

## Graciela Rodo Boulanger

Born in La Paz, Bolivia in 1935, Boulanger's talents were nurtured by her mother, a concert pianist, and her father, a businessman and art connoisseur. At the age of 15, she gave her first recital and traveled to Santiago, Chile, where she spent a year studying at the National Conservatory of Music and at the Academy of Art. In 1952, Graciela traveled to Europe on her own for the first time and stayed in Vienna for a year before returning to Bolivia. At the age of 22, she moved to Buenos Aires where she resided for four years. Here, she decided to give up the piano as a career in order to devote her energies to painting. In 1961, she arrived in Paris and began work in the studio of Johnny Friedlander, considered one of the world's finest engravers.

In 1962, she married French diplomat Claude Boulanger and spent 18 months in the Middle East. Her first daughter, Karine, was born in Lebanon in 1963. When she returned to Paris, she continued painting and engraving. In 1966, her prints were first published by Abe Lublin. In 1968, she set up her own etching studio. In 1979, UNICEF designated her the official artist for the International Year of the Child. Two of her tapestries were presented in the hall of the UN General Assembly. The Museum of Modern Art of Latin America in Washington, DC, gave a retrospective of her oeuvre in 1983. In 1986, the Metropolitan Opera of New York commissioned her poster for Mozart's *The Magic Flute* to promote their 1987-88 season and her paintings were shown by the Art Gallery of Lincoln Center. In 1993, the World Federation of the UN Associations chose one of her paintings to illustrate both a stamp and a limited-edition print on endangered species.

Graciela Rodo Boulanger left Paris in 2005 and moved back to her home in La Paz, Bolivia, where her daughter Sandra and her grandchildren have been inspirations for her recent works. Works by Madame Boulanger have been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art of Latin America in Washington D.C., the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris, the Museum of Modern Art in La Paz and The Modern Art Center in Zurich.

In addition to the more than 170 exhibitions held on all five continents over the years, she has held solo exhibitions at Gallery Four Forty Four in San Francisco in 1995, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003 and most recently a fifty year retrospective exhibition in October of 2006.

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