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Gustavo Vélez

Le dimensioni dell'equilibrio

Curated by Francesca Sborghi and with the contribution of Eike Schmidt

City of Pietrasanta | 11 June–20 September 2026



OBLONG



CONTEMPORARY
ART GALLERY

GUSTAVO VELEZ – *Le dimensioni dell'equilibrio*

For more than thirty years, Gustavo Vélez has explored one of sculpture's most enduring contradictions: how can a material defined by weight appear to move, rise and become almost weightless?

In *Le dimensioni dell'equilibrio*, this investigation unfolds across Pietrasanta, the city that has played a fundamental role in the artist's development and has become his chosen creative home. From the historic centre to Marina di Pietrasanta, the exhibition establishes a continuous dialogue between sculpture, architecture and landscape, extending from the Apuan Alps to the sea.

Vélez works with Carrara marble, bronze and steel—materials associated with strength, permanence and monumentality. Yet in his hands, they acquire an unexpected sense of movement. His sculptures rise from narrow bases, twist around invisible axes and open towards the surrounding space. Their rigorous geometry is animated by curves, cuts and internal passages, creating a tension between stability and instability, solidity and emptiness.

Balance is never presented as a static condition. It is a moment of controlled suspension, achieved through precision, discipline and an intimate understanding of the material. The apparent lightness of each work is therefore not an illusion without structure, but the visible result of an exact and demanding process.

The sculptures seem to resist gravity while remaining deeply connected to the earth. Their vertical movement draws the eye upwards, yet their physical presence constantly reminds us of the mass from which they were created. It is within this opposition that Vélez's visual language emerges: monumental yet fluid, geometric yet sensual, stable yet continuously in motion.

Each work changes according to the position of the viewer. As one moves around the sculpture, its lines overlap, disappear and reappear, producing a sequence of constantly shifting perspectives. Light enters through the openings and moves across the polished or textured surfaces, transforming the work throughout the day.

The sculpture is therefore never experienced from a single, definitive viewpoint. It reveals itself gradually, through movement, time and proximity.

The relationship between the artwork and its environment is central to Vélez's practice. His sculptures do not simply occupy a space; they frame, divide and reinterpret it.

Openings carved into marble or defined through bronze and steel become windows onto the landscape. Through them, fragments of architecture, sky, mountains and sea enter the composition. The surrounding city becomes part of the artwork, while the sculpture itself alters the way the viewer perceives the place around it.

Vélez describes this approach as a form of relational art. The work is completed through the presence of those who encounter it. The viewer is invited not only to observe, but to approach, cross and inhabit the sculpture visually and physically. Its internal voids are not absences, but active spaces through which a relationship is formed between matter, body and landscape.

In Pietrasanta, this dialogue acquires a particular significance. The city has long been a centre of sculptural production, shaped by the proximity of the Carrara quarries and by generations of artists and artisans who have worked with marble and bronze. Vélez first arrived here in 1996, developing a profound connection with its materials, workshops and traditions.

Over the decades, he has transformed this technical knowledge into a distinctly contemporary language. While his works are rooted in the classical discipline of sculpture, they move beyond representation towards abstraction, spatial experience and architectural form.

Le dimensioni dell'equilibrio celebrates this thirty-year journey through a constellation of monumental works positioned throughout Pietrasanta. Rather than separating sculpture from daily life, the exhibition allows the works to exist within the rhythm of the city: in its squares, courtyards, streets and along the coast.

The route becomes an invitation to move through both the territory and the artist's evolving practice. Each sculpture offers a different encounter with proportion, tension, light and space, while together they form a unified reflection on balance as a physical, emotional and poetic condition.

In Vélez's work, geometry is never purely mathematical. It becomes a means of searching for freedom. Weight becomes movement, matter becomes openness, and monumentality becomes a form of visual poetry.

“Vélez’s complex forms, which introduce botanical observations into ideal mathematical constructions, suggest an expansion beyond the third dimension into the fourth: time. The form itself becomes an event unfolding in time, and for this reason the sculptural work becomes perfectly analogous to a musical composition or a dance choreography.”

Eike Schmidt

Director of the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte in Naples and former Director of the Uffizi Galleries in Florence.



Gustavo Velez

Núcleo en Movimiento

2026, Travertino Giallo Marble

194 x 81 x 71 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Velez

Percorso

2026, Blu Cielo Marble

188 x 75 x 65 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Velez

Dual II

2026, Travertino Rosso Marble

194 x 70 x 76 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Cósmica

2021, Stainless Steel

215 x 94 x 78 cm

Base: 102 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

3/3



Gustavo Vélez

Hipercúbicos V

2024, Stainless Steel

243 x 150 x 125 cm

Base: 85 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E 1/3



Gustavo Vélez

Riflesso

2026, Stainless Steel

191 x 81 x 70 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

P/A



Gustavo Vélez

Piramidal

2022, Stainless & Corten Steel

203 x 84.5 x 98 cm

Base: 102 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

A/E



Gustavo Vélez

Vacío

2024, Statuario White Carrara Marble

175.5 x 66.5 x 56.5 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Hipercúbicos VI

2025, Statuario Michelangelo Marble

176 x 55.5 x 65 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)

USD 60.000



Gustavo Vélez

Relieve Cúbico

2026, Stainless & Corten Steel

20 x 120 x 120 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

P/A



Gustavo Vélez

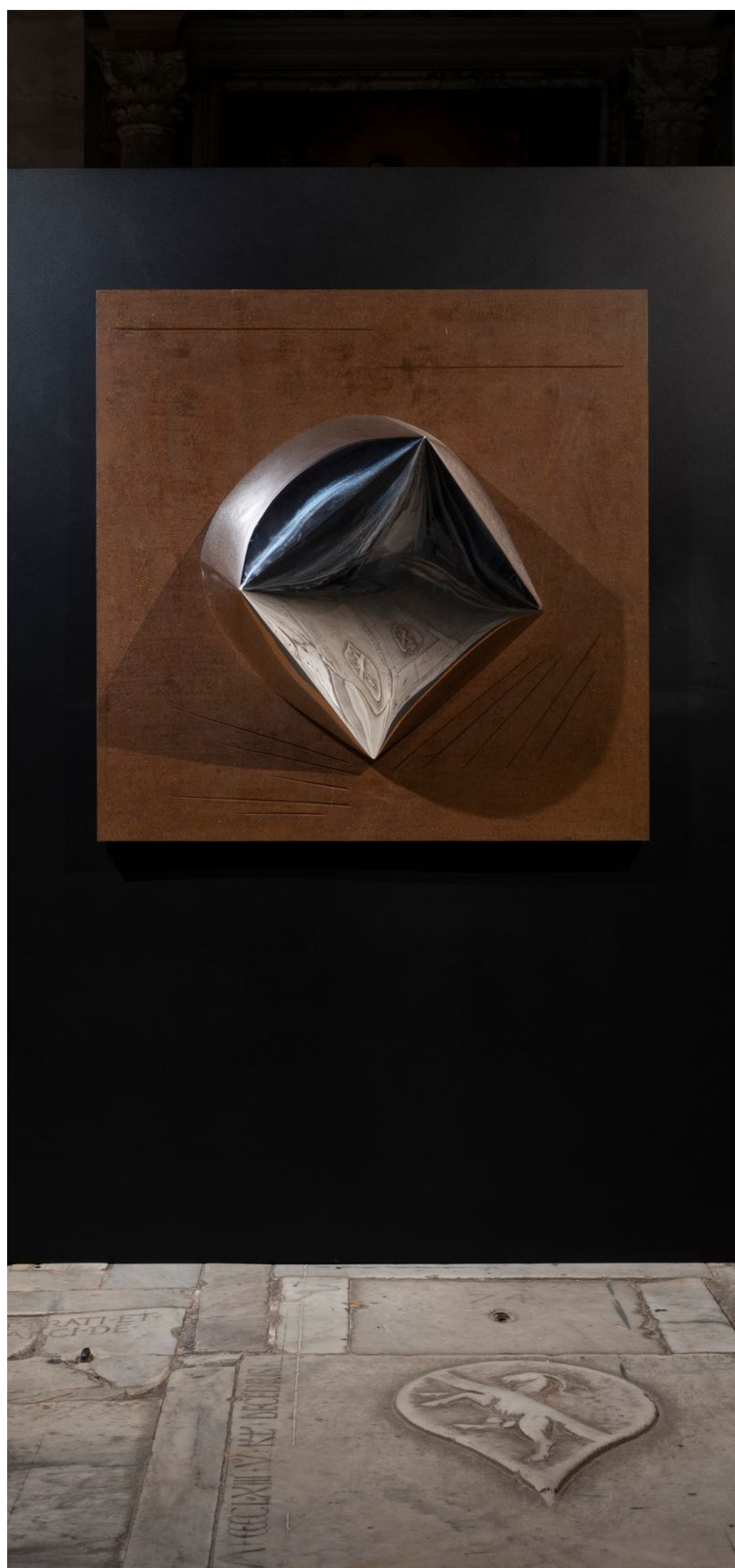
Relieve Riflesso

