



Frieze Masters 2024
Feliza Bursztyn

**THE
MAYOR
GALLERY**

Frieze Masters 2024

Opening hours

9 October, 11 am - 7pm (invitation only)
10 October, (invitation only) 11am – 1pm, (public) 1pm - 7pm
11 - 12 October, 11am - 7pm
13 October, 11am - 6pm

Location

The Regent's Park
Gloucester Green
NW1 4HA

Stand E13

On the occasion of Frieze Masters, London, The Mayor Gallery is excited to present Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France) who was a pioneering Colombian artist whose work, alongside that of her Brazilian contemporaries Gego and Mira Schendel, revolutionised the Latin American art scene. Throughout her career, the artist combined and interrogated ideas about art, machines, craft, modernity, and labour through the lens of hysteria- a term which since the nineteenth century has been used to describe female instability, abnormality, and emotional excess. Bursztyn created her kinetic sculptures using discarded fragments of machines, tires, cables and other metal bits adding, with time, hand-dyed fabrics, motors, light, and sound to produce increasingly complex installations and environmental proportions. By deploying the notion and tropes of madness, Bursztyn thus explored the irrationalities, fragilities, and ambiguities of modern life.

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Born to Polish Jewish immigrants, her father owned a small textile factory, which allowed Bursztyn to pursue studies first in Bogotá, then at the Art Students League in New York, and lastly at the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. In 1960 she converted a section of her father's factory into an art studio. Her early decision to work with scrap metal and other pieces of discarded material was due to a combination of accessibility and of having met the Nouveau Réalisme sculptor César (1921-1998). When Bursztyn presented her first of eleven *Chatarras* (sculptures made from scrap) in 1961, she received a harsh review from Walter Engel, one of Colombia's leading art critics. By 1964 and on the occasion of her second solo show, however, W. Engel and others had reconsidered the possibilities of junk as an art medium. In 1965 Bursztyn won first prize in sculpture at the 17th *Salón Nacional*, and in 1967 she unveiled a new body of work, made of stainless steel and with a kinetic component, which she titled *Las Histéricas* (The hysterical ones). These motorized sculptures were occasionally presented in immersive environments that included not only a loud mechanical sound but also a short film titled *Hoy Feliza* (Today Feliza) by the experimental filmmaker Luis Ernesto Arocha.

Despite her critical success, some saw her works as political commentaries against the state and the church and in 1981, after two trips to Cuba, she was detained and questioned for two days by the military. Shortly after her release she sought political asylum in Mexico and then settled in Paris, where in 1982 she died of a heart attack at the age of forty-nine.

Her work has been collected privately and by public institutions, such as the Museo de Arte Moderno, Museo Nacional de Colombia, and Banco de la República, all in Bogotá, and Tate Modern, London. *Welding Madness*, a large retrospective of her work was held at Muzeum Susch, Switzerland, in 2022.



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9 Bury Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6AB
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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Números)

c. 1960

Scrap metal

25.4 x 25.4 x 27.9 cm

10 x 10 x 11 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

Acquired directly from the family of the artist

Jay Melnick, Connecticut

Private Collection, New York

Exhibited

London, The Mayor Gallery, *Not Bronze*, 1 February - 30 March 2023

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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Chatarras Series)

c. 1961

Scrap metal

80.6 x 21.6 cm

31 3/4 x 8 1/2 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

Acquired directly from the family of the artist

Jay Melnick, Connecticut, USA

Private collection, New York, USA

Exhibited

London, The Mayor Gallery, *Not Bronze*, 1 February - 30 March 2023



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Chatarras Series)

c. 1961

Scrap metal

128 x 29 x 28 cm

50 3/8 x 11 3/8 x 11 1/8 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

Acquired directly from the family of the artist

Armando Villegas, Bogota

Leon Tovar Gallery, New York

Exhibited

New York, NY, Leon Tovar Gallery, *Shadow*, 2016

New York, NY, Leon Tovar Gallery, *Edges and Angles*, 2017

London, The Mayor Gallery, *Not Bronze*, 1 February - 30 March 2023



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Chatarras Series)

c. 1963

Welded iron scrap

90 x 70 x 50 cm

35 3/8 x 27 1/2 x 19 3/4 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

Augusto Rendón (Colombian artist) collection by descent;
his daughter Alexandra Rendón

