

Important Acquisition for the Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen

The Kunstsammlung NRW has succeeded in acquiring the early painting “Pintura” (1953) by the important Brazilian modernist Lygia Pape (1927–2004). The realization of this long-held desideratum stands in conjunction with the preparation of the retrospective exhibition on the artist’s multifaceted oeuvre planned for 2022, as well as with the goal of expanding the collection to also include significant modernist positions from non-Western countries.

In recent years, Lygia Pape, a native of Rio de Janeiro, has become known to a wider audience through exhibitions in Europe and the United States. She was one of the key figures of the “neo-concrete painting” of the 1950s and 60s. In 1947, she became a member of the Rio de Janeiro-based Grupo Frente, which was dedicated to concrete art and geometric abstraction. In 1959, she signed the “Manifesto Neoconcreto” together with Lygia Clark and Hélio Oiticica. The representatives of the neo-concrete movement contradicted the prevailing ethos of concrete art, believing that art should require the active participation of the viewer.

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The painting from 1953, which was on view at the São Paulo Biennial in the year it was created, follows the radical geometric approach of this movement. In addition to only a few paintings, Pape created wood reliefs, sculptures, installation, and prints, taught at the university, and made films. She frequently involved viewers in the creative process and explored ethical and political issues. In 1967, she co-organized the exhibition “New Brazilian Objectivity” at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro. From 1972 to 1985, she taught at the **Universidade Santa Úrsula** in Rio de Janeiro. In 1980, she received a master’s degree in philosophy of art from the Universidade Ferdal do Rio de Janeiro, where she was appointed professor of fine arts in 1983. Her works have been exhibited in Brazil and internationally, including at the São Paulo Biennial (1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1989) and the Salão Nacional de Arte Moderna in Rio de Janeiro between 1952 and 1960, as well as at the **Biennale di Venezia** in 2003 and 2009 and the **Istanbul Biennial** in 2011. In 2004, the Lygia Pape Project was founded as a cultural association directed by her daughter Paula Pape. In 2017, The Metropolitan Museum in New York dedicated a comprehensive solo exhibition to the artist.

Work:

Lygia Pape (1927–2004), Pintura, 1953, oil on canvas, 75 x 105.5 cm