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CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ

(Caracas, Venezuela, 1923 - Paris, France, 2019)



Carlos Cruz-Diez was one of the most prominent figures of Kinetic art whose work has been based upon the revaluation of color as an experience in itself, as a phenomenon of light in which interpretation or cultural background is no longer relevant. His artistic practice invites viewers to become conscious of how perceptual relationships constitute the aesthetic, and how every context implies a different approach and construction of the same artwork.

His research has positioned him as one of the key thinkers of the 20th century when it comes to color. He has contributed majorly to the possibility of rethinking the relations between artist, spectator, and art, framing them within a participative process rooted exclusively in the use of color. In 1959 Cruz-Diez began his series Physichromie, through which he realized the idea of chromatic autonomy and its impact upon the viewer's environment; one of the results was an important body of work that in later decades surpassed the limits of painting and explored the transformation of diverse spaces through the manipulation of color.

His work emphasizes participation and interaction, spatial perception, and movement as the key elements of the artistic experience.

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2025 RGB: Los Colores del Siglo, Museo Miraflores, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2024 L'Euphoriede la couleur, Galleria Continua, Paris, France

El Color en Movimiento, Centre Pompidou, Málaga, Spain

Cromofilia. Carlos Cruz-Diez, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá, Bogotá, Colombia

2023 Environnement Chromointerférent, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico

Carlos Cruz-Diez. The color itself, Galería Cayón, Manila, Philippines

El color en dos tiempos, Galería de Arte Nacional de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela

RGB Los colores del Siglo, Museo de la Estampa y del Diseño Carlos Cruz-Diez, Caracas, Venezuela

L'Euforia del Colore, Galleria Continua, San Gimignano, Italy

2022 The Euphoria of Colour, Galleria Continua, Dubai, UAE

Chromointerferent environment, Galleria Continua, Paris, France

Colonne Chromointerférente, Les Jardins des Tuileries, Paris, France

Color and Line in Motion, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico

Chromosaturation, Pérez Art Museum Miami, Florida, USA

Cruz-Diez: El artista y la ciudad, Photomuseum, Jorge Tadeo Lozano University, Bogota, Colombia.

2021 The Weight of Form. The Graphic Design of Carlos Cruz-Diez, Center of the Reina Sofía National Art Center Museum, Madrid, Spain

2019 Cruz-Diez. El color haciéndose, MAC Panamá, Panama City, Panama

Semana Cruz-Diez, Centro Cultural Chacao, Caracas, Venezuela

Cruz-Diez: a liberdade da cor, Espaço Cultural Porto Seguro, São Paulo, Brazil

2018 La autonomía del color, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico

Carlos Cruz-Diez. Color Motion, Museum fur Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany

2017 Chroma, Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) Museum of Art, Georgia, USA

Cruz-Diez en blanco y negro, Alianza Francesa, Panama City, Panama

2016 Un être flottant : Carlos Cruz-Diez au Palais d'Iéna, Palais de Iéna, Paris, France

2015 Carlos Cruz-Diez. Transfiguration de la couleur, Marlborough Gallery, Monaco

Carlos Cruz-Diez: Didaktik und Dialektik der Farbe, Das Kleine Museum, Weissenstadt, Germany

Cruz-Diez Bidimensional Research. 1959-2015, Espace Expression, Florida, USA

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2014 Cruz-Diez en blanco y negro. Fotografías 1942-1986, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Buenos Aires (MACBA) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Carlos Cruz-Diez: Circumstance and Ambiguity of Colour, The University Museum and Art Gallery of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Carlos Cruz-Diez. Circonstance et Ambiguïté de la Couleur, Fondation Vasarely, Aix en Provence, France

2013 Carlos Cruz-Diez: Circumstance and Ambiguity of Color, China Academy of Art, Zhejiang, China

Carlos Cruz-Diez: Circumstance and Ambiguity of Color, Shanghai Institute of Visual Art, Shanghai, China

2012 Cruz-Diez. Circumstance and Ambiguity of Color, Ningbo Museum of Art, Zhejiang, China

Carlos Cruz-Diez: Circumstance and ambiguity of Color, Jiangsu Provincial Art Museum, Jiangsu, China

Cruz-Diez: A cor no espaço e no tempo, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Carlos Cruz-Diez. El color en el espacio y en el tiempo, Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), Mexico City, Mexico

2011 Carlos Cruz-Diez. Color in Space and Time, The Museum of Fine Arts (MFAH), Texas, USA

Carlos Cruz-Diez. El color en el espacio y en el tiempo, Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina

2009 Carlos Cruz-Diez. El color sucede, Museu d'Art Espanyol Contemporani, Mallorca / Museo de Arte Abstracto España, Spain

2008 Carlos Cruz-Diez. La couleur dans l'espace, Centre d'Art Contemporain Frank Popper, Marcigny, France

Carlos Cruz-Diez. (In) Formed by Color, Americas Society's Art Gallery, New York, USA

2007 Cruz-Diez. La couleur dans l'espace, Maison de l'Amérique latine, Paris, France

2004 Cruz-Diez. Couleur Evénement, Galerie Lavignes Bastille, Paris, France

2003 Cruz-Diez. Afiches. Exposición Homenaje a los 80 años de Carlos Cruz-Diez, Museo de la Estampa y el Diseño Carlos Cruz-Diez, Caracas, Venezuela

Alternating Currents. Carlos Cruz-Diez Installations. Chromosaturation, The Minories Galleries and The University of Essex, Colchester, UK

2001 Cruz-Diez. De lo participativo a lo interactivo, Centro Cultural Corp Group, Caracas, Venezuela

2000 Cruz-Diez. La visión de color, Fundación Carmona, Sala Juan Carmona, Barquisimeto, Venezuela

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1999 Retrospectiva 1954-1998, Museo de Arte Moderno del Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela

1998 Cruz-Diez: El color autónomo, Museo de Arte Moderno de Bogotá, Colombia / Museo de Arte Moderno Jesús Soto / Sala Múltiple, Ciudad Bolívar, Venezuela

Carlos Cruz-Diez "…und gebe dem Raum die Farbe", Städtishcen Museum, Gelsenkirchen-Buer, Germany

1995 Reflexión sobre el color, Museo Jacobo Borges, Caracas, Venezuela

1994 Cromosaturación. Carlos Cruz-Diez. Metamorfosis de lo Efímero. Paneles pictóricos y laberinto sensorial, Plaza de la Cultura Juan Pablo Duarte, Santo Domino, Dominican Republic

1993 Apuntes sobre el color, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela

1992 Carlos Cruz-Diez. La Visión del Color, Museo de Arte de Maracay, Maracay, Venezuela

1991 Carlos Cruz-Diez, Museum Moderner Kunst Landkreis Cuxhaven, Otterndorf, Germany

Cruz-Diez. Inducciones Cromáticas, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, Espacio Simonetti, Valencia, Venezuela

1989 Realites de la Peinture, The Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow & Leningrad, Russia

Latin American Art, Hayward Gallery, London, UK / Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden / Palacio Velazquez, Madrid, Spain

1988 Carlos Cruz-Diez. Die Autonomie der Farbe. Bilders – Plastiken – Objekte aus den Jahren 1959-1988, Josef Albers Museum Quadrat, Bottrop / Moderne Galerie, Bottrop, Germany

1985 Cruz-Diez, Museo de Arte Moderno, Medellin, Colombia

1981 Cruz-Diez. Didáctica y dialéctica del color. Intervenciones en la arquitectura. Inducciones cromáticas, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Sofía Imber, Caracas, Venezuela

1980 Cruz-Diez. Didáctica y dialéctica del color, Museo de Arte de la Universidad Simón Bolívar, Caracas, Venezuela

1976 Fisicromías (Cromocinetismo). Carlos Cruz-Diez, artista venezolano, Museo de Arte Moderno (MAM), Mexico City, Mexico

1974 Carlos Cruz-Diez, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Sofía Imber, Caracas, Venezuela

1970 XXXV Venice Biennale, Venezuelan Pavillion, Venice, Italy

1960 Fisicromías de Cruz-Diez, Museo de Bellas Artes / Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela

1956 Carlos Cruz-Diez, Galería Buchholz, Madrid, Spain

1947 12 gouaches de Carlos Cruz-Diez, Centro Venezolano Americano, Caracas, Venezuela

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GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTION)

2025 Color Everywhere, Josef Albers Museum Quadrat, Bottrop, Germany

Lo tienes que ver. La autonomía del color, Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain

2024 Electric Dreams, Tate Modern, London, Uk

Headlong into art, Museum Ostwald im Dortmunder U, Dortmund, Germany

L'Euphoriede la couleur, Galleria Continua, Paris, France

2023 Environnement Chromointerférent Mouvement et Lumière, Fondation Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Francia

