

galerie gmurzynska

Roberto
Matta
Les Témoins de l'Univers

Opening 9 June 2022
10 June – 31 August 2022
Galerie Gmurzynska | Talstrasse 37 | 8001 Zurich

Press Contact: Mathias Rastorfer
mathias.rastorfer@gmurzynska.com
+41 44 226 70 70

Galerie Gmurzynska is pleased to present in Zurich from the 10th of June, 2022 a selection of masterpieces by Roberto Matta (Santiago de Chile, 1911 – Civitavecchia, 2002), a leading global figure of the Surrealism movement. The ten paintings displayed in the show are dated from 1947 to 1969, a climax period in the artist's itinerary, reflecting his great influence on the Post-War movements in New York and Paris.

To Roberto Matta the mission of the artist is to reveal the invisible and show the inscrutable. The artist invented a new perspective in his painting, conjuring up animated forms as if from another galaxy, diluting the colors and letting the brush flow over the canvas. The scope of expression of Matta's visual hallucinations seems limitless. Andre Breton said frequently that "Matta is at the very forefront" of the artistic avant-garde of Surrealism.

In this selection of rare and monumental paintings, one can see how Matta succeeds in expressing in the most creative way the raw material of his emotions and visions. The artist erects an extra-real world, which pushes back the boundaries of imagination to see the world through the walls of consciousness. Matta's works depict an imaginary world in motion through drawn images composed like a storyboard or a science-fiction comic panel. His works immerse us in a kind of fourth dimension, such as with the monumental triptych entitled *La nature unie* (1965) which envelops the viewer in an environment, as it was exhibited in Amiens in 1973 in a groundbreaking and gravity-defying installation. His expansion of the dimensions of perception was summed up by William Rubin, the pivotal curator of the Museum of Modern Art, who wrote "Matta became the only painter after Duchamp to explore wholly new possibilities in illusionistic space."

Roberto Matta, *La nature unie*, 1965, triptych



Beyond being a major avant-garde painter, Roberto Matta heralded the vanguard of tomorrow in his works, influencing countless other modern masters. His monumental and abstract paintings made with brushes and rags as often as with paintbrushes prefigured the nascent abstract expressionist movement. The *automatic* painting process which Matta helped develop undoubtedly influenced the *impulsive* pictorial gesture of the day's American painters. In New York, he imparted these techniques on figures such as Robert Motherwell and Jackson Pollock, who owes to Roberto Matta his Surrealist education, his decision to paint on monumental canvases, and his introduction to his patron Peggy Guggenheim. His primordial influence on the New York school can be summarized – and is echoed by many others – in Motherwell's statement that Matta "was the most energetic, poetic, charming, brilliant young artist that I've ever met."

This Roberto Matta exhibition at Galerie Gmurzynska occurs at a time of a strong revival for Surrealism on the world's art scene. The current Venice Biennale highlights paintings by female Surrealists; the Guggenheim Museum presents an exhibition *Surrealism and Magic: Enchanted Modernity* featuring Matta alongside Tanguy and Ernst; the Tate Modern's *Surrealism Beyond Borders* exhibition showcases non-European Surrealist artists... The legacy of Surrealism that pervades today's art world is perceptible in the works of many emerging artists. Now more than ever, we ought to take a closer look at a founding player in this school of art such as Roberto Matta.

The extensive catalogue accompanying the exhibition includes new essays from Jérôme Neutres Ph.D (former Director of Réunion des Musées nationaux-Grand Palais, Paris), Professor Fabrice Flahutez Ph.D (Université de Lyon-Saint-Etienne, France), Professor Elizabeth Goizueta (Boston College), Professor Robert Mattison Ph.D (Lafayette College), Daniel Rapoport Ph.D (Fraunhofer EMB), and Professor Dr. med. Jan A. Fischer.

**For more information on the gallery and its artists and activities please visit
www.gmurzynska.com**
