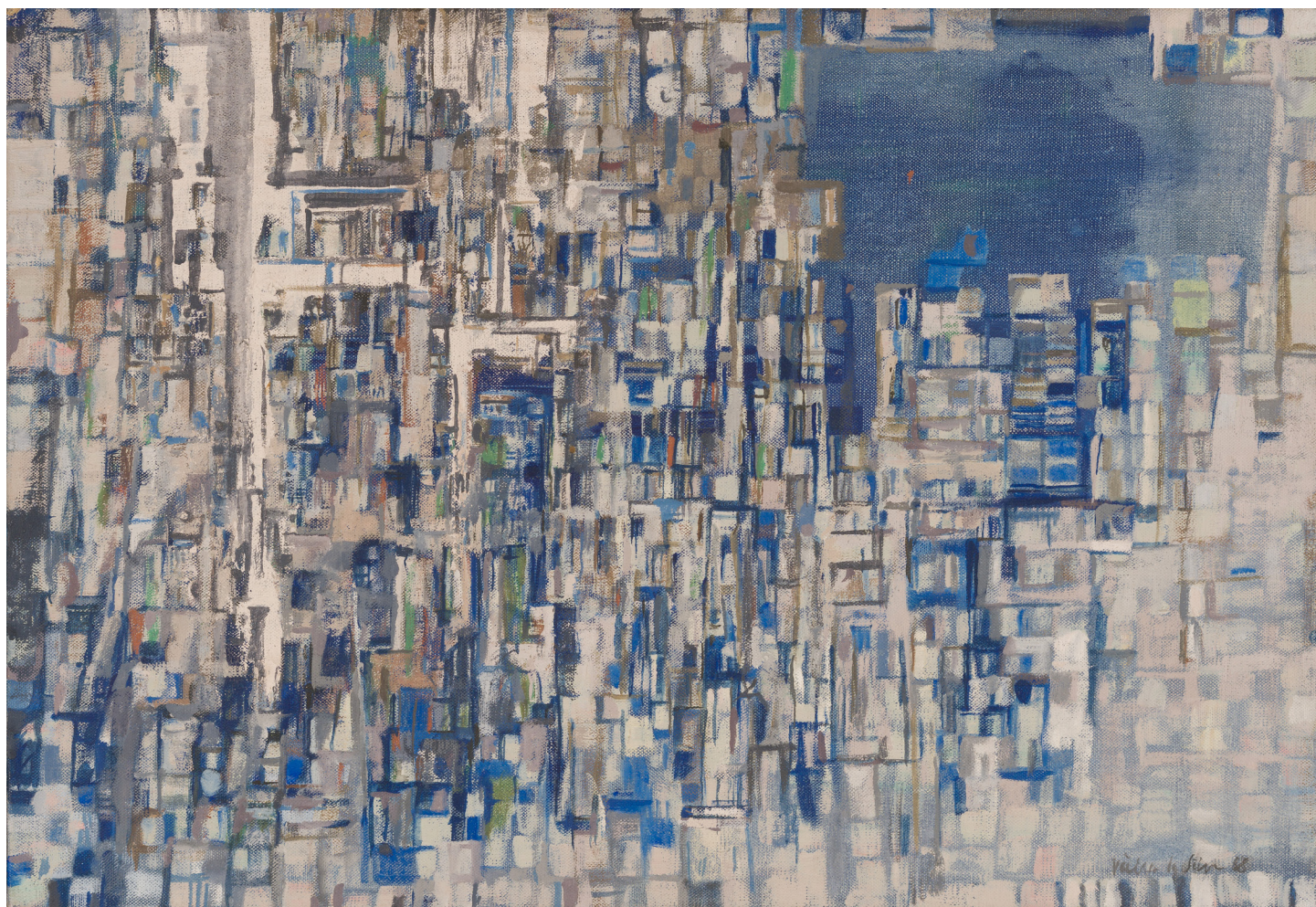


Maria Helena Vieira da Silva



Maria Helena Vieira da Silva celebrates the dynamic range of the Portuguese-born modernist painter's body of work. A key member of the post-war avant-garde in Paris, Vieira da Silva is best known for intricate paintings that reflect her remarkable sense of rhythm and pattern. Historically, scholars have approached her work through the lens of *artiste informelle*, *tachiste*, or International Abstract Expressionism. This exhibition looks beyond these categorizations to address Vieira da Silva's personal use of gestural and formal abstraction to construct pictorial spaces that are at once familiar and unknown.

Born in Lisbon in 1908, Vieira da Silva began her artistic career in 1919 at her home city's Academia Nacional de Belas Artes. In 1928, in pursuit of her desire to cultivate her artistic practice at the epicenter of the avant-garde, she moved to Paris, where she absorbed a variety of influences including fourteenth-century painters of the Siennese School, Post-Impressionism, and the avant-garde group Cercle et Carré. Early exposure to these artists' unconventional use of grids and perspective informed Vieira da Silva's signature visual language. Small square shapes, reminiscent of the Hispano-Arabic Azulejo tiles found in Portugal, map out ambiguous spaces in a radical new style that builds on elements of Cubism, Futurism, and Constructivism.

