



## *Il pluripremiato artista colombiano Gustavo Velez esporrà le sue sculture alla Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery di Forte dei Marmi*

### LA MOSTRA

Diciassette opere di dimensioni medie e monumentali, frutto della genialità di Gustavo Vélez, compongono, presso la galleria Oblong a Forte dei Marmi, la personale “Seduzioni Geometriche” (4 - 18 luglio). La rassegna ha il sapore di un excursus conciso, ma quanto mai esauriente, della ricerca sviluppata dall’artista nell’ultimo decennio. Si tratta di sculture in pezzo unico o in edizione di 3 esemplari, realizzate fra il 2011 e il 2020, che testimoniano gli esiti di uno stile giunto a piena maturità. Il connubio di forme dal modellato complesso - geometrico ma con frequenti innesti morbidamente organici - e di materiali difforni per fisicità e cromia - marmo bianco di Carrara, bronzo, acciaio lucido, acciaio corten, ferro - svela con efficacia il suo articolato mondo creativo.

Vélez afferma: “In Brancusi scoprii la scultura intesa come ritmo e armonia di linee che attraversano lo spazio”. Non a caso, astrattismo e concettualismo rappresentano le matrici artistiche dello scultore colombiano, ma in esse egli immette il soffio di una vitalità intensa e assertiva, grazie alla quale le masse plastiche sbocciano le une dalle altre in modo fluido e sinuoso (“Ritmica V”, 2020), oppure ingaggiano un corpo a corpo per conquistare la luce e imporsi l’una sull’altra in una sorta di integrazione fisica e spirituale (“Nascimento”, 2018; “Trazo II”, 2019).

Si avverte infatti nelle opere di Gustavo Vélez un’intensa aspirazione all’idealità che - condensandosi nelle forme al punto da farne fulcri di forza espressiva o,



all'opposto, dissolvendosi nello spazio grazie a un dinamismo centrifugo che emana dalla materia - spesso si apre al paesaggio naturale con afflato cosmico. Questo grazie sia alle superfici specchianti dell'acciaio, che riflettono l'ambiente circostante, sia alle suggestive tonalità dei materiali opachi, che narrano di un universo dominato da forze prorompenti e incontrastate, quanto mai emblematico delle inquietudini del nostro tempo.

## LA VITA

Gustavo Vélez nasce nel 1975 a Medellín, in Colombia, la città situata nelle Ande, ai piedi della Cordigliera Settentrionale, che ha dato i natali anche al maestro Fernando Botero.

Qui, sull'altopiano roccioso disseminato di miniere di materiali argillosi e di metalli preziosi come l'oro e il rame, sviluppa la sua sensibilità artistica. Ma è in Italia - particolarmente in Toscana - che avviene la sua formazione culturale. A Firenze frequenta infatti l'Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici, a Pietrasanta, luogo prediletto dalle eccellenze dell'arte, apre il suo studio di scultura.

Conquistata la fama internazionale, Gustavo Vélez partecipa a importanti esposizioni personali e collettive in Asia (Giappone, Cina, Corea, Singapore), in Medio Oriente (Emirati Arabi, Dubai), in America (Settentrionale e Meridionale), in Europa (Gran Bretagna, Spagna, Italia), mentre sue opere appaiono a New York nelle aste dedicate da Sotheby's e Phillips ai protagonisti della Latin American Art. Oggi l'artista si divide tra Pietrasanta, New York e Medellin.

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## *Award- winning Colombian artist Gustavo Velez to showcase sculptures at Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery in Forte dei Marmi*

### THE EXHIBITION

Seventeen medium and monumental works, fruit of the genius of Gustavo Vélez, compose, at the Oblong gallery in Forte dei Marmi, the personal “Seduzioni Geometriche” (4 - 18 July). The review has the flavor of a concise, but very comprehensive, overview of the research developed by the artist over the last decade. These are sculptures in one piece or in an edition of 3 specimens, made between 2011 and 2020, which testify to the results of a style that has come to full maturity. The combination of shapes with a complex pattern - geometric but with frequent softly organic grafts - and of materials differing in physicality and colors - white Carrara marble, bronze, polished steel, corten steel, iron - effectively reveals his articulated creative world.

Vélez states: “In Brancusi I discovered sculpture understood as the rhythm and harmony of lines that cross space”. Not surprisingly, abstractionism and conceptualism represent the artistic matrices of the Colombian sculptor, but in them he introduces the breath of an intense and assertive vitality, thanks



to which the plastic masses blossom from each other in a fluid and sinuous way ("Ritmica V", 2020), or they engage in hand-to-hand combat to conquer the light and impose themselves on each other in a sort of physical and spiritual integration ("Nacimiento", 2018; "Trazo II", 2019).

In fact, in the works of Gustavo Vélez there is an intense aspiration to ideality which - condensing in the forms to the point of making them fulcrums of expressive force or, on the contrary, dissolving in space thanks to a centrifugal dynamism that emanates from the material - often opens to the natural landscape with cosmic inspiration. This is thanks both to the mirrored surfaces of the steel, which reflect the surrounding environment, and to the evocative shades of the opaque materials, which tell of a universe dominated by overwhelming and uncontested forces, very emblematic of the anxieties of our time.

## **THE ARTIST**

Gustavo Vélez was born in 1975 in Medellín, Colombia, the city located in the Andes, at the foot of the Northern Cordillera, which was also the birthplace of master Fernando Botero.

Here, on the rocky plateau dotted with mines of clayey materials and precious metals such as gold and copper, he develops his artistic sensibility. But it is in Italy - particularly in Tuscany - that his cultural formation takes place. In fact, in Florence he attended the Lorenzo de 'Medici Institute, in

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Pietrasanta, a place favored by the excellences of art, he opened his sculpture studio.

Having gained international fame, Gustavo Vélez participates in important solo and group exhibitions in Asia (Japan, China, Korea, Singapore), in the Middle East (United Arab Emirates, Dubai), in America (North and South), in Europe (Great Britain, Spain, Italy), while his works appear in New York in the auctions dedicated by Sotheby's and Phillips to the protagonists of Latin American Art. Today the artist is divided between Pietrasanta, New York and Medellin.

**\*RELEASE ENDS\***

Press Release written by Alessandra Quattordio

**About Oblong Contemporary Art Gallery:**

Oblong is a Dubai based Art Gallery and its mission is to create a successful global arena for culture and art. Primarily involved in promoting contemporary and modern art, operating both locally and on the international art platform; the gallery is a place of cultural exchange, exhibiting some of the highest quality artworks and giving a platform to artists from the region. Additionally, Oblong hosts a strong program of workshops, educational initiatives and a cross-cultural art exchange program between Dubai, U.A.E and Pietrasanta, on the coast of northern Tuscany in Italy. The gallery name was derived from the 'oblong' shape, which comes from three other shapes; a square, a circle and a rectangle. The founders of Oblong, Emanuela Venturini & Paola Marucci described the shape as a representation of their different backgrounds and characters. Emanuela and Paola have a shared vision and combined their love for art and culture to create a platform for cross-cultural exchange between Dubai (UAE) and Pietrasanta (Italy). With strong links to the Tuscan city of Pietrasanta, Oblong embodies the DNA of this historic city and honors its rich heritage.