

JESUS RAFAEL SOTO

b.1923 Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela d.2005 -
Paris, France

Quatre boites altuglass plexi sérigraphié et tiges métalliques

extraites du coffret Sotomagie édité par la
galerie Denise René en 1967.

Chaque boîte 30 x 30 x 16cm

1.Spirale 1955

2.Structure cinétique 1955

3.Permutation 1956

4.Dynamique de la couleur 1957

Courtesy Galerie Denise Rene, Paris

The exhibition *Le Mouvement* at the Galerie Denise René, Paris, in 1955, at which Soto's *Spiral* was shown along with works by Vasarely, Agam, Tinguely, Pol Bury and others, marked the official birth of Kinetic Art.

Soto was born in 1923 in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela. He studied at the Escuela de Artes Plasticas in Caracas. In 1947 he joined the School of Fine Arts in Maracaibo, Venezuela, where he worked as director until 1950. He then travelled to Paris returning regularly to Caracas. At first Soto earned a living as a guitarist accompanying many popular Latin American singers. He painted principally under the influence of Cézanne and Cubism and to a lesser extent under that of Mondrian and the Soviet Constructivists. During the mid-1950's he began experimenting with the concept of optical movement. He developed elements in space then placed them in front of flat backgrounds composed of thin parallel lines. This produced the effect of virtual movement and 'optical vibration'; serialized and geometric forms that suggest the effects of motion. His first kinetic work, *Spiral* (1955) consisted of two overlapping perspex sheets, each painted with a spiral to produce an apparently vibrating image.

In 1973 the Jesus Soto Museum of Modern Art was opened in Ciudad Bolivar. A year later, in 1974, Soto was honoured with a retrospective exhibition at the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Exhibitions: Documenta, Kassel 1964. The UNESCO Mural, Paris, 1969. Georges Pompidou Centre, Paris, 1987. Jeu de Paume, Paris, 1997. 'Invented Utopias' - Avante-Garde Art in Latin America, Houston MFA, 2005. 'Beyond Geometry', Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2005