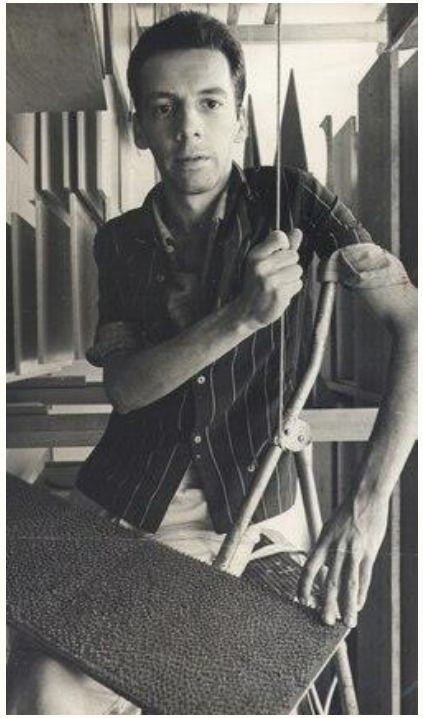
Artist Resources – Hélio Oiticica (Brazilian, 1937-1980)



Oiticica, 1966
Photograph: Fundo Correio da Manhã

Oiticica Estate at Lisson Gallery Oiticica at MoMA Oiticica at the Tate

Learn about Oiticica's *parangolés* (or wearable, experimental garments) on Smarthistory.

In the early 2000s, *Hélio Oiticica: The Body of Color* was developed after an extensive, multi-year research project with the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston and Projecto Hélio Oiticica. The exhibition then traveled to the Tate in 2007. Read a review of the exhibition in Artforum by Ann Reynolds.

In 2016, *Hélio Oiticica: To Organize Delirium* was co-organized by curators at the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago. It was the first comprehensive retrospective of the artist's work in the United States. Read a review in the New Yorker and watch a panel about the artist hosted at the Whitney.

The Institute of Contemporary Art Miami installed *Hélio Oiticica: Bólides* in 2017, displaying his series of objects that draw from the language of geometric abstraction and encourage visitors to physically interact.

Hélio Oiticica: Penetrável Macléia was at the Pérez Art Museum in Miami in 2022, featuring the walk-in installation of the same name that was recently acquired by the museum.

De La Warr Pavilion installed *Hélio Oiticica: Waiting for the internal sun* in 2023, the first major exhibition of the artist's work in the UK for 15 years. Read comprehensive reviews in Burlington Contemporary and in Go with Yamo.

Hélio Oiticica & Neville D'Almeida: Cosmococas was at Lisson Gallery in 2023, realizing Oiticica's "quasi-cinemas" in collaboration with Brazilian filmmaker D'Almeida to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Oiticica's *Cosmococas- Programa in Progress* (1973). Read a review in The Paris Review by Elisa Wouk Almino.

