

For Immediate Release

Lina Bo Bardi: Together *April 25-July 25, 2015*

Chicago, March 23, 2015—The Graham Foundation is pleased to announce the first U.S. presentation of *Lina Bo Bardi: Together*—an exhibition that pays tribute to the work and legacy of twentieth-century Italian-Brazilian architect Lina Bo Bardi. Featuring new works by artist Madelon Vriesendorp, filmmaker Tapio Snellman, and photographer Ioana Marinescu, this exhibition endeavors to inspire new conversations around Lina Bo Bardi's work. It brings to life the experience of Bo Bardi's buildings and inclusive approach to design, which aimed to dispel aesthetic and social hierarchies and embraced the texture and diversity of her adopted Brazil. Curated by Noemi Blager and designed by London-based architecture and design firm Assemble, *Lina Bo Bardi: Together* will open to the public with a reception at the Graham Foundation's Madlener House on April 24, 2015.

Born in Rome in 1914, Bo Bardi moved to São Paulo in 1946, where she lived, immersing herself in the politics and popular culture of Brazil, until her death in 1992. Throughout her works, which spanned architecture, furniture design, curating, writing, illustration, and stage sets, Bo Bardi sought to integrate art and life, conviction with playfulness, and creativity with honesty. Embracing the existing urban fabric and social and cultural practices of São Paulo and Salvador da Bahia, Bo Bardi drew on construction techniques and materials rooted in local practices, and integrated them with the values of the Modern Movement. Bo Bardi's inclusive approach to building and design was above all grounded in the respect for people: their energy, expression, and collective freedom.

Marking the centennial of Lina Bo Bardi's birth, *Lina Bo Bardi: Together* highlights the vitality and creative momentum that Bo Bardi's work and writings continue to inspire today. It reveals Bo Bardi's innovative designs for public use, including the Museu de Arte Popular do Unhão, Bahia (1959) and the SESC Pompéia, a recreational center built in an old factory building in São Paulo, as well as The Glass House (1951), which she designed for herself and her husband Pietro Maria Bardi.

The exhibition transforms the first two floors of the Graham Foundation's Madlener House with an immersive installation, including photographs, films, and a collection of objects by Madelon Vriesendorp. This collection reflects the culmination of workshops that Vriesendorp conducted at the Solar do Unhão, a crafts center and industrial design school in Bo Bardi's Museu de Arte Popular do Unhão, Bahia. Tapio Snellman's film projections explore the textures, colors, sounds, and social lives of Bo Bardi's buildings, including the SESC Pompéia. Ioana Marinescu's photographs reveal the intimate world of the Glass House, investigates the objects that Bo Bardi choose to display in her own environment. Finally, the exhibition includes three Bowl Chairs, originally designed by Bo Bardi in 1951 and manufactured for the first time in a limited edition by Arper on the occasion of Lina Bo Bardi's centennial.

Related Events

Friday, April 24

5:30 PM Comments by Noemi Blager, Madelon Vriesendorp and Tapio Snellman.

6:00–8:00PM Opening Reception

Wednesday, April 29, 6PM, Talk

Jennifer Scappetoni

Thursday, May 14, 6PM, Talk

Zeuler Lima

Additional events will be announced throughout the run of the show. For more information about upcoming events, visit: www.grahamfoundation.org/public_events

PARTICIPANT BIOS

NOEMI BLAGER is an architect and curator from Buenos Aires, Argentina, who is now based in London. She is former acting director of the Architecture Foundation in London and member of the Design Museum curatorial committee. Blager is advisor of the Lina Bo Bardi Fellowship, a project initiated by the British Council to create long-term connections between British and Brazilian artists, designers, and architects. In 2003, Blager collaborated with OMA on the exhibition *Content*, presented in Germany and the Netherlands. She is the culture and development consultant at the Italian design company Arper. She has been a guest lecturer at the Institut für Kunst und Architektur, Vienna; Kingston College, London; and ESADE, Barcelona; as well as tutor of architectural design at the University of Buenos Aires.

