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Fernando De Szyszlo: *Graphic Works*

The Remba Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of graphic work by Fernando De Szyszlo. The exhibition will take place at the Remba Gallery at 462 N. Robertson Boulevard in West Hollywood from March 3 – June 2. An opening reception will be held on Saturday, March 3 from 6-8 p.m. in conjunction with the West Hollywood galleries.

Fernando De Szyszlo was born in Lima, Peru in 1925. At the age of 24, Szyszlo's interest in exploring the pictorial currents in contemporary art on an international level compelled him to leave school, and Peru, to travel to Europe. His experiences in Europe supplied him with the tools that helped him create his own artistic language. Szyszlo fused elements of the Western world with Peruvian thought engendering a style rendered as "Latin American".

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The Mixografia prints seen in the current exhibition are abstract in appearance, however as one approaches the works they delve into a mythical realm consisting of lush colors, magical forms, and ominous lighting. In the *El Innombrable* series, the overlapping geometric forms intertwine in complicated twists and turns bringing to life a mythical being. Yet one needs to determine for themselves what the elusive figure is supposed to be, perhaps explaining the translated title, "the unnameable".

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In the *Mar de Lurin* series, there exists a struggle between stability and transience. In *Mar de Lurin I* and *II*, an unidentifiable idol is grounded in place resisting being swept away by the gushing waves of the sea, while in a third work an almost unfathomable form peacefully floats along the frothy surface of the ocean, only to be interrupted by a piercing ray of light attempting to lure the figure into an unknown world.

The elements in three smaller works by Szyszlo, from the *Waman Wasi* series, are shrouded by mortality. These ritualistic scenes contain altars and offerings, disfigured birds and masked human figures. The heavily shaded images stretching toward the heavens, are composed of a gamut of rich colors: deep crimsons, violets, yellows, aquas and magentas. These pieces are symbolic of the artist's notion about life and death; his perception that our appreciation of life is enhanced by the thought of losing this valuable treasure by death.

Fernando De Szyszlo's dense landscapes serve as a vehicle through which he slowly discovers himself. As the drama unfolds on these theatrical stages, Szyszlo matures, and comes closer to discovering what is at his core. His identity as a human being, an artist, and a Latin American come to fruition in this intense, yet beautiful visual poetry.

