



The Latin American Studies Center

Presents Our

Café Break Series



*“Peláez in Paris:
The Transatlantic Experience,
1927-40”*

By: Abigail McEwen

Wednesday, March 9, 2011

3:30 pm

The Merrill Room,

Francis Scott Key 2110

A leading artist of Cuba's historical vanguardia, Amelia Peláez (1896-1968) advanced a highly distinctive expression of *cubanidad* in her mature work of the 1930s, as she assimilated the visual language of modernism with the estrangement of her transatlantic experience. Peláez lived in Paris between 1927 and 1934, a period of intense activity and self-discovery, and her paintings from this time reflect the conceptual difficulties of negotiating a hybrid cultural and artistic identity. This talk presents research in progress on the subjectivity of Peláez's work from the Paris years and the evolution of her practice in the later 1930s following her return to Havana.

Abigail McEwen is Assistant Professor of Art History and specializes in modern Latin American art. Professor McEwen is currently at work on a book-length study of Cuban abstraction during the 1950s and early '60s, which examines the ways in which Havana's avant-garde redefined art's relation to power at a moment of political upheaval and revolution.