MADELON VRIESENDORP co-founded the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA) with Rem Koolhaas and Elia and Zoe Zenghelis. Her paintings have been used for numerous book and magazine covers, notably *Delirious New York* (1978) by Rem Koolhaas. Her work has been exhibited at the Serpentine Gallery (London), Guggenheim Museum and Max Protetch galleries (New York), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam), Aedes Gallery (Berlin), Gallery Ma (Tokyo), Architectural Association (London), and the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale. Vriesendorp's work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, The Canadian Center for Architecture, and Frac Lorraine, France. Since the mid-1980s, she taught art and design at the Architectural Association, London, and Edinburgh School of Art.

TAPIO SNELLMAN is a filmmaker, artist, and architect engaged in architectural and urban discourse. His work includes film installations, commercial moving images, experimental 3D animation, and site-specific projections for museums, theater, and dance. He has had long-term collaborations with creators, such as Herzog & de Meuron, Zaha Hadid, OMA, David Adjaye, and Sasha Waltz on film, animation, and performance projects. Snellman received degrees in Architecture and City Planning from the University of North London and Universität Stuttgart, and currently holds a lecturing position at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. His films and installations have been

exhibited at numerous venues, including The Victoria & Albert Museum, Tate Modern, The Hayward Gallery, and The Design Museum, London; the Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; and at several iterations of the Venice Architecture Biennale.

IOANA MARINESCU is a London-based artist working with photography. She studied architecture in Romania and the UK before turning to photography. Her work has been shown at the Architectural Association and RIBA, London; the Cité du patrimoine et de l'architecture, Paris; the Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna; and the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal. Marinescu teaches architecture at Kingston University in London and runs regular workshops and lectures on photography and architecture. Her PhD at the Slade School of Fine Art is concerned with the relationship between cities and memory.

ASSEMBLE is a young, architecture and design practice based in London. Founded by a collective of 18 members, its work covers a broad range of disciplines, mediums and interests. Through a collaborative working practice Assemble explores design ideas, testing unexpected and imaginative uses of materials and construction. Previous projects range from an experimental theatre space to affordable housing development. Assemble has exhibited internationally, and numerous awards include the Bauwelt international architecture prize (2013) and the New London Architecture Awards (2012). The setting for this exhibition has been designed by Assemble to be a re-enactment of the experience of Lin Bo Bardi's work.

ARPER is a furniture design company based in Treviso, Italy, and is the main sponsor of *Lina Bo Bardi: Together*. Arper has produced a limited edition of 500 pieces of The Bowl Chair to support the Instituto and to finance the exhibition tour. For more information, please visit www.arper.com.

INSTITUTO LINA BO E P.M. BARDI in São Paulo, Brazil, is open to the public and holds the archives of Lina Bo Bardi and Pietro Maria Bardi.

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations, and produces programming designed to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society.

THE MADLENER HOUSE

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a turn-of-the-century Prairie-style mansion, designed by Richard E. Schmidt and Hugh M. Gardner (1901–02) and renovated by prominent modern architect Daniel Brenner. The 9,000 square-foot historic home now houses galleries, a bookstore, an outdoor collection of architectural fragments, an extensive non-lending library of grantee publications, and a ballroom where the foundation hosts a robust schedule of public programs.

BOOKSHOP

The Graham Foundation's bookshop, designed by Ania Jaworska, offers a selection of new, historically significant, and hard-to-find publications on architecture, art, and design, many of which have been supported by grants from the Graham Foundation.

GALLERY HOURS AND VISITOR INFORMATION

Admission to the galleries and bookshop are free and open to the public Wednesday through Saturday, 11AM–6PM. Group tours are available by request.

ACCESSIBILITY

The second floor galleries and third floor ballroom where events are held are only accessible by stairs. The first floor galleries and bookshop are accessible via outdoor lift. Please call ahead to make arrangements.

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High-resolution digital images are available on the press section of our website; email Mia Khimm at mkhimm@grahamfoundation.org for the press login or additional information. Press tours welcome by appointment.



Images (clockwise from top) Lina Bo Bardi, *Glass House*, 2012. Photo Ioana Marinescu. Courtesy of the Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi; Lina Bo Bardi, *SESC Pompéia*, date unknown. Courtesy of the Instituto Lina Bo e P.M. Bardi; Tapio Snellman, *SESC Pompéia*, still, 2012.