2026, Stainless & Corten Steel

38 x 120 x 120 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

P/A



Gustavo Vélez

Relieve Expansivo

2026, Stainless & Corten Steel

30 x 120 x 120 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

P/A



Gustavo Vélez

Expansión Geométrica II

2023, Stainless Steel

248 x 154 x 136 cm

Base: 86 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

1/3



Gustavo Vélez

Focus

2026, Statuario White Carrara

Marble

45.5 x 44.5 x 44.5



Gustavo Vélez

Millefoglie II

2025, Statuario White Carrara Marble

176 x 63.5 x 63.5

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Grieta en Movimiento III

2025, Statuario Michelangelo Marble

180 x 58 x 68 cm*

*Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Entrambi

2026, Travertino Giallo

176 x 65 x 56.5 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Fiamma

2026,

Statuario White Carrara Marble

176 x 66.5 x 57 cm

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

2025, White Carrara Marble

100 x 55 x 55 cm



Gustavo Vélez

Cono Geométrico

2023, Statuario White Carrara Marble

175 x 52 x 69

Base: 110 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

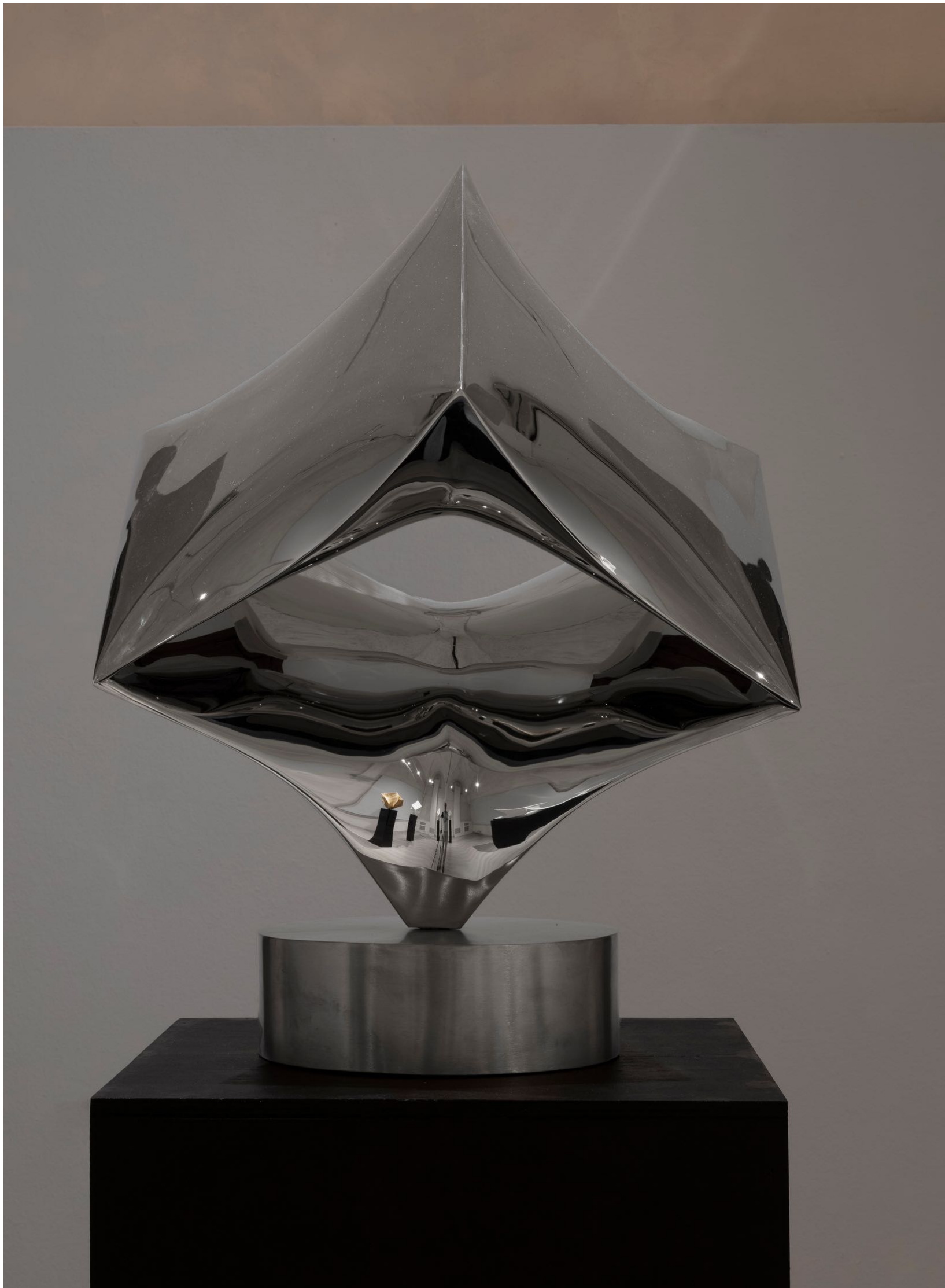
Volo

2025, Stainless Steel

230 x 35 x 30 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

A/E



Gustavo Vélez

Fusión

2026, Stainless Steel

77 x 67 x 57 cm



Gustavo Vélez

EntreCubosII

2026, White Carrara Marble

304 x 196 x 163 cm

Base: 106 (h)



Gustavo Veléz

Expansión Geométrica II

