaral). He has participated in numerous exhibitions museums and in personal important institutions such as the *Palais de Tokyo* (Paris), the *Metropolitan Museum of Art* (New York), the *Perez Art Museum* (Miami) and the *Serpentine Gallery* (London), to name a few. A socially committed artist, Le Parc was expelled from France in May 1968, after having participated in the *Atelier Populaire* and its demonstrations against large institutions. Being an intransigent person and a defender of human

rights, he has fought for several social causes. In 1972 he refused a retrospective at the *Museum of Modern Art* of the city of Paris, playing heads or tails. His works are part of the most important international public collections, including: *MET* in New York, *MOMA* in New York, *Tate* in London, the *MNAM* and the *Centre Georges Pompidou* in Paris, *LACMA* in Los Angeles, *Louisiana Museum of Modern Art Humlebaek*, *Musée d'art contemporain de Montreal*, *MNBA* in Buenos Aires, *Walker Art Center* Minneapolis, *Museum of Fine Arts* of Houston, *Musée d'art Moderne de la ville de Paris*, *Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia* of Madrid, *Guggenheim* of Abu Dhabi, *Museo Boijmans Van Beuningen* of Rotterdam, *Albright-Knox Art Gallery of Buffalo*, *Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation* of Miami, *New Orleans Museum of Art*, *Delgado Museum* of New Orleans.

**Director artístico del estudio:** Yamil Le Parc.  
**Director del estudio Le Parc:** Eduardo Berrelleza.

**Para más fotografías o información consultar Oficina de prensa:**  
Silvia Pichini [press@galleriacontinua.com](mailto:press@galleriacontinua.com) / + 39 3474536136

---

For more information, follow us on social media:

 @galleriacontinua  @galleriacontinua  @GContinua  GALLERIACONTINUA  @artecontinua\_lahabana  @artecontinua\_lahabana