

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Pablo Palazuelo  
**Title:** *Emblema II*  
**Medium:** lithograph  
**Dimensions:** 83.5cm x 60cm  
**Notes:** signed: Palazuelo  
purchased: Galerie Maeght, Paris, 1983

b. 1915, Madrid d. 2007, Madrid

Pablo Palazuelo was an abstract painter and sculptor, often referred to as the First Spanish abstract painter. He first studied architecture at Madrid University from 1932-34, continuing his studies into architecture at the Oxford School of Arts and Crafts from 1934-36. Palazuelo returned to Spain as an aircraft pilot during the Spanish Civil War. Following the war, Palazuelo devoted himself to painting in 1939 and his first group show, 'Madrid's Young School', was held in Madrid in 1945, at the Buchholz Gallery. In 1947, the artist began taking lessons from Daniel Vázquez Díaz, a Spanish Modernist painter, and by 1948 Palazuelo had moved into an entirely abstract style, leaving behind him the figurative works of his early years. That same year, the artist won a scholarship from the French Government to study in Paris and he stayed in the city for the next 20 years, working on his craft and building important contacts. In 1949, he met Mr and Mrs Maeght with whom he would form a lasting work relationship; his work was shown on numerous occasions at the Galerie Maeght from 1949 onwards, as part of group shows such as the 'Salon de Mai' (1950) and 'Tendances' (1951)- an exhibition which also featured his friend, Ellsworth Kelly. In 1952, Palazuelo was awarded the Kandinsky Prize. The artist's early abstract works were based on crystalline or microscopic cellular structure, developing ever more towards the Ideal of Form as the cause and answer, the true meaning of his works. Palazuelo's first solo exhibition was held at the Galerie Maeght in 1955, featuring 19 oil paintings by the artist. His second solo show at the Maeght was held in 1958, at which time he was also awarded the prestigious Carnegie International Prize. Though Palazuelo moved back to Spain in 1969, he continued to maintain his relationship with the Galerie Maeght in Paris and would also show in the Barcelona Maeght Gallery. In 1984, the artist was commissioned to design a sculpture for the Spanish parliament, a marker of his reputation as a Spanish artist. Recent major retrospectives of his work have been held at MACBA Museum Barcelona, the Guggenheim in Bilbao, in Bogotá and in Sao Paulo. His work is in a number of international collections including: the Guggenheim, Bilbao; Museo Centro del Art Reina Sofia, Madrid and the Art Institute of Chicago.

The information in this article was taken from David Scott, *The Modern Art Collection, Trinity College Dublin* (Trinity College Dublin, 1989) and <http://www.fundacionpalazuelo.com/>