

Vera Molnar - drawings

from January 13 to February 12, 2023

online exclusive

The denise rené gallery is pleased to begin the year 2023 with a digital exhibition of drawings* by the artist Vera Molnar, a major figure of geometric abstraction.

Born in Budapest on January 5, 1924
Currently living in Paris

Born in Hungary, Vera Molnar studied at the Budapest School of Fine Arts before moving to Paris in 1947 where she definitively abandoned all traces of the figurative in favor of a formal vocabulary reduced to the essential. Geometric forms became a pillar of her creation, developing a radical and experimental art strongly influenced by the field of science and mathematics.

Close to artists such as Julio le Parc or François Morellet, she and her husband François Molnar are involved in the creation of the CRAV (predecessor of the GRAV, Groupe de Recherche d'Art Visuel) in 1960. However, they quickly broke away because of a disagreement about the distribution of the works of the members of the CRAV. Vera Molnar was indeed reluctant for a long time to enter the art market, which explains the late recognition of her work.

Vera Molnar integrates programming in her artistic practice in 1959 by inventing an imaginary machine that creates drawings by algorithms that she realizes. In 1967, she co-founded the group Art et Informatique at the Institut d'Esthétique et des Sciences de l'Art in Paris. In 1968, she began to use the computer, making her a pioneer in digital art. She sees in the machine a tool that frees her creative possibilities by playing with variation and controlled chance:

«Thanks to its combinatorial possibilities, the computer allows systematic research in the visual field, helps the painter... to find combinations of forms that had never been seen before, neither in nature, nor in a museum: it allows to produce the unimaginable. The computer helps, but it does not make, it does not create, it does not find anything.»

(From an interview by Amely Deiss and Vincent Baby with Vera Molnar, 2012)

Vera Molnar still continues to use a manual practice that can be seen combined with an automated practice as in the Pas de deux series.

In 1976 she had her first solo exhibition at the Polytechnic Gallery in London.

In 1999, Vera Molnar's first major monographic exhibition was organized at Crédac, the contemporary art center in Ivry sur Seine.

In 2004, a retrospective exhibition for her 80th birthday was presented at the Wilhem-Hack-Museum in Ludwigshafen, Germany.

In 2018, Vera Molnar was nominated for the AWARE honorary award.

Since 1990, she has also presented her work in numerous group exhibitions: MoMA (New-York), galerie denise rené (Paris), Fondation pour l'Art Concret (Zürich), Musée Matisse (Le Cateau-Cambrésis), Musée Vasarely (Budapest), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Digital Art Museum (Berlin)...

Her works have been acquired in public collections in France (Bibliothèque Nationale, Centre Pompidou, Fonds régional d'art contemporain (FRAC) Île-de-France...) and abroad such as England (Tate, Victoria & Albert Museum...), Japan (National Library, Tokyo) or the United States (Museum of Modern Art, New York, National Gallery of Art...).

* The works presented may belong to series, please contact us if you wish to see other drawings by Vera Molnar or the entire series.