



## JAIME GILI

b. 1972 Caracas, Venezuela

*"I have grown up seeing the work of Carlos Cruz-Diez all around me. He is one of the masters of Venezuelan art (where I come from) and I am undoubtedly influenced by him in an essential, natural, even national, but over all, a very painterly way.*

*In a recent interview the curator Jesus Fuenmayor says that my work, particularly the paintings from the 'Alma' series, are as if someone has "thrown a stone into a Cruz-Diez and I had picked up the pieces to make new works with them!" The optimism of Venezuela - and the world - in the sixties has faded, but not the dreams and the Utopia each artist must create and follow. The work of Cruz-Diez, Soto, Otero and also my own work is inherently optimistic. There is a common abstract language that we share and this will be clearly visible in the Indica show" Jaime Gili, July 2006*

Jaime Gili's canvases draw on the peripheral modernist movements and the work of specific artists from a rich 20c tradition of optical art in Venezuela. In October 2005, Gili caused traffic chaos when he converted the window displays of Selfridges, Oxford Street, London with his installation 7x7x7; seven hundred thousand optically distorted star clusters papered the store. In June this year, in collaboration with Transport for London and London Architecture Week, Gili completed a six mile installation, 'Ruta Rota' (broken route), centring on St. Paul's and Paternoster Square, which covered the route between Southwark Cathedral and St. Pancras in pendant-shaped kinetic cut-outs.

At Rifleman in May 2006, he installed giant paintings and offset prints which transformed the interior perspective with configurations of compressed pendants and triangles, projecting slides of environmental public artworks onto the street outside.

The photograph shows Carlos Cruz-Diez crossing his *Environnement Chromatique* at Caracas Airport in June 1974 and Jaime Gili at the same location September 2006.

Photos: Lucia Pizzani

### **EVENT: Monday 22 January, 2007**

*Jaime Gili will give a special talk and slide show - The Op Art Revolution of Carlos Cruz-Diez and Jesus Rafael Soto - at Rifleman with special guests and live music.*