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The State Hermitage Displays Constructivist Paintings of Roberto Matta for the First Time

An exhibition of Roberto Matta, one of the most famous Latin American artists of the 20th century, has opened up at the General Staff building of the State Hermitage.



The Chilean *cher maître* is widely considered to have been the last of the greatest Surrealists. In his youth, he was a friend and an associate of Salvador Dali and Andre Breton, the main theorist of Surrealism.

Starting as an architect, Matta quite quickly switched to painting: instead of homes, he started projecting his own worlds, which were sometimes quite creepy.

The artist became famous for his dark, utopian, and often large visionary pictures that he started to create back in the days of World War II.

Matta's works are full of creatures that look like both insects and humans, and form parts of gigantic machines. Whatever the artist painted, the mysterious "fourth dimension" was always there.

Art critics have stressed that Matta's works clearly convey the feeling of time and the process of art reaching maturity.

Though this is the first time the Russian audience gets to see Matta's works, the artist visited Russia when he was young and participated in a housing design project there.

His mindset and art have been heavily affected by the works of Pyotr Ouspensky, a Russian

philosopher, visionary, and occult thinker who was one of the main theorists of the "fourth dimension."

Roberto Matta described himself as not an artist but rather someone who "tries to construct the images that will help us realize the essence of the verb 'to see!'"