

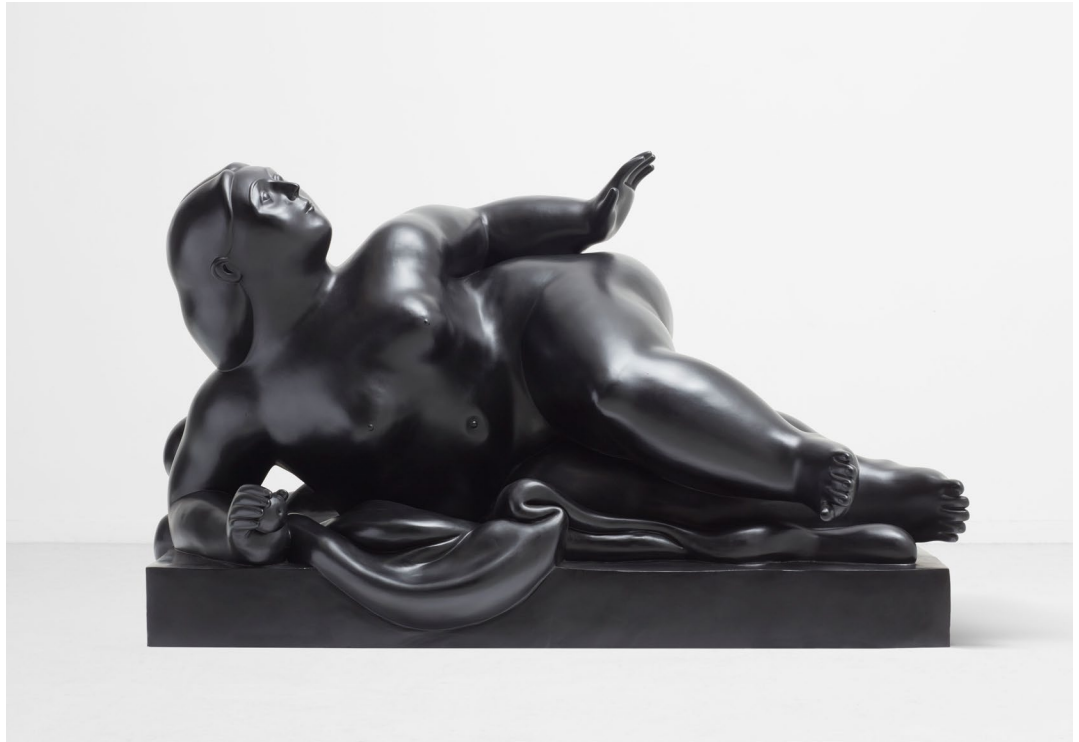
On Form**Press Release****19 May - 4 June 2023**

Pablo Atchugarry, *Untitled*, 2017
Marble, unique piece, 46.5 x 25 x 13.5 cm

Opera Gallery is delighted to present *On Form*, a sculpture exhibition that questions the very essence of gesture and material. An encounter around form and its conceptualisation, bringing together nine major artists: Pablo Atchugarry, Fernando Botero, Robert Indiana, Anish Kapoor, Stephan Marienfeld, Pieter Obels, Niki de Saint Phalle, Manolo Valdés and Bernar Venet. In this open, sometimes introspective dialogue—the works selected reflect the evolution of the practice of these artists over several decades—a whole lexicon of the language of sculpture is constructed, in its concepts, materials and forms.

The exploration of “form” follows two main lines. One considers sculptures that take on abstract forms as expressions of materiality and experiments with matter; the other considers sculptures as the direct concretisation of the artist’s vision, the materialisation of their thoughts. Without exhausting the impossible subject, the selected works and artists each possess a fragment of an answer.

The quest for materiality is evident in the work of Uruguayan artist Pablo Atchugarry, whose marbles evoke the monoliths of early civilisations. Before freeing himself from it and sublimating it, his work was anchored in classical antiquity when he discovered Carrara marble in Italy in 1979. In the face of the demands of this noble material, he developed a singular and abstract visual language in which tapered and angular lines echo the curves of his volumes.