At the outbreak of World War II, Vieira da Silva and her husband, Hungarian painter Árpád Szenes, fled to Portugal en route to Rio de Janeiro, where Vieira da Silva continued to paint and exhibit until her return to Paris in 1947. During her exile, she began depicting games of chess and cards, as well as music and dance, themes which occupied a central role in her practice long after her sojourn in Brazil. After the war, Vieira da Silva's paintings echoed the realities of post-war Europe, including flooded and razed cities, claustrophobic corridors and altered landscapes. In her later work, the artist looked toward light as a theme to investigate, both in terms of subject and choice of color palette. Vieira da Silva continued to paint in Paris until her death in 1992.

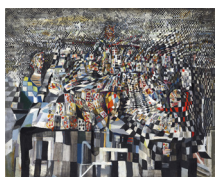
Organized in a first-ever international collaboration with Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris, and Waddington Custot, London, *Maria Helena Vieira da Silva* unites a vibrant selection of paintings and works on paper from private collections and foundations in Europe and the United States in the first exhibition dedicated to the artist's oeuvre in New York since 1971. We invite you to explore this rare presentation of Vieira da Silva's compelling painting practice as a testimony to her uniquely layered approach to representation and lasting influence on subsequent generations of artists.

DI DONNA

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ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH JEANNE BUCHER
JAEGER, PARIS & WADDINGTON CUSTOT, LONDON

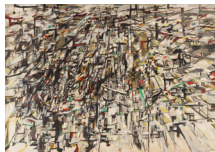
Maria Helena Vieira da Silva



LES JOUEURS DE CARTES

1947-48

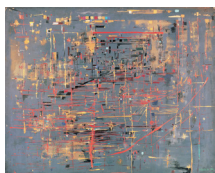
Oil on canvas
81 by 100 cm (31 $\frac{1}{8}$ by 39 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.)
On Loan
DDG 64836



LA VILLE TENTACULAIRE

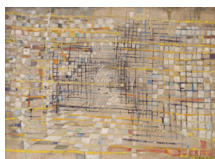
1954

Oil on canvas
65 by 92 cm (25 $\frac{5}{8}$ by 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.)
DDG 65086



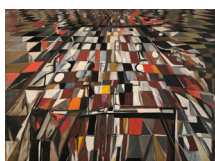
LA VILLE NOCTURNE (LES LUMIÈRES DE LA VILLE) 1950

Oil on canvas
81 by 100 cm (31 $\frac{1}{8}$ by 39 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.)
On Loan
DDG 64433



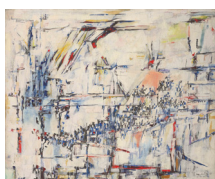
SANS TITRE 1952

Oil on canvas
53.6 by 72 cm (21 $\frac{1}{8}$ by 28 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.)
DDG 61741



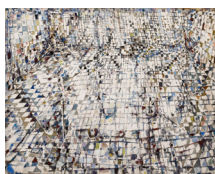
SANS TITRE 1952

Oil on canvas
97 by 130 cm (38 $\frac{1}{4}$ by 51 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.)
On loan from The Estate of
Alexander Calder
DDG 65053



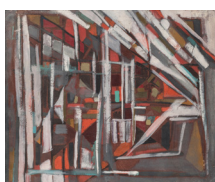
SANS TITRE 1955

Oil on canvas
60 by 73 cm (23 $\frac{5}{8}$ by 28 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.)
DDG 61740



SANS TITRE 1949

Oil on canvas
64.5 by 81 cm (25 $\frac{3}{8}$ by 31 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.)
DDG 63919



LE PALAIS DES GLACES

c. 1948

Oil on canvas
38.2 by 46.3 cm (15 $\frac{1}{8}$ by 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.)
DDG 63486



COMPOSITION AUX DAMIERS BLEUS 1949

Gouache on paper
49.6 by 65 cm (19 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 25 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.)
DDG 63498



LES CARREAUX FOUTENT

LE CAMP c. 1955

Oil on canvas
32.1 by 43.8 cm (12 $\frac{5}{8}$ by 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.)
On loan from The Estate of Alexander
Calder
DDG 65051



LE JEU DE CARTES 1937

Oil and pencil on canvas
72.9 by 92.2 cm (28 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 36 $\frac{1}{4}$ in.)
On Loan
DDG 64634



FIGURE DE BALLET 1948

Oil and pencil on canvas
26.7 by 46 cm (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 18 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.)
On Loan
DDG 63485



NORMANDIE 1949

Gouache on canvas
40 by 47 cm (15 $\frac{3}{4}$ by 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.)
DDG 63487



