

CARLOS CRUZ-DIEZ

b. 1923, Caracas, Venezuela
d. 2019, Paris, France

“Art is a complex structure of communication, expression, discovery, invention.”

Born in Caracas, Carlos Cruz-Diez first studied art at the Escuela de Artes Plásticas y Aplicadas from 1940 to 1945. While studying there, he participated in a lively discussion group, which included artists Jesús-Rafael Soto and Alejandro Otero, key figures of the Venezuelan kinetic art movement. He was also influenced by his study of impressionism, as it applied to experiments with color. In his earliest work, Cruz-Diez painted figurative canvases intended to reflect and comment upon social issues. In 1954, influenced by his study of the Bauhaus and the European avant-gardes, Cruz-Diez created his first abstract and interactive projects. A year later, he began a series of *Objetos rítmicos móviles* that consisted of multicolored, movable figures made from wood and, in 1957, he began experimenting with colored light. His first *Physichromie*—translated as “physical color” these works explore the physical dimension of color—was made in 1959. The following year, Cruz-Diez and his family moved to Paris, where he met Argentine artist Luis Tomasello, and members of the Groupe de Recherche d’Art Visuel, and he quickly became an important member of the artistic communities there.

In 1971, Cruz-Diez established his workshop on the rue Pierre Sénard, in a former Belle Epoque-era butcher’s shop. From that workshop, he pursued his explorations of color and light with *Physichromies*, *Chromosaturations*, *Chromo-interference Environments*, and large-scale public projects, all of which were developed as investigations into visual and perceptual experiences of color. The artist describes his *Chromosaturation* series as the exploration of an often-unnoticed reality: “That reality (which I consider visible) leads us along other paths, both perceptive and sensory, to parallel ideas of beauty and sublimation.” Cruz-Diez is internationally considered a master artist of the 20th and 21st centuries for his contributions to the theory and practice of color.

Carlos Cruz-Diez’s works are represented in several major collections including Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris, France; Centre National d’Art Contemporain Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Collection of Latin American Art, University of Essex, England; Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX, USA; Musee de Grenoble, France; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Sofia Imber, Caracas, Venezuela; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Bogotá, Colombia; Museo de Arte Costarricense, San Jose, Costa Rica; Museo de Arte Moderno “Jesus Soto,” Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela; Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellin, Colombia; Museo de Arte Moderno, “La Tertulia,” Cali, Colombia; Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela; Museo de la Solidaridad, Salvador Allende, Santiago de Chile; Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museum für Konkrete

Kunst, Ingolstadt, Germany; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), Houston, TX, USA; Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, NY, USA; Museum of Modern Art, Sydney, Australia; Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, CA, USA; Tate Gallery, Millbank, London, UK and The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK.