

[d i p] contemporary art | Geraldo De Barros

Geraldo de Barros

(1923 – 1998), was a Brazilian painter, photographer and designer, who also worked in engraving, graphic arts, and industrial design. He was a leader of the concrete art movement in Brazil, cofounding Grupo Ruptura and was known for his trailblazing work in experimental abstract photography and modernism. According to The Guardian, De Barros was "one of the most influential Brazilian artists of the 20th century."

Geraldo de Barros's works are included in numerous important collections, such as Chateaubriand Museum of Art, Brazil; Cisneros-Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, FL, USA; Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, New York, NY, USA; Contemporary Art Museum, Grenoble, France; Contemporary 3 Art Museum of São Paulo, MAC-USP, Brazil São Paulo Assis; Curitiba Museum, Parana, Brazil; Ellysée Museum, Lausanne, Switzerland; Ludwig Museum, Cologne, Germany; Max Bill Collection, Zürich, Switzerland; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Houston, TX, USA; Museum of Image and Sound, São Paulo, Brazil; Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY, USA; and Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, among others.

Geraldo de Barros began his investigations into photography in the mid-1940s in São Paulo. Invited by a friend to photograph soccer teams, de Barros's first camera was built from a kit. Intrigued by the medium, he soon lost interest in pursuing commercial photography. De Barros's work from this period is characterized by scraped negatives, multiple exposures, and

an interest in chance occurrences. He met art critic Mario Pedrosa and became interested in Gestalt theory and occupational therapy. In 1950, the Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand

(MASP) invited de Barros to exhibit his photographs, and he showed a selection from his FOTOFORMAS series. The exhibition led to a fellowship opportunity to study abroad in Europe. Ironically, his studies in Europe would redirect his artistic work away from photography. While traveling, he studied painting and printmaking, and met important artists and theorists including Max Bill, Giorgio Morandi, and Francois Morellet. In 1952, de Barros returned to Brazil, and he became a central figure in São Paulo's Concrete art movement. Interested in industrial design and modernization processes, he founded a collectivist furniture factory, Unilabor, in 1954. His work was included in the 1956 Exposição Nacional de Arte Concreta in São Paulo and in the 1960 exhibition Konkrete Kunst, 50 Jahre Entwicklung, organized by Max Bill in Zürich. In the mid-1960s, he left Unilabor and founded Hobjeto furniture factory. In his later years, after having two debilitating strokes, he was compelled to look again at his old photographs. He made SOBRAS, a new series of photographic work. In a concentrated period of productivity, he rediscovered imagery from the archive of his life; from family holidays, previous early works and darkroom experiments.

The 5 silk screen prints from the JOGOS DE DADOS series are a tribute to Mallarmé. Very different works, all expression of a visual

vocabulary that refers to continuous interconnections between art and society: Geraldo de Barros moved from geometry to pop art, from industrial design to photography, producing very different works. Influenced by concrete art and constructivist movement, he changed his view on representation of reality and applied new rules. At twenty years after his death his works are accompanies us along a path that not only shows the use of different means and techniques, but also goes beyond spatial boundaries, moving from the bi-dimensional size of photography to reach at the poly-dimensional one, as in SOBRAS and JOGOS DE DADOS.

It is precisely the image of the dice (throwing) game that captures the essence of Geraldo De Barros' life: man and artist who - with his research and experimentation - aspired to a "utopian" world, created through his own works.



Geraldo de Barros
Untitled from the serie JOGO DE DADI, 1989
Silk Screen Print
72 x 72 cm
4.000 euro + vat



