



PABLO ATCHUGARRY

THE MOVEMENT OF LIGHT

Contini Art Gallery
Calle Larga XXII Marzo, San Marco 2288 Venice

May 6 – November 24, 2019

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The Contini Art Gallery is pleased to present **The Movement of Light**, the first solo exhibition of Pablo Atchugarry, sculptor of Uruguayan descent, to be held at the gallery's location on Calle Larga XXII Marzo.

Of international fame for his sculptural production, Atchugarry proposes masterpieces which combine classic inspiration with an absolute contemporary rendering. The interpretation of his plastic art is soothing and poetic, distinctive and unedited, which he expresses through dynamic sculpture which creates a strong visual impact. The skillful intertwining of lines and the unexpected expansion of volume reveals his artistry to mould the material as a voice for a very personal message – although universal – of harmony and beauty which is the essence of his artwork.

This public exhibition will present a selection of more than twenty works of art made of diverse materials and varying dimensions; it will trace the evolution of the artist's work from the latter half of the nineties through today.

Atchugarry's sculptures present themselves to the viewer as abstract figures – intangible – which spread into shapes inspired by natural, floral or mineral elements; or, they are transformed into a daring synthesis which appears to incarnate the perpetual flow of time over things. His predilection for curved lines creates fluid and sinuous masterpieces, combining elegance and sensuality as in the bronze work, *Untitled* (2015). The intense electric blue sculpture recalls the placid fluttering of marine plants, whose willowy branches reach out, then retract into radiant and evanescent forms. Even the bright red abstract figures *Untitled* (2017), *Untitled* (2018) and *Untitled* (2014) seem to have drawn inspiration from natural elements; in the unwinding of the lines between soft volumes and narrow spaces, we can perceive the tension and energy trapped within the entangled limbs of *Untitled* (2018), meanwhile our glance captures the taunt forms of *Untitled* (2014) which lightly caress the air like flickering flames. *Untitled* (2017) – a brilliant yellow sculpture – hints of a closed dynamism, like a flower bud ready to bloom.

Marble sculptures placed alongside the shiny varnished bronzes are luminous examples of majestic beauty. Unique pieces that the artist gives birth to by following the marble veins with a delicacy that preserves the naturalness while at the same time it denotes how much Atchugarry is fully aware of his responsibility in regards to the past, placing himself as a conjunction point and continuity between contemporary expression and traditional expression of classic sculpture. Revisiting centuries of sculpture and following lessons learned from Michelangelo, the artist collects the material, studies and questions it, to free the hidden forms within the stone and eternally preserve the vital energy in a thrust of harmony.

The silky smoothness of white marble from Carrara gives to *Untitled* (2006) and *Untitled* (2018) a light, diaphanous and fragile consistency; whereas the mysterious and creative compositions with jagged edges of *Untitled* (2005) and *Untitled* (2006), create a play of light which exalts the elegance of the pearlized tones of the grey marble from Bardiglio.

Atchugarry's sculpture mesmerizes the viewer with its captivating dualism, combining empty and full, figurative and abstract, ethereal and material, light and shadow. Light, as if in a dance, silently unwinds to follow both the curved and straight lines of his creations; it insinuates itself between empty spaces to quickly re-emerge and continue along the bright surfaces of the bronzes and the smooth marbles in an eternal pursuit of form.

In parallel to the exhibition, the monumental statuary Carrara marble sculpture *Serenissima*, realized by Pablo Atchugarry as an homage to the city of Venice, will be exhibited at garden of the Palazzo Corner di Ca' Granda, house of the city prefecture.

Early in April several sculptures, amongst which the sculptural group *Soñando la paz (Dreaming of Peace)* – created by Atchugarry in 2003 for the 50th anniversary of the Venice Biennial – will be displayed at the [Casanova Gardens of the Hotel Cipriani in Venice](#).

From June 8 to September 29 the Municipality of Pietrasanta, in collaboration with the Contini Art Gallery, the Versiliana Foundation and START, will present *The Evolution of a Dream*, with a selection of bronze and marble monumental sculptures, in Piazza Duomo leading to the Church and Cloister of St. Augustine.

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 conserving 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;

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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 marble from Carrara and gray marble from Bardiglio della Garfagnana.

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 2018 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.

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 Saturday May 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm. with the presence of the artist

The exhibition will remain open daily from May 6 through November 24, 2019

Hours: 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. / 2:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Catalogue with text by Ettore Mocchetti available in the gallery

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