

Blouin Artinfo: 'Agustín Cárdenas at Almine Rech Gallery', June 12, 2018

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Agustín Cárdenas at Almine Rech Gallery, London

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | JUNE 12, 2018



View of the exhibition "Agustín Cárdenas" at Almine Rech Gallery London, June 5 - July 28, 2018
(Courtesy of the Estate of the Artist and Almine Rech Gallery. Photo: Melissa Castro Duarte)

The works by [Agustín Cárdenas](#), a Cuban sculptor who was active in the Surrealist movement in Paris, is on display at Almine Rech Gallery, London, through July 28, 2018.

Cardenas came to France as an artist who had absorbed a wide range of indigenous, colonial and colonized cultures that made him an example of a global citizen in the present age. At this point, anticolonial movements, Pan-African or the quality of being of African origin were beginning to develop and grow in Paris. During this time, he was invited by anti-colonialist and celebrated founder of Surrealism, Andre Breton, to participate in a Surrealist exhibition.

As the gallery says, in Cardenas' works, Breton noticed the "reconnection between the human hand and the 'hand' of nature in an age of increasing industrialization and commercialization, and he saw a relation between materials and ideas that allowed an almost animist magic to persist in a world of utility and functionality."

Cardenas' works reflect the natural landscape and its elemental forces through his experiments with light and dark, solid and void. He is also known to create work from a variety of materials such as wood, metal and marble and whatever landscape is provided around him. With a deep knowledge of the natural qualities of his materials, the artist is able to create sculptures that flow, mix and interact with the sensual curves and lines. Also when observed, his work may mirror the works of a few renowned sculptors such as Constantin Brancusi, Jean Arp and Henry Moore and various American traditions but at the same time has his own authenticity attached.

According to the gallery, Cardenas' works neither emphasize contradiction or separation but offers a general interest in embodying a range of perspectives and influences. This is what makes his art relevant in today's age where there is an obsession as far as decolonization is concerned, a dislike of ideas of any universal or global forms and an inclining power of dividing rather than uniting.

This exhibition is on view through July 28, 2018, at Almine Rech Gallery, Grosvenor Hill, Broadbent House, W1K 3JH London, UK.

Click on the slideshow for a sneak peek at the exhibition.