



CONTEMPORARY IMAGES IN PRINT SINCE 1915

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Diamonds are Forever: Edna Andrade

March 16 – May 27, 2006

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Artist Talks: 5:00 p.m. and Opening Reception: 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA: The Print Center is proud to present a body of work barely seen in Philadelphia: Edna Andrade's prints from the 1960's and 1970's. At the forefront of the op art movement, Andrade's paintings meticulously handpainted hard-edged geometric patterns are perfected in her prints. The margin of error was much less forgiving in screenprinting and lithography, demanding exactness and patience from both the artist and the master printer. Most of her prints are made up of a single geometric shape reiterated over and over leading to a dynamic, pulsating composition. Her prints unsettle the eye and sometimes induce a mild sensory experience for the viewer. Andrade was drawn to printmaking as a medium to make her work more accessible and create as wide an audience as possible, regardless of the person's art education. The immediacy of her work does not require an explanation. "People don't have to be aesthetes in order to understand it [her art]," Andrade explains, in the ICA's exhibition catalog, "It has a direct visual-emotional impact."

The exhibition at The Print Center also includes a few prints Andrade made at the Tamarind Institute after it moved to New Mexico in 1970. The influence and impression of the vast open land and the desert colors are prominent in Andrade's prints. Although still playing with optical geometric forms, the compositions are more organic making direct reference to the land and her experience of the non-urban landscape.

What is most surprising, Andrade's prints from the 1960's and 1970's are contemporary. Distinctly made and 30-40 years ago, they share the ideas with which and the contexts in which art is perceived today—the interchange between art, architecture and design. At the young age of 89 years old Andrade has her style come into prominence, fall out of favor only to become the focus of a new generation of art in the beginning of the 21st century.

Edna Andrade, born in 1917 in Portsmouth, VA, is based in Philadelphia and represented by Locks Gallery. She graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 1938. Throughout her career she has exhibited at numerous national and international venues including the Institute of Contemporary Art, University of Pennsylvania (2003), Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (1993-4), Amerika Haus, Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich, Germany (1985), Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. (1979), Philadelphia Museum of Art (1973-4), Brooklyn Museum of Art (1971) and Philadelphia Art Alliance (1965).

The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 11 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store, offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs and special events.

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