

Press release

**Geraldo de Barros**

Exhibition from 15<sup>th</sup> September to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005

The Guy Bärtschi gallery will exhibit in its "Project" space for the first time in Geneva, the work of the Brazilian artist Geraldo de Barros, from 15 September to 22 October 2005. This exhibition will allow to discover his photographic work of the 50's but also the "Sobras" series with unpublished works.

Geraldo de Barros was born in 1923 in Xavantes, Sao Paulo and died in 1998 in Sao Paulo. Initially a painter, he discovered photography in 1946. Continuing in this direction, he experimented with several techniques such as the photogram, the rayogram, solarisation, drawing with Indian ink on negative, repeated exposure of the same negative, cropping, diving and back-diving, manipulation of images. In 1949 he was commissioned to set up a laboratory at the Museo de Arte de Sao Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, where he produced a series of photographs that he was able to exhibit in 1950, under the title "Fotoformas", a photographic reference to the theory of form. At the same time, the photographer Otto Steinert founded the Fotoform group in Germany, known as Subjektive Fotografie. Then in the 1950s, de Barros joined Max Bill's concrete art movement, which he met in Zurich and spent a period in France between 1951 and 1952.

On his return to Brazil, he was one of the founders of the "Grupo Ruptura", a Brazilian concrete art movement. He became the pioneer of experimental Brazilian photography and also one of the most important artists of the constructivist movement. From that moment on, Geraldo de Barros left the field of photography for almost forty years to devote himself to painting, graphics and design (he won numerous prizes). He innovated and produced an original work, unique in modern post-war Brazil, but was never isolated from the movements of modern art.

In 1975, his daughter Fabiana discovered his photographic work of the 1950s and new exhibitions will make them re-discovered. In 1996, in spite of her illness, the series "Sobras", which means "remains", will see the light of day. They will allow us to discover his family and travel photos that he cut, juxtaposed and retouched with an astonishing sense of freedom that has always characterized his work.