2021, Stainless Steel

296 x 230 x 208 cm

Base: 48 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

2/3



Gustavo Veléz

Fiamma

2026, Bronzo

346 x 190 x 170

Base: 148 (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E



Gustavo Vélez

Focus

2026, White Carrara Marble

215.5 x 262 x 261 cm

Base: 35.5 cm



Gustavo Vélez

Geometria Scolpita

2025, White Carrara Marble

225 x 139 x 161 cm

Base: 88 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Insieme III

2026, Accaio

300 x 300 x 130 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

E/A



Gustavo Vélez

Núcleo en Movimiento

2024, White Carrara Marble

300 x 203 x 176 cm

Base: 88 cm (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Nucleus

2026, White Carrara Marble

307 x 232 x 200

Base: 75 (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Riflesso

2026, Stainless Steel

360 x 230 x 192 cm

Base: 128 cm (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

E/A



Gustavo Veléz

Torsión

2023, Stainless Steel

80 x 340 x 50 cm

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

E/A



Gustavo Vélez

Vacío en Movimiento

2026, White Carrara Marble

289 x 238 x 200 cm

Base: 49 (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Rítmica VII

2022, Bronze

276 x 195 x 165 cm

Base: 76 cm / 29.9 in (h)

Edition of 3 + 1 A/E

A/E



Gustavo Vélez

Cara y Envés

2024, White Carrara Marble

288 x 194 x 162.5 cm

Base: 96 cm / 37.7 in (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Pliegue en Movimiento

