

1954

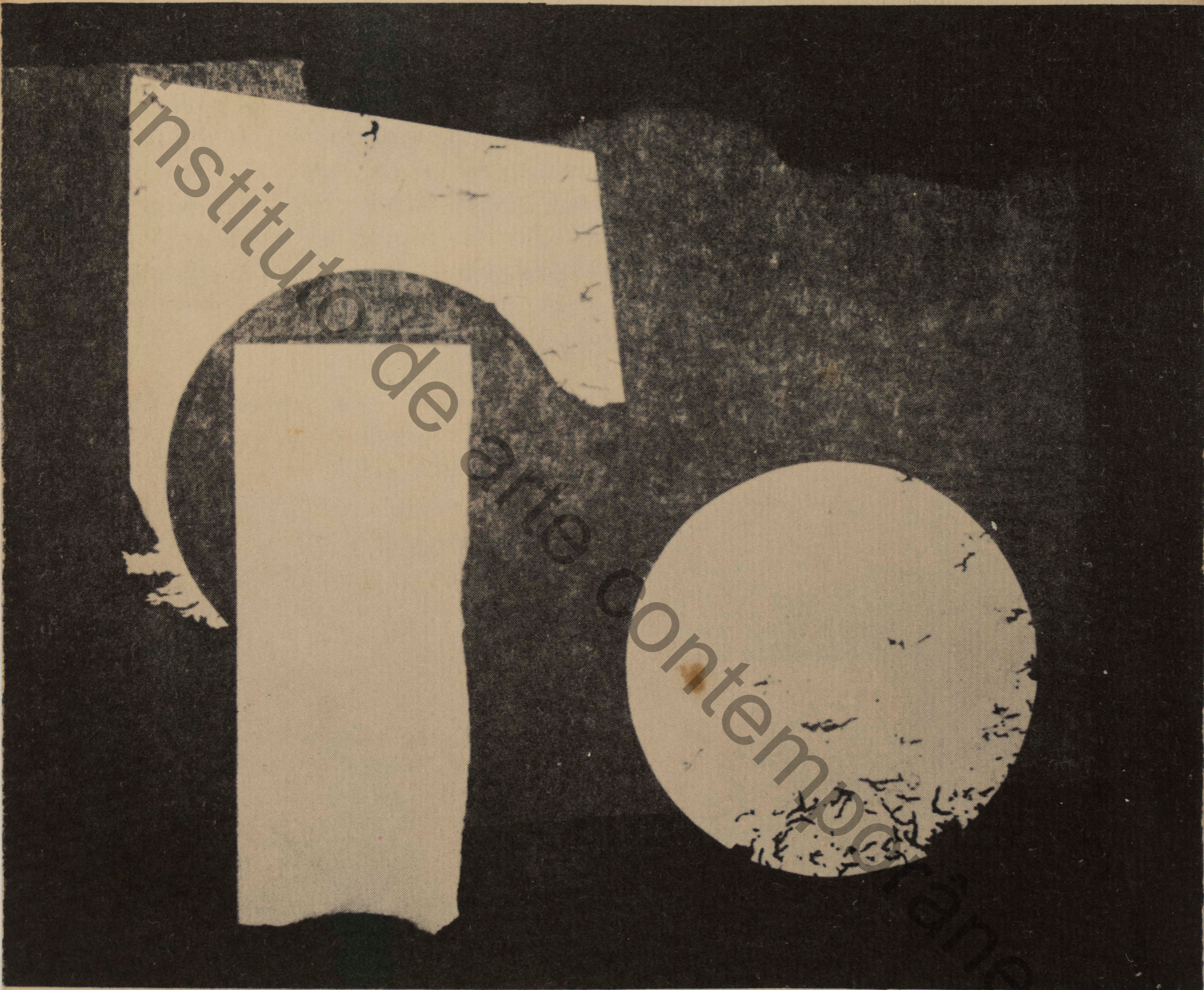
IVAN SERPA

*Collage and painting*

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*august 17 to september 16 • 1954*

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**PAN AMERICAN UNION** WASHINGTON D.C.

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Ivan Serpa was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1923. He studied there under Axel Leskocheck and received awards at several local and national salons. His first one-man show took place in 1951, at the Prazilian-American Institute in Rio, and works by him were included in the two international Biennials of Sao Paulo, winning various prizes. Among other group shows in which he has participated are the Brazilian exhibit in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Venice Biennial of 1952, and this year's Pan American exhibit in Caracas.

Serpa reflects the non-objective, constructivist trend that, principally under the influence of the Swiss "concrete" movement, has developed recently in the work of several modern artists of Brazil. In addition to his work in oil, Serpa has been experimenting with a new method of *collage*. Paper of different colors is cut, mainly in geometric shapes, and the pieces overlapped. They are then laminated by a process involving the use of cellulose, compressed at a carefully determined temperature. Interesting textures and shades are produced, resulting from the contrast between the transparency and opaqueness of the silk paper employed. This new technique of *collage* makes Serpa's work more resistant to changes in weather, maintaining the stability of the composition.

The notable critic, Mario Pedrosa, in discussing this new method, commented: "By his discovery, this young Brazilian artist has given us a broad, yet precise, perception of color as a purely physical element - of color as light. At the same time, he has enriched our aesthetic acquaintance with a new experience, typical of our age: that of colors in themselves, freed of their immemorial

association with objects, finding support only in abstract arrangements of geometrical planes, regular or irregular, transparent or opaque, void of any objective significance. This vision of the interplay of colors in purely imaginary space opens up to the spectator a new dimension of reality. This is the secret of all true art."

The present exhibit consists for the most part of examples of this medium discovered by the artist. It is being presented as the first step in an interchange between the Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro, where the artist teaches, and the Pan American Union. It represents the first exhibit of any of Serpa's work in the United States, and has been made possible through the generous cooperation of the Moore-McCormack Lines, which provided the transportation.



#### CATALOG

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- 18 - Gouache
- 19 - Composition No. 96 - oil
- 20 - Composition No. 97 - oil



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