

LYGIA CLARK

(Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 1920 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1988)



Lygia Clark's artistic practice evolved from geometric abstraction to a radical rethinking of the boundaries between art, the body, and healing. Deeply influenced by her training in both Brazil and Europe, she initially aligned with the Concrete and Neo-Concrete movements, sharing modernism's formal concerns while progressively shifting toward a more sensorial and participatory language.

From the late 1950s onward, Clark distanced herself from the purely visual, developing interactive objects such as her renowned Bichos (Critters). These articulated sculptures invited manipulation, challenging the autonomy of the artwork and initiating new dynamics between object and viewer.

As her practice deepened, Clark introduced the concept of the "relational object," expanding her work into therapeutic and psychoanalytic territory. These pieces, often used in exercises of body awareness and emotional expression, dissolved the line between artist and participant, proposing art as a site for transformation and healing.

For Clark, art was inseparable from life. She rejected the notion of the artwork as a static entity, favoring instead immersive, tactile experiences that made the viewer an active co-creator. Her legacy is foundational to contemporary discourses on participatory art and performance, particularly in Latin America.

She lived and worked primarily in Rio de Janeiro, where her influence continues to resonate in experimental and relational practices.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2025 Lygia Clark: Retrospective, Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlín, Alemania
- Lygia Clark: The I and the You, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
- 2024 Lygia Clark: Studio Origins, Alison Jacques, London, UK
- Lygia Clark: Projeto para um planeta, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2020 Lygia Clark: La pintura como campo experimental, 1948–1958, Museo Guggenheim, Bilbao, Spain
- Lygia Clark: El abandono del arte, 1948–1988, Museo de Arte Moderno (MoMA), New York, EUA
- 2014 Lygia Clark: A Retrospective, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2012 Lygia Clark, Fundació Antoni Tàpies, Barcelona, Spain
- 1997 Lygia Clark 1950–1952, Ministério da Educação, Río de Janeiro, Brazil

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

- 2016 Life Itself, Moderna Museet, Estocolmo, Suecia
- Making and Unmaking, Camden Arts Centre, London, UK
- 2015 Adventures of the Black Square: Abstract Art and Society 1915–2015, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK
- 1968 XXXIV Bienal de Venecia, Bienal de Venecia, Venecia, Italia
- 1962 Second Pilot Show of Kinetic Work, Signals Gallery, London, UK



COLLECTIONS

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, Estados Unidos

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, Estados Unidos

Centre Pompidou, París, Francia

Tate Modern, London, UK

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

Stedelijk Museum, Ámsterdam, Países Bajos

Museo de Arte Moderno de Río de Janeiro (MAM-RJ), Brazil

Museo de Arte Moderno de São Paulo (MAM-SP), Brazil

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