2024, White Carrara Marble

286 x 187 x 167 cm

Base: 88 cm / 34.6 in (h)



Gustavo Vélez

Tríptica

2023, White Carrara Marble

315 x 196 x 240 cm

Base: 85 cm / 33.4 in (h)

GUSTAVO VELEZ



“Gustavo Velez è nato nel 1975 a Medellín, in Colombia. Poco prima di terminare le scuole medie, si dedicò agli studi artistici nella sua città natale, proseguì poi presso la scuola "Lorenzo de' Medici" di Firenze e completò la sua formazione a Pietrasanta. Dal 2005 espone in varie gallerie a Tokyo, Utsunomiya, Iwaki e Yokohama. Tra le numerose mostre da ricordare: la mostra personale sul tema del centenario delle relazioni bilaterali tra Giappone e Colombia, 2008; “Incontro a Pietrasanta”, mostra itinerante presentata in molte gallerie in Colombia e Giappone 2011-2012; mostra alla Galleria Guan Xiang e al Museo Zhengzhou in Cina 2010; mostra collettiva ospitata all'Imperial City Museum di Pechino, Cina, 2011. Negli stessi anni ha partecipato a fiere come “KIAF” in Corea e “Arte Shanghai” in Cina. Negli ultimi anni ha esposto più di 20 opere monumentali in marmo, acciaio e bronzo in alcuni musei dell'Ecuador e della Colombia 2011-2012. In Europa ha partecipato a numerose fiere d'arte, come la "Pinta" di Londra e la "Swab" di Barcellona. Molte delle sue sculture si trovano in musei e collezioni private.

GUSTAVO VELEZ



"Gustavo Velez was born in 1975 in Medellín, Colombia. Shortly before finishing middle school, he devoted himself to artistic studies in his hometown, then continued at the "Lorenzo de' Medici" school in Florence and completed his training in Pietrasanta. Since 2005 he has exhibited in various galleries in Tokyo, Utsunomiya, Iwaki and Yokohama. Among the many exhibitions to remember: the personal exhibition on the theme of the centenary of bilateral relations between Japan and Colombia, 2008; "Incontro a Pietrasanta", traveling exhibition presented in many galleries in Colombia and Japan 2011-2012; exhibition at Guan Xiang Gallery and Zhengzhou Museum in China 2010; collective exhibition hosted at the Imperial City Museum of Beijing, China, 2011. In the same years he participated in fairs such as "KIAF" in Korea and "Arte Shanghai" in China. In recent years he has exhibited more than 20 monumental works in marble, steel and bronze in some museums of Ecuador and Colombia 2011-2012. In Europe he has participated in numerous art fairs, such as the "Pinta" in London and the "Swab" in Barcelona. Many of his sculptures can be found in museums and private collections.



GUSTAVO VELEZ

La passione di Gustavo Vélez per la scultura è iniziata durante l'adolescenza. Dopo il liceo, ha studiato scultura all'Istituto di Belle Arti e alla Scuola Eladio Velez di Medellín.

Successivamente si recò a Firenze, in Italia, dove frequentò l'Accademia Lorenzo de Medici e si formò nelle botteghe di Pietrasanta.

Ha mantenuto il suo studio di scultura a Pietrasanta per oltre 20 anni.

Asia

Per oltre un decennio, le opere d'arte di Gustavo Vélez sono state esposte in Asia, con mostre, partecipazioni a fiere d'arte e installazioni in collezioni pubbliche e private in Cina, Giappone, Corea, Emirati Arabi Uniti e Singapore.

In Giappone ha esposto in gallerie situate a Tokyo, Utsunomiya, Iwaki e Yokohama, favorendo lo scambio culturale con artisti giapponesi e coreani. Una delle sue sculture monumentali, "Flying" (realizzata in marmo bianco coreano), è esposta con orgoglio nell'Art Valley Sculpture Park di Seoul.

In Cina, le opere di Vélez hanno abbellito musei rinomati, tra cui il Museo della Città Imperiale di Zhengzhou, con alcune sculture monumentali situate a Shenzhen e Nanjing, mentre altre sculture si sono aggiunte a importanti collezioni d'arte.



