

## SOUTH AMERICAN PAINTINGS AT SIGNALS

The exhibition "Soundings Two" at *Signals London Gallery, 39 Wigmore Street, W.1*, comes 18 months after the first anthology of that name shown at the Ashmolean Museum. The Signals Gallery and its energetic director, Mr. Paul Keeler, have made a great, if somewhat raucous, impact on our art scene in a short time, and this exhibition shows up clearly the strength and weakness of their activity.

Above all, Signals has enabled us to see a great deal of work by artists, mostly from France and South America, previously unknown here. That these have turned out to be so numerous is rather shocking; Soto, Camargo, Cruz-Diez, and Otero are but four of them, and all of the greatest interest. Their work in the present show constitutes its highlights, and J. R. Soto's 27ft. long-wall of shimmering lines is one of the most stimulating sights of London this month. In scale and visual impact it differs from his rather pretty earlier work and shows him to be seriously concerned with those same questions of shallow-space illusion which are now exercising painters internationally.

Carlos Cruz-Diez is showing a specially commissioned long panel which presents an ever-changing coloured view of diamond shapes as one moves before it. The things these two pictures are "about" are being tackled in many ways in many countries. Frank Stella and Jules Olitski have achieved a lot, their innovations (more effective than sensational) being instantly devoured if not digested by the North Atlantic art world. North American painting is now fairly easy to see in London—no thanks to the Tate—but the south would not exist for us without Signals, which here gives us our first chance to see these major contributions from Venezuela, take a glimpse of another Venezuelan, Alejandro Otero, and look again at the Brazilian Sergio de Camargo.

The exhibition which, for all its faults, is very well worth visiting, continues until August 22, when the exhibits will be changed; the second version will then continue for a month.