



PABLO ATCHUGARRY

THE EVOLUTION OF A DREAM

from Saturday June 8 to Sunday September 29, 2019

Pietrasanta (LU)

The Municipality of Pietrasanta (Lucca), in collaboration with the Contini Art Gallery in Venice, the Versiliana Foundation and Start, is pleased to present *The Evolution of a Dream*, a one-man exhibition by the Uruguanian artist Pablo Atchugarry.

The splendid capital of Versilia once again this year renews its historic predominance – as a crossroad of international sculptors – by hosting the works of an important contemporary artist in the evocative context of the old town of Pietrasanta, *par excellence* a city of marble and of the artists.

Atchugarry has achieved international fame thanks to the copious production of monumental sculptures, that can be admired in numerous public areas both in Europe and America. It is precisely in Italy that the artist would undertake his first monumental project in 1983, utilizing marble from Carrara to create the extraordinary group of sculptures, *La Pietá*. The decisive discovery of marble in 1979 and a visit to the Polvaccio quarry (also known as Michelangelo's quarry), would mark a fundamental moment in the artistic career of Atchugarry. Until that moment, the artist had experimented with the use of diverse materials to create his abstract sculptures: from wood to steel, from bronze to iron and cement. It was however marble, with its sinuous elegance that would win him over. Inspired by Michelangelo, the artist would work over the marble block following its veins, thereby freeing the form entrapped inside the material to reveal its more intimate nature, the intangibility of its inner core which he infinitely elevated.

Atchugarry's artistic expression, though inspired by archetypes of classic statues - Renaissance and Baroque – develops into abstract forms which are absolutely original and contemporary; harmonious aesthetics that open up into delicate ascensional compositions in the soft, translucent colors of marble and into the more intense, decisive colors of painted bronze sculptures.

Following the resounding success of the exhibition *Poetica della Traduzione (The Poetics of Interpretation)* by the Spanish artist Manolo Valdes, it is with renewed enthusiasm that the Contini Art Gallery presents a new venue of international interest for art and sculpture by proposing a rich selection of more than thirty works from Pablo Atchugarry's artistic production of the past fifteen years.

Beginning from Saturday June 8 in the Piazza del Duomo, five monumental sculptures will be on public display, amongst which the magnificent *Naturaleza (Nature)* and *Preserve the Dream* in statuesque Carrara marble whose elegant and airy forms seem guided by the fluidity and dynamism of natural elements.

The review will extend from the churchyard to St. Agustin, the characteristic ecclesiastical complex - where the intense and vivid color of the red patina bronze sculpture *Fiore* is alongside the candid white and vibrant *Destine* – and will continue along the entire nave ending at the altar.

If in the church the polychrome marbles stand out, the audacious sculptures in bronze painted with automobile varnish can be admired in the *Sala dei Putti* and in the *Sala Capitolo*. The works of art have been expertly arrayed in these quiet areas where the characteristic signature of Atchugarry's art is expressed in a smaller dimension, with a rich variety of dynamic forms and colors, from the intense and luminous blue of *El Abrazo (The Embrace)* to the seductive black of *Elevation*.

On the Marina di Pietrasanta pier, *Search of the Future* will be undisputedly dominant; a luminous sculpture in stainless steel with its outstretched and elongated form, whose surface reflects the intense colors of the skies and the sea, elevated into an iridescent intermingling of art and landscape.

Atchugarry's sculpture expertly investigates the complementarity and the polarity of the natural and artificial, the empty and full, space and form, reality and reflexion, figuration and abstraction, through the poetic celebration of artistic expression as an essential impetus towards the absolute.

Biography

Pablo Atchugarry was born in Montevideo, Uruguay on August 23, 1954. Even as a child Pablo was strongly encouraged to pursue design by his mother Maria Cristina Bonomi and father Pedro, an enthusiastic art lover and student of Master Joaquin Torres Garcia. Sensing the talent of their son, his parents early on stimulated him to follow this path. In 1965 at the age of 11, he took part in a collective exhibition in Montevideo, showing two paintings for the first time. He later experimented with materials such as clay, cement, iron and wood; in 1971 he realized his first sculpture in cement entitled *Caballo (Horse)*.

During the latter half of 1970, he participated in diverse one-man and collective exhibitions in Montevideo and Buenos Aires; in 1977 he began his European travels where he visited Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Spain, Switzerland and Italy.

In 1979 Atchugarry secured his first one-man exhibition in Paris at the Maison de l'Amérique Latine. During his stay in Paris, he realized the preparatory design for *La Lumière*, a marble sculpture for which he relocated to Carrara and Brescia to create.

From the town of Lecco in 1982, he received his first commission for a monumental project in Carrara marble which he created from a single twelve ton block of marble stone. Completed in 1983, the work was later displayed at the Museum of Villa Manzoni in Lecco, in the San Sempliciano Basilica in Milan and in the San Nicolò Basilica in Lecco. At this time, Atchugarry decided to permanently reside in Lecco where he opened his own studio.

On September 25, 1999 the Pablo Atchugarry Museum was inaugurated in the town of Lecco, where the many works on permanent display represent the artistic path of the artist, from his earliest paintings to his more recent sculptures as well as an archive of his production.

The artist today lives and works between Lecco and Manantiales (Uruguay), which is also the location of the Pablo Atchugarry Foundation, an international park of sculpture, art and culture.

In recognition of his artistic career, in July 2002 he was honored with the "Michelangelo" award in Carrara; in 2003 Atchugarry participated in the 50th Biennial of Art in Venice with the work *Soñando la paz (Dreaming of Peace)*, an installation composed of eight monumental sculptures in Carrara marble and gray marble from Bardiglio della Barfagnana.

In 2007 the Pablo Atchugarry Foundation was instituted in Manantiales (Uruguay) with the objective of creating a meeting point for artists from all disciplines, an ideal space as a union between nature and art.

In 2008 the Atchugarry Art Center in Miami (USA) was inaugurated.

In 2019 he was honored by the President of the Italian Republic with the title Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy.

In May of that same year, the Contini Art Gallery located on Calle Larga XXII Marzo, San Marco 2288, inaugurated the exhibition "Movement of Light", a one-man showing dedicated to the artist.

The artist currently lives and works between Lecco and Manantiales (Uruguay), where he is committed to the development of the Pablo Atchugarry Foundation and its international sculpture park

The works by the artist have been exhibited in various museums as well as public and private institutions world-wide.

Inauguration on Saturday June 8 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cloister of St. Augustine (Pietrasanta) with the presence of the artist.

The exhibition will remain open through September 29, 2019

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