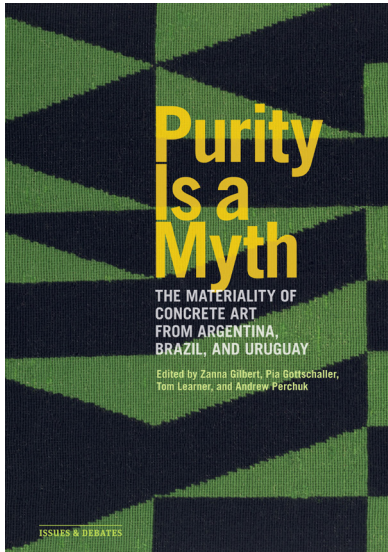


Presenting new scholarship, this publication is an innovative study of the Concrete art movement in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay from the 1940s to the 1960s.



LOS ANGELES, CA—Originally coined by the Dutch artist Theo van Doesburg in 1930, the term *concrete* denotes abstract painting with no reference to external reality. Van Doesburg argued that there was nothing more real than a line, color, or plane. In the years after World War II, artists in Argentina and Brazil, such as Willys de Castro, Lygia Clark, Waldemar Cordeiro, Hermelindo Fiaminghi, Judith Lauand, Raúl Lozza, Tomás Maldonado, Hélio Oiticica, and Rhod Rothfuss, experimented with geometric abstraction and engaged in lively debates about the role of art in society.

The multiyear international research project, Concrete Art in Argentina and Brazil, was launched with the goal of studying materiality and reconsidering preestablished narratives surrounding Concrete art, a new approach which would allow researchers and art historians to see its histories from a new perspective. The overall aim of the project was to reexamine concrete art in the light of new information about its materiality and to collectively develop a comprehensive understanding of the materials, techniques, and processes employed by concrete artists.

Purity Is a Myth: The Materiality of Concrete Art From Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay (Getty Research Institute/Getty Conservation Institute) draws on this research and presents essays on the South American concrete art movement of the 1940s to the 1960s. The volume contains essays which address a variety of topics, including the general history, emergence, and reception of Concrete art, processes and color, scientific analysis of works, illustrated chronologies of the paint industry in Brazil and Argentina, and Concrete design on paper. As the first comprehensive technical study of the Concrete art movement in Latin America, this volume will prove to be an indispensable resource for scholars and students of Latin American art.

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