

International Tour

# CARTOGRAPHIES COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL TOUR TO LATIN AMERICA

Last spring, the Winnipeg Art Gallery presented *Cartographies*, an exhibition of contemporary art by 14 Latin American artists. Curated by Ivo Mesquita of São Paulo, the exhibition presented artists from Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela, Colombia, Chile, Brazil and Argentina. Following its presentation in Winnipeg, the show embarked on a major international tour, with stops scheduled for Venezuela, Colombia, Canada, and the United States. The tour has brought the *Cartographies* exhibition from Colombia back to Ottawa, prompting a look back at its successful visit to Latin America.

Organizing the tour for *Cartographies* took the combined efforts of many people to sort out a myriad of complex details, not the least of which was how to get the exhibition safely from one venue to the next. To simplify moving the show and to reduce costs, the WAG purchased a 40 foot long steel container to transport the exhibition. WAG staff carefully packed the exhibition into crates, loaded the crates into the container, and sent it to Venezuela via ocean freighter from New York City. Schenker International, German freight forwarding agents, assisted with coordinating the customs and shipping arrangements.

First stop on the tour was the Museo de Artes Visuales Alejandro Otero (MAVAO), located in a lush green suburb of Caracas. Opened in 1990 and dedicated to Venezuelan artist Alejandro Otero, the MAVAO is a major cultural centre covering 5,000 square metres with exhibition space for visual art, and facilities for programming in film, theatre, music, and dance.

From Caracas, *Cartographies* rode by truck to the Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango in downtown Bogotá. The Biblioteca is an exhibition space created within the former library of a Spanish colonial hacienda, adjacent to and administered by the national bank of Colombia. Both the Biblioteca and the MAVAO participate in the Latin American contemporary art circuit and promote the international exchange of artists and touring exhibitions.

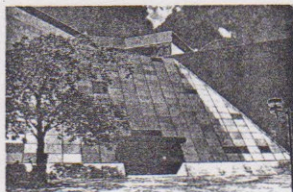
Because of the size and complexity of the *Cartographies* exhibition, the WAG sent Ivo Mesquita and Gallery staff to help the hosting museums install the show, and later to dismantle and repack the exhibition. At the MAVAO, the WAG worked with Jorge Gutiérrez, President, Cecilia Robinson, Executive Director, and their staff to mount an excellent installation of *Cartographies*, which generated positive reviews from the Latin American press. Under the direction of Carolina Ponce de Leon, Chief, Visual Arts, and Marianna Salizar, Head, Museography, the staff successfully adapted the show to the salon-style galleries of the Biblioteca.

The tour of *Cartographies* to Latin America not only gave the WAG an opportunity to share resources and expertise with the Biblioteca and the MAVAO, it also allowed the WAG to participate in the dialogue on contemporary Latin American art. The WAG would like to sincerely thank the staff of the Biblioteca and the MAVAO for providing professional expertise throughout the tour, and for their warm generosity as hosts to the WAG staff.

As organizers, the WAG is especially grateful for the financial support provided by The Canada Council. Special thanks to The Rockefeller Foundation and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., for taking an interest in the project, and for their financial support, ensuring the success of the *Cartographies* tour.



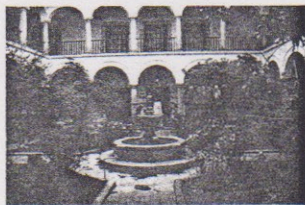
Robert Epp, Extension Services Co-ordinator



Entrance to the MAVAO, Caracas, Venezuela.



Unloading and installing *Cartographies*, MAVAO.



Courtyard entrance to the Biblioteca, Bogotá, Colombia. Photos: WAG



Photo above: In Caracas (l. to r.): Richard Dyck, WAG Vault Technician; Venezuelan artist Alfred Wongmaster and his two children; Carey Archibald, WAG Exhibition Designer/Head of Installations; Ivo Mesquita, *Cartographies* Curator; Gilles Hebert, WAG Curatorial Projects Co-ordinator. Photo right: Ivo Mesquita speaking to Venezuelan journalists, and Jorge Gutiérrez, President of the MAVAO, (right). Photos: MAVAO



## TOUR

Museo de Artes Visuales Alejandro Otero  
Caracas, Venezuela  
August 12 - September 19, 1993

Biblioteca Luis Angel Arango  
Bogotá, Colombia  
October 26 - December 12, 1993

National Gallery of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
February 18 - May 1, 1994

The Bronx Museum of the Arts  
Bronx, New York  
October 6, 1994 - January 22, 1995