

ART & DESIGN

Over 200 Latin American Artworks Are Headed to MoMA and Other Museums

By ANDREW R. CHOW JAN. 10, 2018

Two years ago, the collector Patricia Phelps de Cisneros donated 102 Latin American artworks to the Museum of Modern Art. It turns out that was just the overture: On Wednesday she announced that her organization will donate 202 additional works to six international museums, including MoMA.

The donation includes work by 91 artists from 22 countries across Latin America, most of whom are still living. They include Jac Leirner (Brazil), Luis Camnitzer (Uruguay), Amalia Pica (Argentina) and Regina José Galindo (Guatemala). While the earliest works date back to the middle of the 20th century, a majority of them were made after 2000, and range from sculptures to videos to tapestries.

Ms. Cisneros, a prominent collector of Latin American art and a member of the MoMA board, said she has been working on this project — accumulating art with the intention of eventually bringing it to a wider international audience — for 40 years. “Our mission has always been to build bridges of understanding between Latin America and the U.S. and the rest of the world, rather than to build walls,” she said in a phone interview.

Ninety of the 202 pieces will go to MoMA, where Ms. Cisneros has been involved for decades. “She has been a catalyst in transforming the way the MoMA thinks about Latin American art,” Glenn D. Lowry the museum’s director, said in a phone interview. He said a team of curators worked with the staff at the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros to comb through its vast contemporary holdings, with the intention of introducing new artists, like Ms. Galindo, to MoMA’s collection. “In a way, it’s even more important than the first gift,” Mr. Lowry said.

Mr. Lowry said that the 2016 gift from Ms. Cisneros will receive an exhibition soon after the museum expansion is completed in 2019. The other museums receiving artwork in this gift are the Bronx Museum of the Arts; the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid); the Museo de Arte Moderno (Buenos Aires); the Museo de Arte de Lima (Peru); and the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas, Austin.

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