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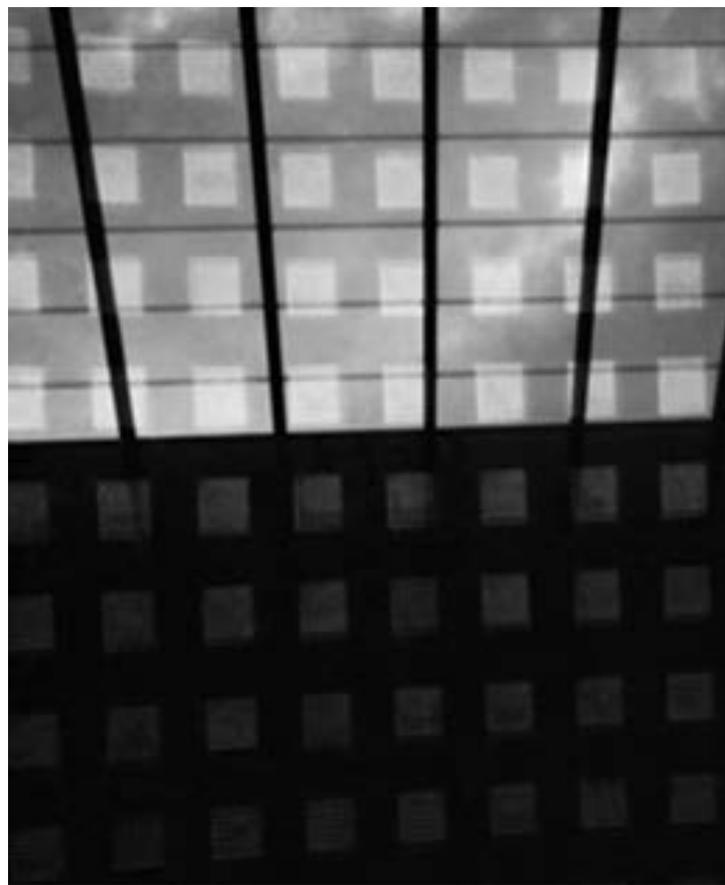
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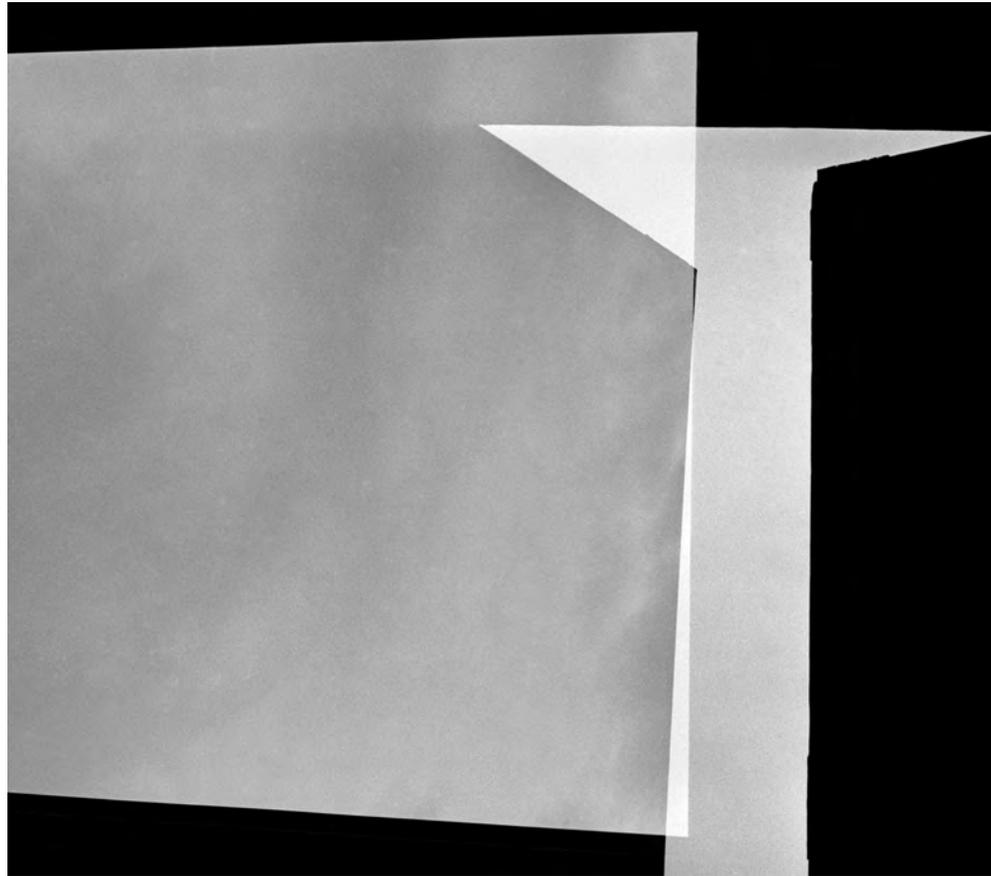
Geraldo de Barros
Untitled from the serie FOTOFORMAS, 1949
Photograph
27 x 36 cm
Edition 3/15
7.200 euro + vat



Geraldo de Barros
Untitled from the serie FOTOFORMAS, 1949
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