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## Cristea Roberts Gallery

43 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JG  
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## Press Release 12 March 2026

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### The Carlos Cruz-Diez Estate joins Cristea Roberts Gallery, London



Carlos Cruz-Diez in his studio, Paris, France, 2014

**Cristea Roberts Gallery is delighted to announce global representation for the original prints from the Carlos Cruz-Diez Estate. Graphic works by Carlos Cruz-Diez (1923 – 2019) will be the subject of a major retrospective at the gallery in 2027.**

The artist's paintings, sculptures and prints, architectural interventions and site-specific installations, alongside his research and writings, make him one of the great twentieth-century thinkers and innovators in the realm of colour. His radical approach to art anticipated the immersive and experimental works that define much of contemporary art today.

Cruz-Diez made a significant body of printed work throughout his lifetime, picking it up at important points in the development of his research and practice. He worked almost exclusively in screen-print, in later years expanding his use of the medium to include lithography, etching and digital print.

Cruz-Diez's work is based on three conditions of colour - subtractive, additive and reflective. Uturning traditional modes of spectatorship, his work requires the viewer to move around in time

and space. Instead of simply looking at the work of art, the viewer becomes a participant in a phenomenological event.

His first body of abstract work, entitled *Couleur Additive*, 1959, featured precisely applied, vertical lines of colour on a support. The works explore how the combination of two-colour planes give the illusion of a third. Cruz-Diez's introduction to printmaking arose when trying to achieve these perfectly spaced lines of colour. After trying various drawing methods, Cruz-Diez employed the printing pattern, Ben-Day and the screenprinting technique to complete the works.

Printmaking and the multiplication of the image went on to become one of main sources of discovering his chromatic world, allowing him to develop the concepts of his colour thesis.

Cruz-Diez's graphic works relate to different areas of research, in particular *Couleur Additive*, *Inductions Chromatique* and *Couleur à l'Espace*. *Induction Chromatique* prints explore the phenomenon of afterimage, or retinal persistence. If the viewer fixes their gaze on red colour plane for a certain period of time, they retain, even after looking away, an image of the plane, before it appears green. This is the induced colour. These works reinforce Cruz-Diez's theory that art is an experience located in a viewer, not an object in the world.

To make his prints, created in both series and as single works, Cruz-Diez hatched lines and fractured planes to manipulate, transform, and generate colour. The nature of printmaking offered the mathematical clarity required to convey the complexity of colour.

His final body of printed work was completed in 2019. The artist developed his highly individual style of abstraction to the very end, dedicated to a medium that had helped lay the foundations for his life's work.

The artist stated in 2015 "*The prints I have produced over the years have all been inspired by the spirit of 1959, that same spirit of revelation, discovery, and wonder at the colour phenomenon that generates additions and inductions with frequencies and double frequencies. My graphic works show colour being launched from the traditional static plane into space, as dynamic and changing as colour itself appears in reality.*"

Cristea Roberts Gallery's first showing of Cruz-Diez's prints will be at Art Basel Hong Kong, Booth 1B35 (27 – 29 March 2026).

Following further presentations at art fairs throughout 2026, the gallery will stage a solo exhibition of works from the Estate in London in 2027.

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### Image

Carlos Cruz-Diez in his studio, Paris, France, 2014  
Photo: ©Atelier Cruz Diez / Lisa Preud'homme  
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### About the artist

Carlos Cruz-Diez (1923 - 2019) was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He studied art at the Escuela de Artes Plásticas y Aplicadas, Caracas, from 1940 to 1945, before working in illustration and advertising.

He had his first solo show in Caracas in 1947. In 1965 he participated in the group show *The Responsive Eye* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the exhibition drew worldwide attention to the 'Op Art' movement. Five years later in 1970 Cruz-Diez represented Venezuela at the Venice Biennale, installing several large-scale works in the pavilion including *Chromosaturation*, 1965/1970, an immersive and participatory artwork of three empty rooms illuminated in red, green and blue.

In 2023, to celebrate the artist's the centenary, an exhibition entitled *RGB: The Colors of the Century*, conceived by Cruz-Diez ten years earlier, toured the world, in partnership with the Centre Pompidou and the Musée national d'art moderne. Venues included Museo de la Estampa y del Diseño Carlos Cruz-Diez, Caracas; Museo de Arte Costarricense, San José; Hangaram Museum, Seoul; and North Bund Bay, Shanghai. Further exhibitions celebrating the artist's centenary were shown at Centre Pompidou, Malaga, and the Galeria de Arte Nacional GAN, Caracas.

Recent solo exhibitions include The Institute for Studies on Latin American Art, New York (2026); Pérez Art Museum Miami, Florida (2025); Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid (2021); Expo 2020 Dubai, France Pavilion, Dubai (2021); Espaço Cultural Porto Seguro, São Paulo (2020); MAC Panamá, Panamá City (2019); Museum für Konkrete Kunst, Ingolstadt (2018); SCAD Museum of Art, Georgia (2016); and Centro Cultural Internacional Oscar Niemeyer, Avilés, (2014).

A large retrospective took place in the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston, Texas in 2011, and toured to Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo; the Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City; and Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires - Fundación Costantini, Buenos Aires. He had a mid-career retrospective at the Josef Albers Museum Quadrat Bottrop in Germany in 1988.

Having first visited Europe in 1955, Cruz-Diez settled in Paris in 1960, where he lived and worked for the rest of his life. Throughout the 1970s and 80s he held teaching positions in Paris and Caracas. In 2012 he was honoured with the Officer grade, Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur, Paris, France.

His works are housed in collections worldwide including Tate, London; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Wallraf-Richartz

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Museum, Cologne; Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek; Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Sofia Imber, Caracas; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Bogotá; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, D.C.; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney.

Carlos Cruz-Diez died aged 95 in 2019 in Paris, France.

### About Cristea Roberts Gallery

Cristea Roberts Gallery is a leading international contemporary art gallery with a particular focus on original prints and works on paper. Since its inception, the gallery has commissioned a significant number editions by a wide range of artists, whilst also representing others for their unique works. The underlying ethos of the gallery has always been artist-led.

Acknowledged as one of the leading galleries in its field of specialty, the gallery's programme is dedicated to publishing, cataloguing, exhibiting and dealing in original prints and drawings by its roster of over 30 important international artists and Estates. It participates in all the major international art fairs and has a dynamic programme of exhibitions hosted in its bespoke space in Pall Mall, London.

The gallery works closely with international museums on acquisitions and loans, and examples of its editions are held in major public collections around the world including Tate, London, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; and Museum of Modern Art, New York.

### Cristea Roberts Gallery Visitor information

Tues - Fri 11 am - 5.30pm  
Sat 11 am - 2pm  
Closed on Mondays, Sundays and public holidays  
Free admission

Travel: Piccadilly or Green Park underground station

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### Art Basel Hong Kong 2026

Booth 1B35  
Preview Days: Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 March  
Public Days: Friday 27 March - Sunday 29 March

Convention & Exhibition Centre  
1 Harbour Road, Wan Chai  
Hong Kong, China