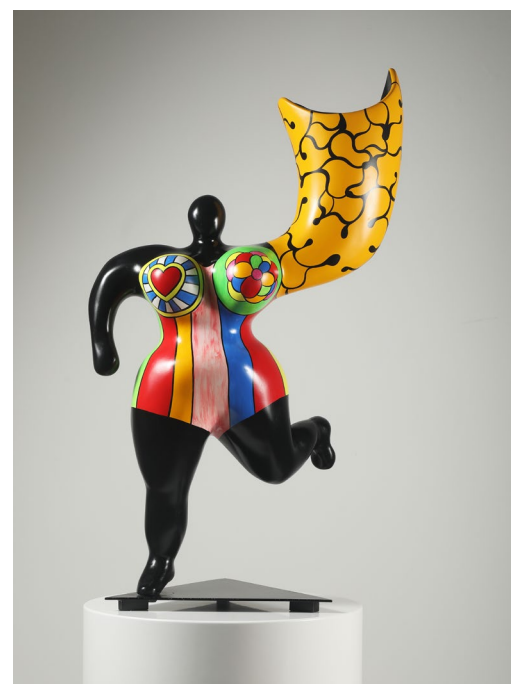


Fernando Botero, *Donna sdraiata su fianco*, 2019
Bronze, HC, 82 x 127 x 70 cm

Two major figures of contemporary art play here with a register of forms that appear more playful, but where psychoanalytical discourse prevails: Fernando Botero and Niki de Saint Phalle.

Like Pablo Atchugarry, Botero devoured the art of the Old Europe. His sculptures, populated by figures with exaggeratedly voluminous and voluptuous forms, readily cite the great references of art history.

Compared to Botero's works, Niki de Saint Phalle's prominent sculptures are equally iconic and iconoclastic. Her Nanas carry political and militant discourse defending the modern woman against the crushing of the male sex - in the process glorifying female sexuality with an airy heaviness. As with Botero, their apparent candour masks an unfathomable wound.



Niki de Saint Phalle, *Ange Vase*, 1993
Painted polyester and ceramic, iron base
Edition of 50
99 x 57 x 32 cm



Manolo Valdés, *Clio Dorada*, 2018
Bronze with gold patina and steel wires, edition of 9, 114 x 255 x 90 cm

Within the exhibition, the work of Manolo Valdés alone constitutes a whole universe of forms with a set of six sculptures. As one of the founding members of Equipo Crónica, a group of artists who drew inspiration from Pop Art to question Franco's Spanish dictatorship and art history itself, the Spaniard also appropriates masterpieces. By decontextualising these images, he frees them from all temporality and formal identification, allowing the material to express itself: "I have to create something in which the materials are dominant, the subject is an excuse."

On Form invites you to experience the sculptures by these revolutionary artists and uncover the running dialogues amongst the various forms of sculptures, as they each embrace their own physicality, theatricality and materiality.



Robert Indiana, *Love 1966 - 2000 / Red faces blue sides*
Polychrome aluminium, 4 AP, 61 x 61 x 30.5 cm

Opera Gallery is a modern and contemporary art gallery founded in 1994 by Gilles Dyan. Today, Opera Gallery has a network of 16 galleries around the world: New York, Miami, Bal Harbour, Aspen, London, Paris, Madrid, Monaco, Geneva, Dubai, Beirut, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Seoul.

Opera Gallery Singapore is now located in the world-renowned ION Orchard, along Orchard Road, a world-famous avenue for the luxury industry. Headed by Stéphane Le Pelletier and managed by Irene Chee, Opera Gallery Singapore permanently presents a selection of artworks by modern, post-war and contemporary artists such as Pablo Picasso, Jean Dubuffet, Alexander Calder, Pierre Soulages, Manolo Valdés and Georg Baselitz as well as monographic, collective or thematic exhibitions.

Press contact
Irene Chee
T. + 65 6735 2618
spore@operagallery.com

Opera Gallery Singapore
2 Orchard Turn, #02-16 ION Orchard
Singapore 238801
Mon - Sun: 11 am - 8 pm