

Nikolai Kasak: Space Constructions – Works on Paper and Wood, 1940s-1970

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022, 6-8 PM



Cecilia de Torres, Ltd. in collaboration with Sammer Gallery, Miami, is pleased to present *Space Constructions*, an exhibition of constructivist and geometric abstract paintings, drawings, wooden reliefs and constructions by Nikolai Kasak, dating from the 1940s to 1970.

Of Belarusian descent, Nikolai Kasak originally considered joining a monastery and dedicating his life to religion. Instead, he pursued his formal training in art in the 1930s and 40s, receiving his undergraduate degree in Warsaw and pursuing his graduate studies in Vienna and Rome.

While trained in the academic style of late 19th century Realism, Kasak was profoundly influenced by the artists of the De Stijl, Russian Constructivist, and Suprematist movements, shifting from a figure-based aesthetic to pure abstraction.

After living in Rome and Florence from 1945 to 1950, Kasak immigrated to the United States in 1951. He first arrived in Dallas, TX, and subsequently moved to New York, where he would spend the remainder of his life.

The artist became involved with the Argentine Madí movement during the 1950s and 60s, after an invitation from Gyula Kosice, and his work was shown in several of the group's exhibitions.

From the 1940s to the 1990s, Kasak wrote a number of theoretical essays including *Physical Art – Action of Positive and Negative* (1945-46), and *From Action to Dynamic Silence: The Art of Nikolai Kasak* (1991).

For Kasak, "Physical Art reflects a free and deep human understanding of art and the working laws of the visible and invisible worlds. It is an intellectual and spiritual force... an original creative effort to parallel the fundamental organization of the cosmos with the unitary nature of divine reality."

~ Nikolai Kasak, "Physical Art Manifesto," 1945-46