



TECHNE
SPHERE
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Press Release

Exhibition: Overcoming Gravity

Techne Sphere Leipzig presents original drawings by architect Lina Bo Bardi and glass objects by Veronika Kellndorfer.

Curator: Tereza de Arruda

Architect of the Exhibition: Ludwig à à Koehne

Exhibition period: Until January 26, 2025

A guided tour will take place on January 11 at 2 pm with Veronika Kellndorfer and curator Tereza de Arruda

With the title *Overcoming Gravity*, Techne Sphere Leipzig will exhibit, from November 9, 2024, original drawings by Italian-Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi, as well as glass objects and photographs by German artist Veronika Kellndorfer, which dialogue with Bo Bardi's work. The exhibition is being sponsored by the Brazilian Embassy in Berlin and in partnership with the Lina Bo and P. M. Bardi Institute of São Paulo and the Tchoban Foundation, Museum of Architectural Drawing in Berlin.

Forty original drawings by Lina Bo Bardi are on display, highlighting her unique approach and creative process. The exhibition includes sketches of six of her most iconic works in Brazil: Casa de Vidro, Solar do Unhão, MASP, Museu de Arte de São Paulo, Teatro Oficina, SESC Pompeia and Casa do Benin. Bo Bardi's works reveal her preference for glass and concrete, part of Brazilian architectural modernism. The drawings, mainly in color, demonstrate her poetic and free vision in creating architecture as total works of art. On the mezzanine of the exhibition space, Veronika Kellndorfer presents silkscreens on reflective glass, the result of her photographic research on Lina Bo Bardi. The large-format pieces are displayed independently in the space, creating overlaps between organic and architectural forms, work and environment, and reflection and transparency. The exhibition reflects the effect of lightness present in the architecture of Lina Bo Bardi and the works of Veronika Kellndorfer, with an ideal dialogue with Oscar Niemeyer's Sphere, encouraging the public to explore the lightness of forms in space, architecture, and the visual arts.

Lina Bo Bardi's innovative vision is also reflected in the furniture pieces she designed, which are characterized by elegance and functionality. Three of her iconic chairs—Bolas de Latão, Tripé, and the rocking chair—were reissued with authorization from the Bardi Institute and produced by the Brazilian company ETEL Design, complementing the exhibition.

Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992), born Achillina di Enrico Bo in Rome, emigrated to Brazil in 1946 with her husband, Pietro Maria Bardi. The height of her recognition came in 2021 when she was

posthumously honored with the Golden Lion by the Venice Architecture Biennale in celebration of her work. In 2024, at the 60th International Venice Biennale, her works were also exhibited. Lina Bo Bardi saw architecture as a complete work of art, an expression that appears in her drawings in a poetic, playful, and natural way. In her architecture, she created a fusion between structure and lightness; her iconic buildings, such as the Glass House, the São Paulo Museum of Art (MASP), and SESC Pompeia, seem to float in space despite their imposing structures. By using open spaces, glass elements, and concrete structures, she created places that appear visually light despite their physical presence.

This way, Bo Bardi built a dialogue between the building and its surroundings, creating a continuous relationship between nature, people, and space. Her works are spaces of socialization designed to promote the social and cultural potential of architecture in society. An example of her radical and innovative approach to museum architecture and art presentation is the concrete supports and the crystal easels she designed for MASP, allowing for a free-flowing presentation of the paintings. As if floating in space, the works appear "suspended" – an effect that redefines the importance of the works of art and the viewer's role.

As a visual artist, Veronika Kellndorfer (*1962) has been exploring the cultural memory of Brazilian society through her architecture for over ten years. In her 2015 solo exhibition at Casa de Vidro, Kellndorfer positioned her glass works on Lina Bo Bardi's concrete supports, creating a floating effect of the pieces in space. This presentation is reflected in the glass, interacting with the light and reflecting the environment, dissolving the line between reality and reflection.

Wild Windows is a publication dedicated to Veronika Kellndorfer's Brazilian projects. Spector Books released it in 2023. www.spectorbooks.com/book/veronika-kellndorfer-wild-windows

Veronika studied painting and art history in 1982 at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna and from 1983 to 1990 at the Berlin University of the Arts. She currently lives and works in Berlin. www.kellndorfer.com

Tereza de Arruda is an art historian and curator who has lived since 1989 between São Paulo, Brazil, and Berlin, Germany. She works in Europe, South America, the United States, and Asia as a curator. It has organized monographic exhibitions for artists such as Lina Bo Bardi, Veronika Kellndorfer, Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Chiharu Shiota, Sigmar Polke, Yang Shaobin, and Clemens Krauss, as well as international exhibitions on sociocultural themes. As a guest curator or co-curator, she has collaborated with events such as the Havana Biennial, Cuba; the Curitiba International Biennial, Brazil; the International Biennial of Ceramic Art in Jingdezhen, China; and the Kunsthalle Rostock. www.p-arte.com

The Techne Sphere Leipzig includes the Niemeyer Sphere, designed by Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer (1907–2012). Ludwig Koehne, founder of Techne Sphere Leipzig, proposed Leipzig as the project's location in a letter. Shortly afterward, the idea for a tower-shaped building with a sphere on top was born. In close collaboration with Jair Valera, director of Oscar Niemeyer's office, the sphere's construction was completed in 2020.

The transparency of the glass dome gives the sphere an immaterial quality, creating a sense of timelessness and lightness as it interacts with the sky and the surrounding architecture. The adjacent art gallery and the historic Halle 9 on the industrial site provide exhibition space for international artists exploring the relationships between art, space, and architecture.

www.technesphere.de

The Lina Bo and P. M. Bardi Institute, known as Instituto Bardi/Casa de Vidro, was founded by Pietro and Lina in 1990 to promote study and research in the fields of architecture, design, urbanism, and art in Brazil. The Glass House, the first building by Italian-Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi, and the Bardis' residence for over 40 years have become an icon of modern architecture, representing the couple's innovative thinking and lifestyle in a timeless way: simple, committed, diverse, and full of beauty. Designed by Lina Bo Bardi in 1950 and listed as a historical heritage site in 1987, the Glass House currently houses the Institute's headquarters and the couple's collection. www.institutobardi.org.br/en/

Exhibition:

Until January 26, 2025

Visiting hours: Saturdays and Sundays, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, and by appointment

The exhibitions are not accessible to people with disabilities

Press and Information Contact

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