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ART FORUM



● "Relief No. 170," by Sergio de Camargo.
Illustration courtesy of Gimpel Fils Gallery.

SERGIO DE CAMARGO was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1930. He first visited Europe in 1948. Following a course in philosophy at the Sorbonne he made contact with Arp, Brancusi, and others. He has lived in Paris since 1961.

The constructions in low-relief by Camargo are essays into broken surfaces, penetrated surfaces, and regulated texture. In many of his recent panels the build-up is carried out by using sections of various sized cylinders. These achieve the effect in the artist's mind by being set at variance. The truncated forms are affixed to their support at constantly varying angles. Largely the final visual effect is found by the use of raking light, which gives a great sense of depth.

In more simple compositions Camargo is content to place seven or eight cylinder fragments on a white ground so that they give the appearance of having thrust their way through from the other side. Despite the limitations, self-imposed, of his materials the panels that result can be highly diverting and when set architecturally lend much to their environment.