Literature

Artshock Magazine: SOLDANDO LOCURA. PRIMERA RETROSPECTIVADE FELIZA BURSZTYN FUERA DE COLOMBIA / WELDING MADNESS. FIRST RETROSPECTIVE OF FELIZA BURSZTYN OUTSIDE COLOMBIA, 2022



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Minimáquinas Series)

c. 1968-1974

Welded steel

28 x 14 cm

11 x 5 1/2 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

Acquired directly from the artist's studio by the artist's friend Alberto Gutiérrez Bessudo, Bogotá, Colombia

By descent, October 2018

Literature

Leyva, Camilo, Master's degree dissertation: *Las Minimáquinas y Azilef: Otros mundos de Feliza Bursztyn / Minimáquinas and Azilef: Other worlds by Feliza Bursztyn*



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Miniescultura Series)

1972

Welded stainless steel on a black marble base

39 x 17 x 22 cm including base

15 3/8 x 6 3/4 x 8 5/8 inches including base

Certificate available

Provenance

Acquired directly from the artist

Private collection, Miami, USA



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Arbol (Tree)

1972

Assemblage of welded Typewriter and mechanic parts on base

46 x 15 x 15 cm including base

18 1/8 x 5 7/8 x 5 7/8 inches including base

Certificate available

Provenance

Celia Birbragher Collection, ArtNexus Magazine, Miami Fl, Bogotá, Colombia

Luis Fernando Pradilla Collection, Bogotá, Colombia

Exhibited

Bogotá, Galería El Museo, *Maestros*, December 2014

Bogotá, Galería El Museo, *Geometría y abstracción*, May 2016

Bogotá, Estudio Las Nieves, *Four Decades: Latin American Art in ArtNexus*, October 2016

Bogotá, *Maestros*, November 2016

Bogotá, *From Object to Subject. Contemporary Sculpture Tradition*, July 2019

Bogotá, Galería El Museo, *Maestros*, November 2020 - January 2021



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Chatarras Series)

c. 1975

Scrap iron rod

113.4 x 97 x 67 cm

44 5/8 x 38 1/4 x 26 3/8 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

The estate of the artist

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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Color Series)

1981

Iron Scrap

112 x 174 x 114 cm

44 1/8 x 68 1/2 x 44 7/8 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

The estate of the artist

Exhibited

Bogotá, Colombia, Museo Nacional de Bogotá, *Elogio de la Chatarra*, 2009

"By using parts of a car as her primary material, Bursztyn not only recalled their former glamorous life, but also complicated the ideas developed by the Nouveaux Réalistes or contemporaneous artists working under the pop art rubric.

(...)

In these works, Bursztyn points to yet another dimension: her colorful assemblages may be read as allusions to proletarian labor. (...) This association with the working class also invoked the role of men in society. Neither the mechanic nor the worker described above could be other than male in Colombia in the 1960s (...) her adoption of welding as an artistic technique challenged classical gender stereotypes."

Marta Dziwarska and Abigail Winograd, *Feliza Bursztyn: Welding Madness*, translated by Maria Peroggi, Michael Wolfson-Susch, Muzeum Susch, 2021



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Feliza Bursztyn (b. 1933 Bogotá, Colombia - d. 1982 Paris, France)

Untitled (Color series)

1981

Iron scrap (Vehicle)

157 x 123 x 72 cm

61 3/4 x 48 3/8 x 28 3/8 inches

Certificate available

Provenance

The estate of the artist

Exhibited

Susch, Switzerland, Museum Susch, *Feliza Bursztyn: Welding Madness*, 18 December 2021 - 26 June 2022

London, The Mayor Gallery, *Not Bronze*, 1 February - 30 March 2023

Literature

Feliza Bursztyn: Welding Madness, 2021, Museum Susch, exhibition catalogue, no. 3, p. 23

"By using parts of a car as her primary material, Bursztyn not only recalled their former glamorous life, but also complicated the ideas developed by the Nouveaux Réalistes or contemporaneous artists working under the pop art rubric.

(...)

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