Masters that changed the city, Coral Gables Museum, Florida, USA

Art in Motion, Springfield Art Museum, Missouri, USA

The Dynamic Eye: Op and Kinetic Art from the Tate Collection, Museum of Art Pudong (MAP), Pudong, China

2022 Mouvement. Hommage à Denise René, Château Bonisson, Rognes, France

[E]motion. Op Art, Kinetic Art and Light Art, Art Forum Würth Capena, Capena, Italy

Cinétique! La esculpture en mouvement, Fondation Villa Datris, Paris, France

Color Intermitente, Museo de Artes Visuales, Utadeo, Bogotá, Colombia

2021 France Pavilion: Light, Enlightenment, Dubai World Expo 2020, Dubai, UAE

2020 A Graphic Revolution: Prints and Drawings in Latin America, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio, USA

ReVisión: Art in the Americas, Denver Art Museum, Denver, USA

Tools for Utopia. Works from the Daros Latin-American Collection, Kunstmuseum Bern & Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland

Chromosaturation MFAH, Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH), Texas, USA

2019 SYN KRONOS, Galería RGR, Mexico City, Mexico

Seven Stations: Selections from MOCA's Collection, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Los Angeles (MOCA), California, USA

Sur Moderno: Journeys of Abstraction - The Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Gift, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA

2018 The Other Trans-Atlantic. Kinetic and Op Art in Eastern Europe and Latin America 1950s – 1970s, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow, Russia

Concrete Matters, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

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Visiones de la tierra / El mundo planeado, Sala de arte Santander, Madrid, Spain

Contesting Modernity: Informalism in Venezuela, 1955–1975, The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Texas, USA

2017 Eye Attack. Op Art en kinetische kunst, Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, Schiedam, Netherlands

The Urge to Create Visions, Centre of Polish Sculpture, Oronsko, Poland

The Other Trans-Atlantic. Kinetic & Op Art in Central & Eastern Europe and Latin America, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland

2016 The Illusive Eye: Op Art and the Americas in the 1960s, El Museo del Barrio, New York, USA

Eye Attack. Op Art and Kinetic Art 1950-1970, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek, Denmark

Das imaginäre Museum / An Imagined Museum. Works from the Centre Pompidou, Tate and MMK collections, Museum für Moderne Kunst MMK2, Kunst, Germany

Pan American Modernism: Avant-Garde Art in Latin America and the United States, Weatherspoon Art Museum, North Carolina, USA

Destination: Latin America, Neuberger Museum of Art, New York, USA

Un musée imaginé. Trois collections européennes : Centre Pompidou, Tate, MMK, Centre Pompidou, Metz, France

Lightopia, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO), Nuevo León, Mexico

2015 Visual Deception II: Into the Future, Nagoya City Art Museum, Nagoya City, Japan

Libertad de Expresión: The Art Museum of the Americas and Cold War Politics, Art Museum of the Americas, Organization of American States, Washington D.C., USA

Light Show, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia

Didáctica y dialéctica del color, Universidad Simón Bolívar, Galería de Arte de la Biblioteca, Caracas, Venezuela

2014 Formes simples, Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz, France

Radical Geometry: Modern Art of South America from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

A Global Exchange. Geometric Abstraction Since 1950s, The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida, USA

La línea continua, Blanton Museum of Art, Texas, USA

2013 Circumstance and Ambiguity of Color, CAFA Art Museum, Beijing, China

Order, Chaos, and the Space Between, Phoenix Art Museum, Arizona, USA

Myth and Materiality: Latin American Art from the Permanent Collection, 1930-1990, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, California, USA

Intersections: MoLAA's Permanent Collection, Museum of Latin American Art (MoLAA), California, USA

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2012 Suprasensorial. Experiments in Light, Color, and Space, Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C., USA

Venezuela en Arts, Centre d'Art Contemporain Frank Popper, Marcigny, France

La abstracción: Un nuevo lenguaje para una nueva sociedad, Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende, Santiago de Chile, Chile

2011 América fría. La abstracción geométrica en Latinoamérica (1934 - 1973), Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain

Ejercicios ópticos, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela

Color on Color, The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Miami, USA

2010 Suprasensorial. Experiments in Light, Color and Space, The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), California, USA

Couleur et Géométrie, Actualité de l'Art Construit Européen, Couleur et Géométrie, Actualité de l'Art Construit Européen, Sens, France

Musée national d'art moderne, Collections contemporaines (des années 1960 à nos jours), Musée National d'Art Moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

