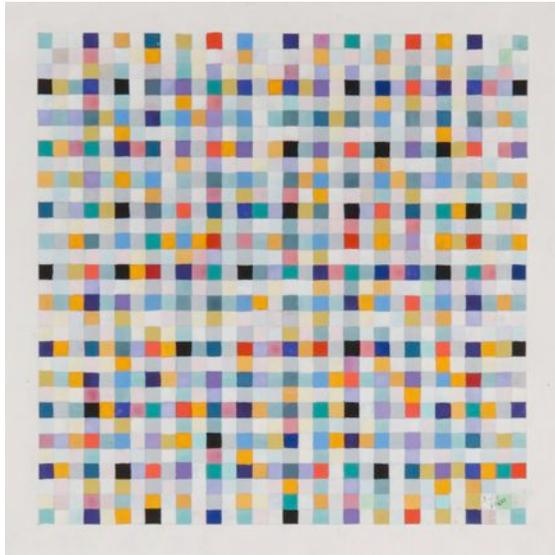


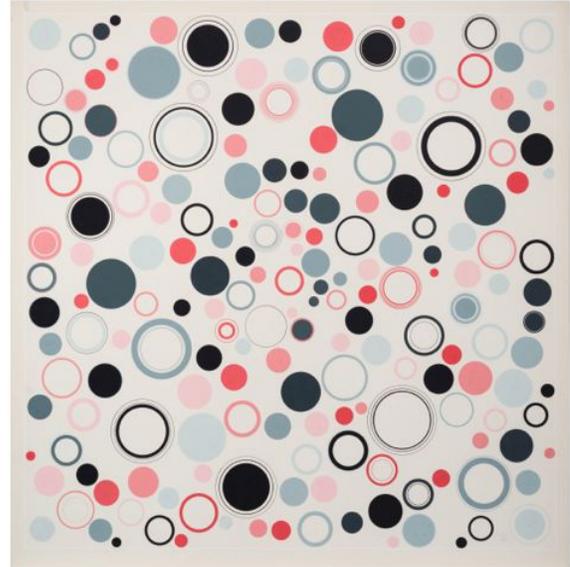
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2014

ANTONIO ASIS



Carrés rythmiques (2417), 1960, gouache on paper, 11 5/8 x 8 1/4 in



Geometría libre (4508), 1967, gouache on paper, 30 5/16 x 29 7/8 in

The Drawing Room is pleased to present two exhibitions on view June 27 through July 28, **ANTONIO ASIS** and **JENNIFER BARTLETT Selected Work 1970-2003**. A separate press release is available for the Jennifer Bartlett exhibition.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1932, Antonio Asis embarked on a life in art at age 14 when he enrolled in Argentina's Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes. Later, at the Escuela de Bellas Artes Prilidiano Pueyrredón, Asis studied composition and principles of design with Héctor Cartier. Buenos Aires was an important site for the development of post-war abstraction, and in 1944 the publication of *Arturo* magazine and the creation of the Asociación Arte Concreto-Invención provided a significant boon to the cultural climate. With this foundation and subsequent explorations in abstraction, in 1956 Asis moved to Paris. There he quickly aligned himself with an international community of kinetic and optical artists that included Jean Tinguely, Yaacov Agam, Victor Vasarely and Jesús Rafael Soto. Invigorated by concepts associated with geometric abstraction, dynamic motion, and the phenomenon of perception, Asis embarked on a meticulous and lifelong study of the relationships between light, color, movement and sensory illusion.

His early research on the nature of visual perception resulted in dynamic reliefs in perforated metal that fractured the visual field, producing dizzying patterns that appeared to actively shift within the composition. Spurred by action painting, the sciences, and kinetic works by artists such as Marcel Duchamp, Vladimir Tatlin and Alexander Calder, Asis embraced the concept of an art that invited interaction and real or illusory movement. As his art evolved, his explorations moved through exacting geometric motifs of overlapping rings and grids to spheres, spirals and concentric circles in gouache and acrylic paintings and sculpture.

This exhibit is focused on three distinct bodies of work dating from the 1960s and 1970s, on view for the first time in New York. Ranging from small gouaches on graph paper to larger paintings on paper, Asis explored the optical spectrum through a systematic approach of sequencing color in varied methodologies, often with kaleidoscopic results. In *Chromatisme quadrillé polychrome*, a grid of pure color squares assembles in a precise and syncopated rhythm that oscillates across a creamy ground. The level of precision in his small studies is breathtaking, with hundreds of tiny color squares accumulating in luminous working compositions. Concentric circles and color spheres occupy larger works such as *Geometría libre (4508)*, floating as if in mid-air among broad expanses of white. With a masterful hand and keen sense of spatial dynamics, the paintings possess a brisk and buoyant vitality.

Throughout the 1960s, Asis exhibited across Europe, mounting his first solo exhibition in 1970 at Galerie Krebs in Bern, Switzerland. In 1971, Asis co-founded *Groupe Position*, a collective of Argentine artists dedicated to experimentation in kinetic art and the movement and vibrations of light. Members included Carlos Agüero, Armando Durante, Hugo Demarco and Horacio García Rossi.

Over five decades, Asis has achieved a dynamic oeuvre focused on complex visual effects in both two and three dimensions. His use of optical color, virtual depth and precise compositional means has been celebrated in exhibitions across Europe, South America and the United States.

Asis is represented in major international public and private collections, among them the Cisneros-Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, Florida, USA; Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Latinoamericano (MACLA), La Plata, Argentina; Museo de Arte Moderno Jesús Soto, Ciudad Bolívar, Venezuela; Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende (MSSA), Santiago, Chile; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Museo Nacional de Nicaragua, Managua, Nicaragua; Museo Nacional Tres de Febrero (MUNTREF), Buenos Aires, Argentina; and The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Houston, Texas, USA. Antonio Asis lives and works in Paris.

www.drawingroom-gallery.com

Gallery hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10-5; Sunday 11-5

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