



MOUSSE

"Tomie Ohtake: Imperfect Geometry" at White Rainbow, London

October 26~2016



White Rainbow is pleased to announce “Imperfect Geometry”, a solo exhibition by the late Japanese-Brazilian painter and sculptor Tomie Ohtake (1913- 2015).

One of Brazil’s most celebrated artists, Ohtake is known primarily for her abstract paintings in primary colours, and for her ambitious public sculptural projects across Brazil and Japan. “Imperfect Geometry” will be her first solo exhibition in the UK in over 20 years, and will present Ohtake’s later works; a series of monochrome paintings and sculpture which have never been shown in Europe.

Since the 1980s, Ohtake’s numerous public sculptural projects have come to define the cityscape of Brazilian cities such as São Paulo and Brasília. Famous works include a monumental sculpture in Ibirapuera Park Auditorium carried out in 2004 in partnership with Oscar Niemeyer, mosaic murals for the São Paulo metro, and a sculptural monument to the city’s Japanese migrants beside the Centro Cultural São Paulo.

Dubbed the “first lady of Brazilian art” by the critic Agnaldo Farias, Ohtake’s career only took off in her 50s. Born in Kyoto, Ohtake travelled to Brazil in 1936 to visit a relative. Prevented from returning to Japan after the Pacific War broke out she made a new life for herself in Brazil, marrying and having two children. It was only in her 40s, with her children grown, that she began to paint; at first focusing on figurative subjects but later finding fame with brightly coloured abstract paintings. At the invitation of critic Mario Pedrosa, she staged her first exhibition in 1957 at the Salão Nacional de Arte Moderna, and during the course of her long career – she continued working until her death at 101 – participated in several international Biennales, including Venice, Havana, Cuenca and six iterations of the São Paulo Biennial.

Ohtake’s public standing led to her becoming an ambassador for arts and culture in Brazil where she welcomed international figures to the country, including Queen Elizabeth II, the Japanese Emperor, Yoko Ono, and Robert Wilson. In November 2001, the Tomie Ohtake Institute opened in São Paulo.

White Rainbow’s exhibition will focus on a series of later works; monochrome paintings with thick layers of paint created between 2013-2015, alongside smaller line-based sculptures. While Ohtake’s work has been widely discussed and theorized by leading critics such as Paulo Herkenhoff, the relationship between her painting and sculptural practice remains underdeveloped. By relating Ohtake’s monochrome paintings to her line sculptures, “Imperfect Geometry” will demonstrate how Ohtake explored line, shadow and light across two and three dimensions.

at White Rainbow, London
until 12 November 2016









"Tomie Ohtake: Imperfect Geometry" installation views at White Rainbow, London, 2016
Courtesy: White Rainbow, London