

June 23, 2014

Remarks

Gloria Garafulich

Inauguration: Exhibit and Documentary

Organization of American States

On behalf of our family—Maria Paz, Boris and Juan Pablo—who are not here today, my son Alexander and I wish to express our most sincere appreciation to Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza for welcoming this exhibit at the house of the Americas; to Ambassador Juan Pablo Lira, Permanent Representative of Chile to the OAS for hosting this event; and to Andres Navia and everyone at the American Museum of the Americas for their interest and work.

We are here today to celebrate the life and the work of Lily Garafulic, an outstanding woman, and a Chilean artist with Croatian roots. This exhibit is one of a series of celebrations that include the Embassy of Chile in Washington, the Cervantes Institute in NY; the National Museum of Fine Arts; and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chile and a special event that was held in Croatia on May 14—the day of Lily's Centenary.

The exhibit highlights a body of work that has been unknown until now, her work on paper: drawings, prints, watercolors –this is a very small sampling of over 350 works that she created and some sculptures.

You may ask yourselves, why an exhibit in the US? Why at the OAS?

The answers are fairly simple but they do have a deep and most important meaning: The United States played an important role in the artistic development of her craft. It is here, when in 1944, as a Guggenheim Fellow, she studied the print making technique and it is also where, at the NY Public Library, she prepared for her masterwork, the Basilica of Lourdes in Chile. It is a country she felt close to and greatly admired all her life

And why the OAS?

Lily travelled to many of the OAS member countries. In fact, in 2004 she made her last trip abroad, to Argentina to celebrate her 90th birthday.

She was a woman who not only believed, but also lived the concept of “globalization” in the best possible way-- before the word became “the way of life it is today.”

While travelling, either in Chile, in the Americas or around the world; she was a firm believer that you learned a great deal about our cultures and our people by learning about the art of each place visited. She was inspired and moved by each one of your countries, by your geography, your people, your culture and your art. With this exhibit we hope that you will get to know Lily a little as well but being at the OAS is also very special as it really is “coming back” to a familiar place as her work was exhibited here in 1956 and in 1957 as part of two separate exhibits of Chilean Art. Thank you for hosting her again.

Complementing the exhibit, you will find a short documentary about her life and her work. Over the years and for much of the last 100 years, many articles have been written about Lily but this will be the first time that you will get to know her in a different way, by watching the documentary “Lily Garafulic: In her Own Words” which was born out of a

conversation we had during which she complained that although she gave many interviews. . . her voice was not heard. . . . hence the title.

We hope that you will enjoy the exhibit and the documentary and that the woman with eyes of turquoise, temple of steel and heart of gold that dedicated 78 years of her life to being an artist inspires you.

This event would not have been possible without the support of DIRAC, the sponsorship of the Consulate General of Chile in NY, the participation of the Embassy of Chile and the interest and work of everyone involved, especially Jonathan Goldman who helped coordinate the project.

On behalf of my family, thank you,