GUSTAVO VELEZ

Gustavo Vélez's passion for sculpture began during his adolescence. After high school, he studied sculpture at the Institute of Fine Arts and at the Eladio Vélez School in Medellín.

He later moved to Florence, Italy, where he attended the Lorenzo de' Medici Academy and trained in the workshops of Pietrasanta. He has maintained his sculpture studio in Pietrasanta for over 20 years.

Asia

For more than a decade, Gustavo Vélez's artworks have been exhibited in Asia, through exhibitions, art fairs, and installations in public and private collections in China, Japan, Korea, the United Arab Emirates, and Singapore.

In Japan, he has exhibited in galleries in Tokyo, Utsunomiya, Iwaki, and Yokohama, fostering cultural exchange with Japanese and Korean artists. One of his monumental sculptures, *Flying* (made of Korean white marble), is proudly displayed at the Art Valley Sculpture Park in Seoul.

In China, Vélez's works have enriched renowned museums, including the Imperial City Museum in Zhengzhou, with monumental sculptures located in Shenzhen and Nanjing, while others have entered important art collections.

GUSTAVO VELEZ

Europe

Gustavo Vélez's artistic journey in Europe has been marked by important exhibitions in France, Italy, and Spain. In Italy, he has firmly established himself as a Pietrasanta-based artist, where he has been creating marble and bronze sculptures since 1996.

In 2013, Vélez was selected for a solo sculpture exhibition in Pietrasanta, a city known for its connection with world-renowned artists. He became the youngest artist to exhibit sculptures in Piazza del Duomo and the Church of Sant'Agostino, presenting monumental works in bronze, steel, and marble, some reaching up to seven meters in height and weighing eight tons.

In 2015, Vélez was invited to participate in the prestigious exhibition Homo Faber alongside sculptors Igor Mitoraj and Fernando Botero. His monumental works adorned the Versiliana Park during the Italian summer.

His artistic achievements continued with solo exhibitions at the Marino Marini Museum in Pistoia and the Bernard Boesch Museum in La Baule, France. His works have also become part of the permanent collection of the Dei Bozzetti Museum in Pietrasanta.

Gustavo Vélez is currently preparing for a monumental exhibition along the renowned art avenue in Bad Ragaz, Switzerland, and in Vaduz, Liechtenstein. This summer, his sculpture Núcleo will be exhibited in Marina di Pietrasanta as part of the "Omaggio agli Artigiani" event, and he will also hold a solo exhibition at the Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery.



GUSTAVO VELEZ

Auctions

In the past five years, Sotheby's and Phillips have included Vélez's sculptures in Latin American art auctions in New York, where his works have achieved successful sales.

Awards

In 2013, Vélez received the "Order of the Grand Knight," awarded by the Congress of the Republic of Colombia. In April 2014, he was honored with the "Order of Democracy Simón Bolívar" at the rank of Officer's Cross, recognizing his achievements as a sculptor and his representation of Colombian art abroad.

He has also received the "Antioquia Gold Star of Culture" and the gold grade of the "Order of Merit Don Juan del Corral" for his contributions to culture and the visual arts.

His most recent recognition is the "Porfirio Barba Jacob Medal for Educational and Cultural Merit," Gold Category, awarded by the Mayor's Office of Medellín, Colombia.

Selected Collections

Gustavo Vélez's works are part of collections worldwide, including Hiki Hospital in Utsunomiya and the Akasaka Palace Building in Tokyo (Japan); the Raffles Hotel in Shenzhen and the Ritz-Carlton in Nanjing (China); the Contemporary Art Museum of Guayaquil (Ecuador); Casa de Campo (Dominican Republic); Art Valley (Seoul, Korea); the Dei Bozzetti Museum (Pietrasanta, Italy); the Trump Ocean Club in Panama City; BHD Bank and the Museum of Modern Art in the Dominican Republic; and Apple's headquarters in San Diego (USA), among others.

