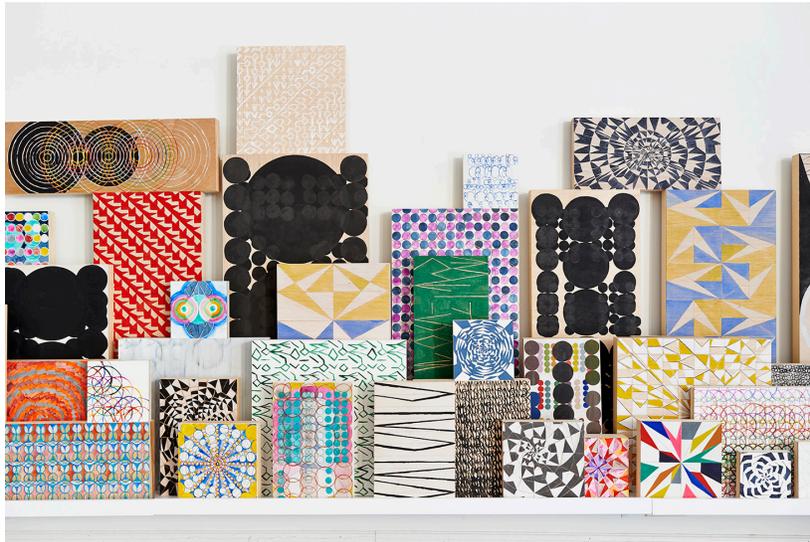


## Mana Contemporary Presents: Dirty Geometry In Latin American Art

*A new exhibition curated by Osvaldo Romberg declares war on orthodox  
geometric style in favor of a playful, erotic ethos.*



Emilia Azcárate, Untitled, 2012

**May 3 – August 1, 2015**

**Public reception: From 1 - 6 PM on May 3, 2015**

JERSEY CITY, NJ, March 20, 2015—Curated by artist Osvaldo Romberg, *Dirty Geometry in Latin American Art* showcases work that demonstrates what he sees as a rebellious attempt to separate itself from the tight, rigid theoretical framework perpetuated by traditional notions of geometry. Spread over two floors of gallery space, the exhibition features twenty-three participants, all Latin Americans working in geometric abstraction between 1950

and today, who explore a kind of creolization of orthodox geometric style. They effectively reinvent geometry into a notion that is free from theory—a “dirty war,” according to Romberg. Like the controversial French philosopher Georges Bataille, who believed that “divine filth” leads to pure ecstasy, Romberg believes it is possible to bring about an eroticism of geometry through dirt.

Romberg’s *Dirty Geometry* subverts the strict, systematic, straightforward qualities of geometric forms pioneered by Wassily Kandinsky, the Russian artist and art theorist credited for creating the first purely abstract paintings.

While a number of artists, including Mark Rothko and Frank Stella, have experimented with this bold approach, Romberg feels Latin American artists offer some of the most prominent examples of it.

By twisting and reinventing classic shapes using contemporary cultural prisms, the organic, pared-down works in the exhibition question the role of art in the human experience. Playful, colorful, and subtly sexy, the featured practitioners display a solid consciousness of artistic-cultural identity together with a sense of new possibilities.

### **About Mana Contemporary**

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is a leading arts destination dedicated to celebrating the creative process. Headquartered in a former tobacco warehouse in Jersey City, Mana unites artists' studios, exhibition spaces, and ancillary services in a single location, facilitating conversation and collaboration among its burgeoning creative community. Together with its sister campuses in Chicago and Miami, Mana serves as a lively center for all members of the art world. Visitors receive unparalleled access to a range of art-making techniques and presentations first-hand. A transparent, comprehensive hub of creativity, Mana offers a profound, personal approach to contemporary art. Mana Contemporary is home to the Richard Meier Model Museum, Gary Lichtenstein Editions, Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, Armitage Gone! Dance, Keating Foundry, The Florence Academy of Art, Shen Wei Dance Arts, and many others. For additional information, please visit [manacontemporary.com](http://manacontemporary.com).

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