

Louise Nevelson & Pablo Atchugarry: Dialogue in Black and White

Essay by: Bruno Corà

Atchugarry and Nevelson: longing for unitary tension

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The Fundación Pablo Atchugarry presents *Dialogue in Black and White*, a dual exhibition of work by Post War artist Louise Nevelson and the sculptor Pablo Atchugarry. The artists contrasting their sculptural works from the 20th century and share a discourse of form, free of color.

Louise Nevelson was an American sculptor known for her monumental, monochromatic abstract sculptures. Born in what is now present-day Ukraine, Nevelson emigrated with her family to the United States in the early 20th century. Inspired by the abstracted figures of Cubism and the experimental freedom of Surrealism, Nevelson created her signature modernist style. Her monochromatic approach, attributed to her studies under Hans Hofmann, was a mode of "self-discipline."

Pablo Atchugarry is an Uruguayan artist known for his abstract sculptural art. Atchugarry spent part of his life in Europe, where he studied and experimented a range of materials before taking up the marble. This new era of using marble opened up Atchugarry's career towards the monumental abstracts sculptures that he is known for today. Atchugarry engages in a shared fondness for a restrained color palette. This method, used by both Nevelson and Atchugarry, gives way to sculptures that are entirely focused on form – creating a heightened sensitivity to form in viewers, and in hand, increased awareness of how a viewer's body relates to the sculptures and the space they inhabit.



Dialogue in Black and White offers a selection of sculptures from both artists that are entirely in Black and White. As the title implies, the show presents the resemblance and contrast in the artists' respective work. Born half a century before Atchugarry, Nevelson's work is a product of her time and the influences of movements that preceded her. Naturally, Atchugarry's work is a descendent of the movements that precede him, which Nevelson is a part of. Collectively, these works juxtapose Post War/Modernist movements with contemporary practices.

In addition to this juxtaposition, *Dialogue in Black and White* also reveals the shared formal qualities of these two artists, practicing many decades apart from each other. This exhibition ultimately unites the works of Nevelson and Atchugarry in their shared formal qualities, and allow the viewer to transcend the divisiveness of artistic movements in favor of a conversation mediated by sculpture.

Fundación Pablo Atchugarry:

The Foundation Pablo Atchugarry first opened its doors in 2007 in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Visionary Uruguayan artist Pablo Atchugarry decided to open this nonprofit institution in order to promote visual arts, music, dance, literature and culture to the local community and to the international visitors of Uruguay. The sculptor workshop, three exhibition spaces, open-air stage and auditorium are surrounded by a 30-hectares outdoor sculpture park. The Atchugarry Art Center in Miami's Design District aims to promote and to contribute to the development of modern and contemporary visual art, history of art, and passion for the arts within the Miami Public.

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