

Fontanals-Cisneros donates Latin American art to a large tobacco center in Madrid

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He began to buy works in early seventies, and now she Fontanals-Cisneros has one of most important private collections in world of contemporary Latin American art and photography. Much of this notable collection, with about 3,200 works, will be located in building of old tobacco factory of Madrid, known as tobacco, under preagreement that is planned to sign tomorrow patron of Cuban origin (with home in Miami and Madrid) and Minister of Education, Culture and sports, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo. The pretension is to open new artistic attraction of Madrid in 2020 or all more in 2021.

More information

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- The fortunes that catapult Latin art
- Ella Fontanals-Cisneros: "I was very wrong when I started collecting"

Fontanals-Cisneros donates part of its collection for creation of center dedicated especially to Latin American art. Share space in same building with current CSA (self-managed Social center) tobacco and with a kind of extension of National Museum Reina Sofia, which aims to

locate artists residences and participate in programming of space, Especially dedicated to Vídeoarte. The building, located in central Ambassadors Street, in district of Footbath, is in phase of rehabilitation and has more than 8,000 square meters. At present time only CSA tobacco works after an agreement with Subdirectorate General of promotion and Fine arts of Ministry of Culture, which also manages directly one of two areas.

The signing of memorandum shall stipulate conditions of donation, deadlines for execution and a list of works donated in an agreement also sponsored by City Council of Madrid, according to sources aware of negotiations. This new project aims to contribute to definitive regeneration of area and to breathe life into a large building of eighteenth century — most of it empty of content — for which there have been multiple plans (such as Unborn National Center for Visual Arts , announced in 2007). It also extends axis of so-called "mile of Art" whose founding milestones are Prado Museum, Reina Sofía and Thyssen Bornemisza Museum.

Ella Cisneros-Fontanals, in her home in Havana, in 2016. MIGUEL PEREIRA

Ella Fontanals-Cisneros, 73 years old, a wife of businessman Oswaldo Cisneros, owner of Venezuelan Pepsi, is one of world's leading collectors of contemporary art. He is Cuban of birth, Venezuelan of adoption and Spanish by passport. In fact, he has a house in Chamberí district of Madrid. His collection consists of some 3,200 works whose central axis is Latin American abstract scenario. He has donated work to Tate, Pinacoteca de Sao Paulo and Reina Sofía Museum. Since 2002 he chairs Fundación Cisneros-Fontanals (CIFO), with offices in Miami and Madrid (opened in 2011). A space that, among other purposes, promotes through scholarships (100,000 dollars) presence of Latin American artists in United States.

Four are blocks that make up collection of patron: geometric abstraction of Latin America, contemporary international and Latin American art, contemporary video and modern and contemporary photography. Awarded in current edition of Arco, which starts tomorrow, with prize "a" to collecting, Fontanals-Cisneros will exhibit at Madrid Fair an exhibition that will include key works from his collection extracted from samples presented by CIFO over 15 years of foundation's history. The exhibition will include pieces by Lygia Clark, Antonio Días, Jac Leirner, Luis Camnitzer, Gabriel Orozco, Sameer Makarius, Carlos Leppe, Lázaro A. Saavedra González, Félix González-Torres, Gustavo Pérez Monzon, Sandu Darie, and Dolores (Lolo) Soldevilla, among others.

Sarah Morris. ' Midtown-Warner Bros. (1 Times Square) ', 1999. Courtesy: The artist and White Cube. Photography: Oriol Tarridas. Work belonging to collection Ella Fontanals-Cisneros.

"When CIFO was created in 2002, I decided to share my personal collection with public through exhibitions and opportunities for specialized research," says Ella Fontanals-Cisneros on her foundation's website. "Although he had spent many years creating base of collection, it was in that collection gradually became a knowledge platform and a meeting place, accompanied by many events and publications related to it. On this occasion due to presentation of award "a" to collection that has given me Fundación ARCO, we have decided to present a selection of works organized by CIFO as a testament to work we have done in past," he adds.

Bug-Carrugagem Fantastica-Pq '. 1960. Courtesy: The World of Lygia Clarl. Photography: Oriol Tarridas. Work belonging to collection Ella Fontanals-Cisneros.

In a recent interview with weekly country, Fontanals Cisneros said that discovery of artists has progressed in parallel to that of Latin art itself, which has been surpassing outstanding times for a decade. "Many saw it as an art inferior, naif or backward," said collector, who was interested in Venezuelan artists from his earliest youth. "I never had that vision. I always thought I was at level of any or tradition. Thanks to a greater knowledge, to samples organized by museums and also to effort of people like me, we have emerged from this undesirable situation. "

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