In Colombia, his sculptures can be found at the Pontifical Bolivarian University, the Sabaneta metro station, and the Santo Domingo metro station in Medellín, as well as in major public parks in municipalities such as Bello and Fredonia, the Governor's Office of Tolima, and the Tolima Art Museum in Ibagué.

GUSTAVO VELEZ

Europa

Il viaggio artistico di Gustavo Vélez in Europa è stato segnato da importanti mostre in Francia, Italia e Spagna. In Italia, si è saldamente affermato come artista con sede a Pietrasanta, in Toscana, dove crea sculture in marmo e bronzo dal 1996.

Nel 2013 Gustavo Vélez è stato scelto per una mostra personale di scultura a Pietrasanta, città nota per il suo sodalizio con artisti di fama mondiale. Divenne l'artista più giovane a esporre le sue sculture in Piazza del Duomo e nella Chiesa di Sant'Agostino, con opere monumentali realizzate in bronzo, acciaio e marmo, alcune alte fino a sette metri e pesanti otto tonnellate.

Nel 2015, Vélez è stato invitato a partecipare alla prestigiosa mostra "Homo Faber" insieme agli scultori Igor Mitoraj e Fernando Botero. Le sue opere monumentali hanno adornato il Parco della Versiliana durante l'estate italiana.

I suoi successi artistici si estendono: ha tenuto una mostra personale al museo Marino Marini a Pistoia, e al museo Bernard Boesch a La Baule, Francia. Le sue opere sono entrate a far parte anche della collezione permanente del Museo dei Bozzec di Pietrasanta.

Gustavo Vélez si sta preparando per una mostra monumentale nell'importante viale dell'arte della Svizzera, Bad Ragaz, e a Vaduz, Liechtenstein. Quest'estate la sua scultura "Núcleo" sarà esposta alla "Marina di Pietrasanta" nell'ambito della manifestazione "Omaggio agli Artigiani" e terrà anche una mostra personale alla Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea Oblong.



GUSTAVO VELEZ

Aste

Negli ultimi cinque anni le case d'asta Sotheby's e Phillips hanno incluso le sculture di Vélez nelle aste di arte latinoamericana a New York e le sue opere sono state vendute all'asta con successo.

Premi

Nel 2013, Vélez ha ricevuto l'"Ordine al Gran Cavaliere", distinzione concessa dal Congresso della Repubblica di Colombia e nell'aprile 2014 è stato insignito dell'"Ordine della Democrazia Simon Bolivar" nel grado di Croce Ufficiale, per i suoi successi come scultore e per la rappresentazione che ha fatto dell'arte colombiana all'estero.

È stato insignito della "Stella d'oro della cultura di Antioquia" e del grado d'oro "Ordine al merito don Juan del Corral" per i suoi contributi alla cultura e alle arti visive.

Il riconoscimento più recente è la "Medaglia al Merito Educativo e Culturale Porfirio Barba Jacob" Categoria Oro assegnata dall'Ufficio del Sindaco di Medellin, Colombia.

Selezione di opere in Collezioni

Le opere di Gustavo Vélez fanno parte di collezioni in tutto il mondo: l'Hiki Hospital di Utsunomiya e l'Akasaka Palace Building a Tokyo, in Giappone; il Raffles Hotel a Shenzhen e il Ritz Carlton a Nanjing, in Cina; il Museo di Arte Contemporanea di Guayaquil (Ecuador), Casa de Campo (Repubblica Dominicana), Art Valley (Seoul, Corea); Dei Bozzec Museum (Pietrasanta, Italia), il Trump Ocean Club a Panama City, la BHD Bank e il Museum of Modern Art nella Repubblica Dominicana e la sede Apple a San Diego (California, USA), tra gli altri.

In Colombia, le sue sculture possono essere viste presso l'Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, la stazione della metropolitana Sabaneta e la stazione della metropolitana di Santo Domingo a Medellín, nei principali parchi di comuni come Bello e Fredonia, nonché nell'ufficio del governatore di Tolima e nel Museo d'arte di Tolima a Ibagué.

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