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## Avant-Garde, Internationalism, and Politics: Argentine Art in the Sixties (Latin America Otherwise)

Andrea Giunta

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AVANT-GARDE, INTERNATIONALISM, AND POLITICS

Argentine Art in the Sixties

ANDREA GIUNTA

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**Andrea Giunta : Avant-Garde, Internationalism, and Politics: Argentine Art in the Sixties (Latin America Otherwise)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Avant-Garde, Internationalism, and Politics: Argentine Art in the Sixties (Latin America Otherwise):

The 1960s were heady years in Argentina. Visual artists, curators, and critics sought to fuse art and politics; to broaden the definition of art to encompass happenings and assemblages; and, above all, to achieve international recognition for new, cutting-edge Argentine art. A bestseller in Argentina, *Avant-Garde, Internationalism, and Politics* is an examination of the 1960s as a brief historical moment when artists, institutions, and critics joined to promote an international identity for Argentina's visual arts. The renowned Argentine art historian and critic Andrea Giunta analyzes projects specifically designed to internationalize Argentina's art and avant-garde during the 1960s: the importation of exhibitions of contemporary international art, the sending of Argentine artists abroad to study, the organization of prize competitions involving prestigious international art critics, and the export of exhibitions of Argentine art to Europe and the United States. She looks at the conditions that made these projects possible—not least the Alliance for Progress, a U.S. program of "exchange" and "cooperation" meant to prevent the spread of communism through Latin America in the wake of the Cuban Revolution—as well as the strategies formulated to promote them. She describes the influence of Romero Brest, prominent art critic, supporter of abstract art, and director of the Centro de Artes Visuales del Instituto Tórcato Di Tella (an experimental art center in Buenos Aires); various group programs such as *Nueva Figuración* and *Arte Destructivo*; and individual artists including Antonio Berni, Alberto Greco, León Ferrari, Marta Minujín, and Luis Felipe Noé. Giunta's rich narrative illuminates the contentious postwar relationships between art and politics, Latin America and the United States, and local identity and global recognition.

"Giunta carefully defines the polemics in transforming Buenos Aires into an internationally recognized center for artistic production and avant-garde culture. . . . Recommended." — L. E. Carranza, *Choice*