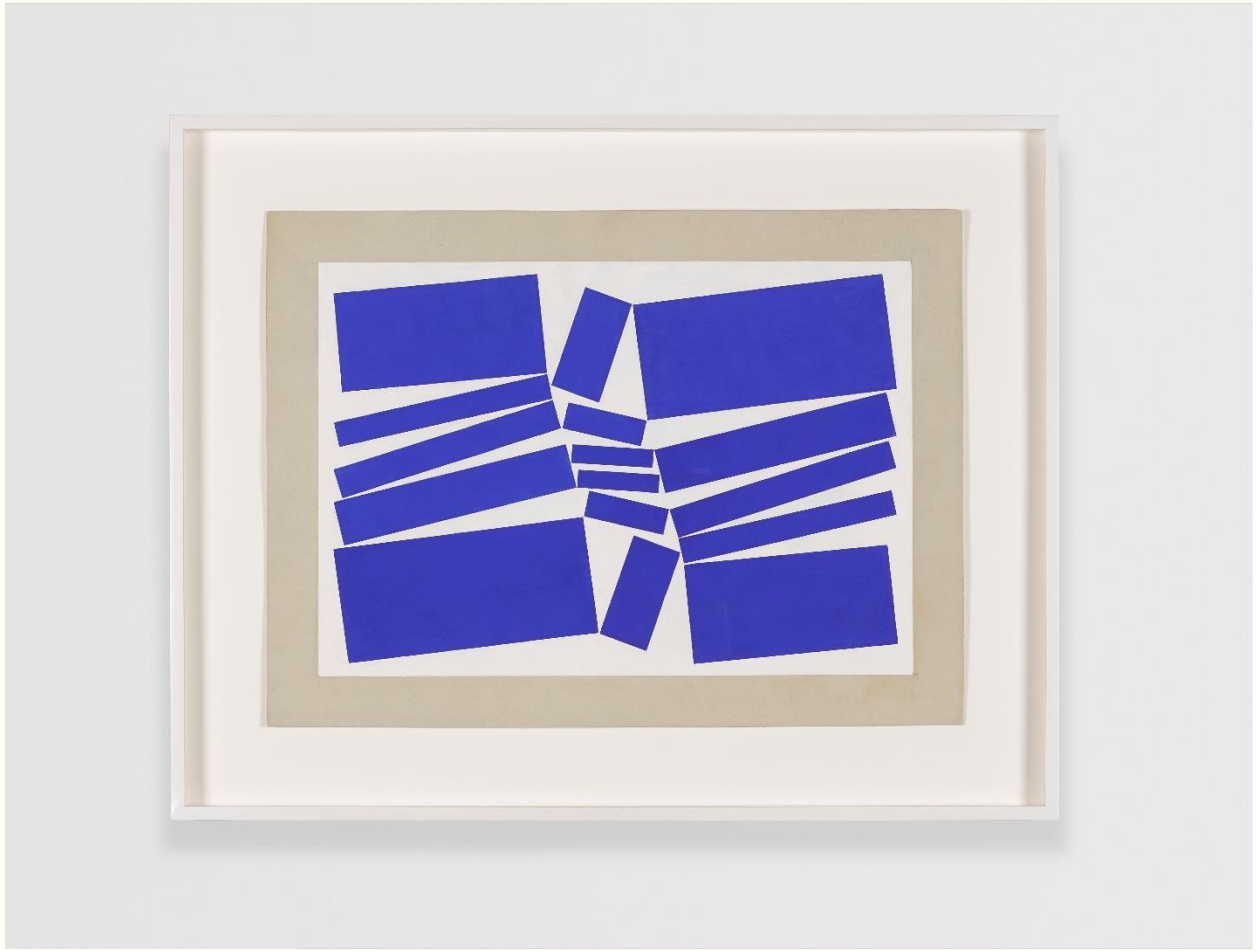
Oiticica's *Grande Núclio* is on long-term view at Dia Beacon in New York. Read an article about the work in Grow Annenberg Foundation.

Lisson Gallery's Los Angeles location opened *Hélio Oiticica* in 2025, the first in LA to feature the artist's work.

In 2026, Oiticica's first outdoor installation in Europe was installed at Goodward Art Foundation. Read a review of the display in Aesthetica Magazine.



Oiticica in his Rio de Janeiro studio, 1965
Photograph: Claudio Oiticica



Hélio Oiticica (Brazilian, 1937-1980)
Untitled (Metaesquema), 1958
Gouache on cardboard

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2026:62.2

Brazilian artist Hélio Oiticica was born into an educated family and attended elementary school in Washington, D.C. while his father pursued a Guggenheim Fellowship. He enrolled in art school at sixteen and began taking courses at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro. **Untitled (Metaesquema)** is part of his early work, when he was influenced by the modernist movements of Concrete art and De Stijl in Europe. Oiticica was fascinated by geometric energy, working to create art between painting and drawing that would "cleanse color, leaving the cardboard raw."

On view September 9 – December 13, 2026