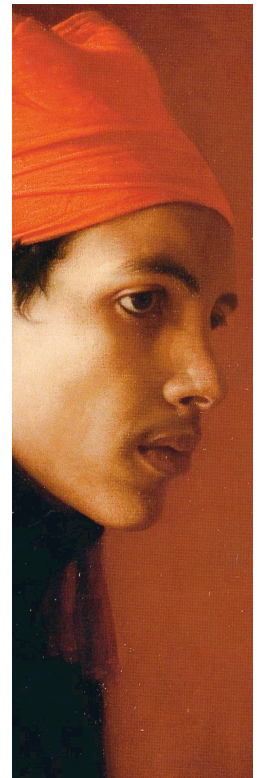
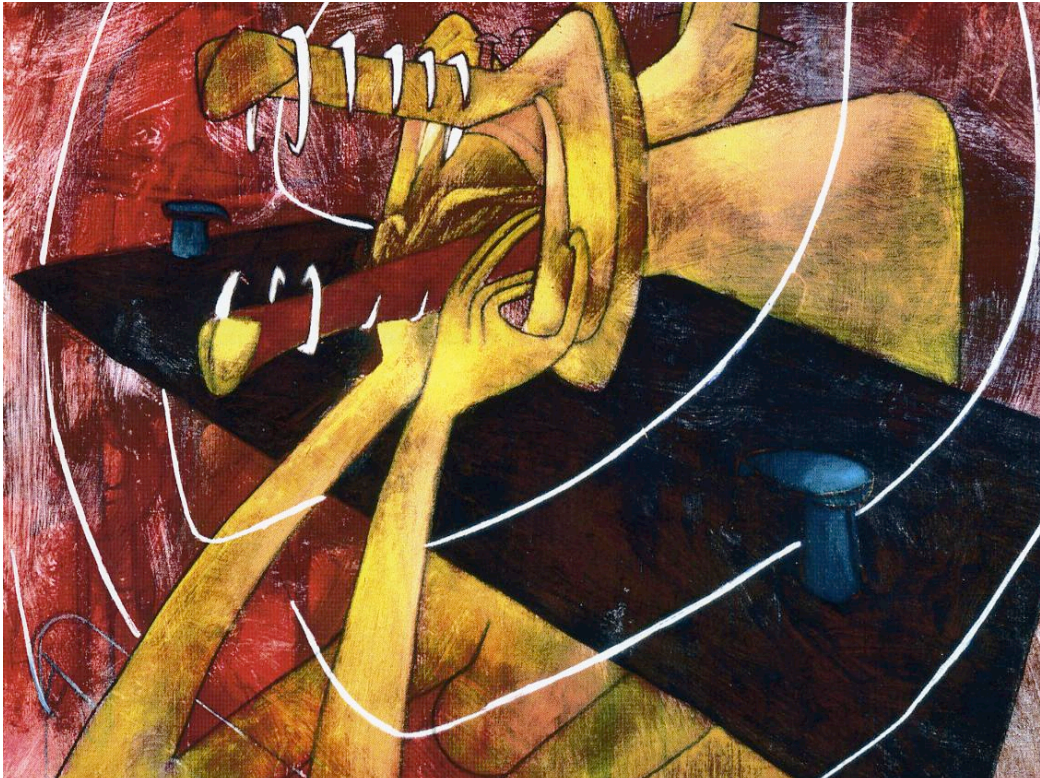


# THE TRADITION OF INCLUSIVENESS



left. Roberto Matta (Chile)  
La femme Affamee/Hungry Woman  
1945

right. Claudio Bravo (Chile)  
Muchacho Marroquí

## By Gregorio Luke

The first thing that surprises you when observing Latin American Art is the amazing stylistic variety and the mastery with which they are done. Even in their diversity, the art works related to each other as if there existed between them an invisible connection. How can art be so different and at the same time blend? When observing the effortless way in which Latin American artists recreate and experiment with every technique and style, it occurs to me that the very essence of Latin America is its inclusiveness.

Latin America is a continent where all the races mix. It

expresses itself as openness and the ability to unite a vast array of influences and give them a new meaning.

**This process that is called in Spanish, mestizaje occurs not only at the racial level but also at the cultural level.**

For Latin Americans nothing is foreign for as Mexican author, Alfonso Reyes states; "Todo lo bueno es nuestro." (Everything good is ours).

Because of its diversity and the familiarity that the international public has with some of its influences, Latin America is often misunderstood. Some see it as

## The tradition of inclusiveness

derivative of European styles. Others try to limit it to one of its dimensions. What has been missing is understanding Latin America in its complexity and its capacity to offer a new synthesis.

Understanding Latin America has become increasingly important for the United States. Not only because of its economic importance and the enormous presence of Latin Americans in the United States, but in a larger sense because the United States is also becoming a country of the blending of cultures and races that are fusing in the construction of a new North American identity. In this regard, the United States has become closer to the Latin American identity of mestizaje than the traditional European model, which with it has been identified historically. By appreciating and understanding Latin America, the United State will gain a better insight into the new and fascinating culture it is becoming.



Omar Rayo (Colombia)  
Tama  
1970