2009 North Looks South. Building the Latin American Art Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Texas, USA

La experiencia sensorial del color, Periférico Caracas - Arte Contemporáneo, Caracas, Venezuela

2008 Latin American and Caribbean Art: Selected Highlights from the Collection of The Museum of Modern Art, New York State Museum, New York, USA

2007 Lo[s] Cinético[s], Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

The Geometry of Hope. Latin American Abstract Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection, Blanton Museum of Art, Texas, USA

Optic Nerve: Perceptual Art of the 1960s, Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio, USA

Op Art, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

2006 La utopia cinética. 1955-1975, Centro Cultural "Sa Nostra", Mallorca, Spain

2005 L'Œil Moteur. Art Optique et Cinétique. 1950-1975, Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg, France

2004 Inverted Utopias. Avant-garde Art in Latin America, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Texas, USA

2003 Une Tour Eiffel Haute en Couleurs, Musée National d' Art Moderne Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Geo-Metrías. Abstracción geométrica latinoamericana en la Colección Cisneros, Museo Nacional de Artes Visuales, Montevideo, Uruguay

2002 Paralelos. Arte Brasileira da Segunda Metade do Século XX em Contexto, Colección Cisneros, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

XXV Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

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2001 Geometric Abstraction. Latin-American Art from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, USA

2000 Heterotopías. Medio siglo sin-lugar : 1918-1968, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

1995 La Transparence dans l'Art du XX Siècle, Musee des Beaux Arts Andre Malraux, La Havre, France

1993 Latin American Art of the Twentieth Century, Cologne Kunsthalle, Cologne, Germany / Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA

Mouvement, Museo de Arte Moderno, Sydney, Australia

Manifeste, Une historie parallele 1960- 1990, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

1989 Latin American Art, Hayward Gallery, London, UK / Palacio Velazquez, Madrid, Spain

1988 La Couleur Seule, Musee d'Art Contemporain, Lyon, France

1986 Contrastes de forma abstracción geométrica, 1910 -1980, Solomon R. Guggenheim Collection and Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

1985 Forty Years of Modern Art 1945-1985, Tate Gallery, London, UK

1972 12 ans d'Art Contemporain en France, Grand Palais, Paris, France

1968 Cinetisme, Maison de la Culture de Grenoble, France

1967 Lumière et mouvement, Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, France

1965 The Responsive Eye, Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA

Lumière, mouvement et optique, Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels, Belgium

1964 Nouvelle Tendance, Musee des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

II Bienal Americana de Arte, Córdoba, Argentina

1962 XXXI Venice Biennale, Italy

1961 Le mouvement, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands

1960 1661-1961 pintura venezolana, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela

1958 Exposition International de Bruxelles, Venezuela Pavillon, Belgium

1953 Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil

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COLLECTIONS

Museum des 20, Jahrhundert, Vienna, Austria

Centre de la Gravure et de l'Image Imprimee, Belgium

Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Colombia

Museo de Arte Moderno La Tertulia, Cali, Colombia

Museo de Arte Costarricense, San José, Costa Rica

Casa de las Américas, La Havana, Cuba

Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

Musee de Grenoble, Grenoble, France

Centre National d'Art Contemporain Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Wallraf-Richartz Museum, Dr. Peter Ludwig Collection, Cologne, Germany

Kunstverein Gelsenkirchen, Germany

Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany

Museum Moderner Kunst, Cuxhaven Otterndorf, Germany

Neue Pinakothek, Munich, Germany

Quadrat Josef Albers Museum, Bottrop, Germany

Wurth Museum, Schawabish Hall, Germany

Museo Civico d'Arte, Turin, Italy

Sonja Henie-Musee d'Art Moderne, Hovikodden, Oslo, Norway

Muzeum Okregowe, Chelm, Poland

Cabinet des Estampes, Genève, Switzerland

Kunstmuseum, Bern, Switzerland

Musee de la Chaux-des-Fonds, Switzerland

Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX, USA

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Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Texas, USA

Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

Collection of Latin American Art, University of Essex, Colchester, UK

Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambrige University, Cambridge, UK

Tate Gallery, London, UK

The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK

Galería de Arte Nacional, Caracas, Venezuela

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Sofia Imber, Caracas, Venezuela

Museo de Arte Moderno Jesús Soto, Ciudad Bolívar, Venezuela

Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela

+52 55 8434 7759 / 60 / 61
+1 786 609 1295

GRAL. ANTONIO LEÓN 48
SAN MIGUEL CHAPULTEPEC
CDMX 11850, MÉXICO

GALERIA@RGRART.COM
RGRART.COM

@RGRART