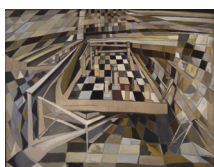
LA GARDE DES ANGES 1950

Oil on canvas
60.5 by 92.3 cm (23 $\frac{7}{8}$ by 36 $\frac{3}{8}$ in.)
DDG 63489



BALLET (LES ARLEQUINS) 1946

Gouache and pencil on card
49.3 by 80 cm (19 $\frac{3}{8}$ by 31 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.)
On Loan
DDG 63497



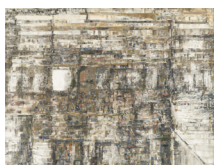
ÉCHEC ET MAT 1949-50

Oil on canvas
88.8 by 116 cm (35 by 45 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.)
On Loan
DDG 64635



GRIS COROT 1950

Oil on canvas
53.5 by 81 cm (21 $\frac{1}{8}$ by 31 $\frac{1}{8}$ in.)
DDG 61748



MÉMOIRE 1966-67

Oil on canvas
114 by 146.9 cm (44 $\frac{7}{8}$ by 57 $\frac{7}{8}$ in.)
DDG 63490

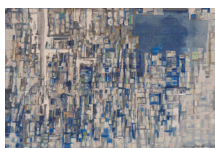
Maria Helena Vieira da Silva



LISBONNE 1940/1952
Gouache on cardboard
41.4 by 48.3 cm (16 ¼ by 19 ½ in.)
DDG 63496



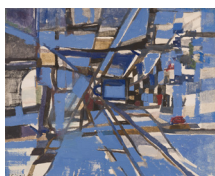
IMPRESSION PASSAGÈRE
1991
Tempera on paper
57.5 by 121.3 cm (22 ⅝ by 47 ¾ in.)
DDG 64805



ARTÉMIS 1968
Oil on canvas
38 by 55 cm (15 by 21 ⅝ in.)
DDG 61739



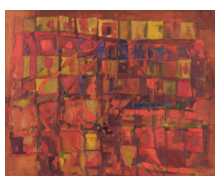
LE JARDIN D'IPOMÉE c. 1974
Tempera on handmade paper
30 by 33 cm (11 ¾ by 13 in.)
DDG 64301



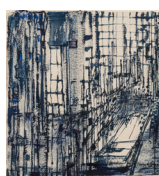
STRUCTURE DYNAMIQUE
1956
Oil on canvas
59.8 by 73.1 cm (23 ½ by 28 ¾ in.)
DDG 63920



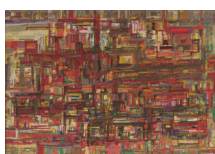
COSÍ FAN TUTTE 1971
Watercolor, tempera and
China ink on paper
58.5 by 39.7 cm (23 ⅜ by 15 ⅝ in.)
DDG 63501



BIBLIOTHÈQUE 1952
Oil on canvas
72.4 by 91.4 cm (28 ½ by 36 in.)
DDG 61742



LE CHŒUR 1971
Tempera on paper
30.5 by 28.5 cm (12 ⅞ by 11 ¼ in.)
On Loan
DDG 63500



RED HOUSES 1963
Tempera on canvas laid down
on canvas
39.6 by 56.4 cm (15 ⅝ by 22 ¼ in.)
DDG 63918



L'EAU 1962
Tempera on paper
66.2 by 50.7 cm (26 ⅞ by 20 in.)
DDG 63499



LE CHEMIN 1963
Watercolor on paper
99.2 by 61.2 cm (39 ⅞ by 24 ⅞ in.)
On Loan
DDG 64640



CHEMINS DE LA PAIX 1985
Oil on canvas
72.6 by 100 cm (28 ⅝ by 39 ⅜ in.)
On Loan
DDG 63493



PERSPECTIVES 1981
Oil on prepared kraft paper laid
down on canvas
47 by 141.1 cm (18 ½ by 55 ½ in.)
DDG 63492



L'OISELEUR 1949
Oil on canvas
33 by 55 cm (13 by 21 ⅝ in.)
DDG 63488



**LES IRRÉSOLUTIONS
RÉSOLUES VII** 1969
Oil and charcoal on prepared canvas
195 by 97 cm (76 ¾ by 38 ¼ in.)
DDG 63491



À LA LIMITE 1972
Tempera on paper laid down
on canvas
57.3 by 122.6 cm (22 ½ by 48 ¼ in.)
DDG 64300



VERS LA LUMIÈRE 1991
Oil on canvas
116 by 72.6 cm (45 ⅝ by 28 ⅝ in.)
DDG 63494

Please note all works are on view
from Private Collections unless
otherwise noted.



DI DONNA

Maria Helena Vieira da Silva (b. 1908, Lisbon; d. 1992, Paris) in her studio on rue de l'Abbé-Carton in Paris. Courtesy Galerie Jeanne Bucher Jaeger, Paris © Wölbting-Van Dyck, Bielefeld et Ida Kar