

GLADSTONE 64

Lina Bo Bardi & Giancarlo Palanti

Studio d'Arte Palma

130 East 64th Street, New York

April 27 – June 15, 2019

Opening April 27, 4-6pm

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of rare and seminal designs by Italo-Brazilian artist Lina Bo Bardi in collaboration with Giancarlo Palanti, accompanied by a selection of important works by artists whom worked concurrently to Bo Bardi in Brazil. Best known for her prolific career as an architect and designer, Bo Bardi dedicated herself to art's emancipation from the predilection for western modernism in favor of the combination of contemporary formalism mixed with regional vernacular. Lina Bo Bardi's work represents the creative and social modernity throughout Mid-Century Brazil, an era characterized by cultural and artistic experimentation, and this exhibition demonstrates her important place in history.

Born in Rome in 1914 and educated at the University of Rome's School of Architecture, Achillina Bo began her career in Milan, where she worked in collaboration with fellow architects such as Carlo Pagani and Gio Ponti, and later started her own architecture firm. In the aftermath of World War II, the artist and her husband, Pietro Maria Bardi, closed their practice in Italy and travelled to Brazil, which became their permanent home soon thereafter. It was in São Paulo that Bo Bardi opened her renowned architecture firm. While in Brazil, she began to incorporate furniture design into her work, and in 1948 founded her design practice, Studio de Arte e Arquitetura Palma, with fellow Italian architect Giancarlo Palanti, which marked one of the many breakthrough moments of her career. Throughout her life, Bo Bardi established herself as a figurehead of modern design, constructing countless private and public spaces, most notably the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP) and the SESC Pompéia, a former barrel factory transformed into a large cultural and sports center. Transcending western and European dominance prevalent throughout traditional design practices, Bo Bardi discovered a renewed vitality in the natural logic of Brazilian design and honed her unique approach to the built environment.

Bo Bardi translated her architectural expertise and inspiration from her Brazilian surroundings into the iconic designs for which she is most prominently known to this day. Her artistic practice, rooted in the tenants of functionality and accessibility, mimics the natural and cultural beauty she experienced in Brazil. Her designs celebrate the reduction and rawness of nature, the former in the use of natural Brazilian woods, and the latter in their simplistic and practical shapes. As both an architect and a designer, Bo Bardi bridged these practices in her holistic approach to construction, realizing both the interiors and exteriors of her most acclaimed projects, the most well-known being MASP. A highlight of Gladstone Gallery's exhibition includes the original MASP chairs designed for the museum's auditorium. Each chair, made of Jacaranda wood and leather upholstery, is foldable and stackable, exemplifying Bo Bardi's emphasis on functionality. This exhibition demonstrates Bo Bardi's creation of a liberated modernism, imbued with the cultural, natural and spiritual fabric of Brazil.

Alongside this exhibition of important pieces by Bo Bardi and Palanti is a carefully considered selection of work from some of Brazil's most significant modernist artists who worked around the same time as Bo Bardi and Palanti, some of which were included in the Grupo Frente. This presentation includes artists such as Hercules Barsotti, Sergio Camargo, Aluísio Carvão, Lygia Clark, and Alfredo Volpi.

This exhibition was realized in close collaboration with Nilufar Gallery, Milan and the Instituto Bardi / Casa de Vidro.

Lina Bo Bardi was an Italian born architect who spent most of her career in São Paulo until her death in 1992. Bo Bardi attended the University of Rome's School of Architecture in 1939. During her lifetime, Bo Bardi completed countless architectural and design projects including Casa de Vidro, 1951; São Paulo Museum of Art, 1968; Centro de Lazer Fabrica da Pompeia (SESC Pompeia), 1982; Teatro Oficina, 1984. Bo Bardi has also been the subject of solo exhibitions at Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo; British Council, London; AzW Architekturzentrum Wien, Vienna; SAM Swiss Architecture Museum, Basel; Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris; Arkitektur – och designcentrum, Stockholm; ARCAM, Amsterdam; DAZ, Berlin; Triennale di Milano, Milan; Palazzo Giacomelli, Treviso; Graham Foundation, Chicago; and Miami Center for Architecture and Design, Miami.

Damián Ortega
515 West 24th Street
May 1 – June 8

Vivian Suter
530 West 21st Street
April 11 – June 8

Anicka Yi
12 Rue du Grand Cerf
April 23 – June 15

For further information, please contact Andrew Huff: ahuff@gladstonegallery.com
New York gallery hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm
Brussels gallery hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10am–6pm and Saturday, 12pm–6pm