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A black chimney, a lover's bench and some monumental birds: 'Pliny's Sorrow' by Johan Creten

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ALMINE RECH GALLERY

As I walked into the gallery my first thought was: did somebody set fire to this place? But no, the walls were still white, and I didn't smell anything either. But those gigantic, gloomy sculptures sure looked burned. Eroded too; as if they had been standing in the wind for ages. For one year and a half Belgian (but Paris-based) artist **Johan Creten** has been working on the nine bronze sculptures he is presenting at **Almine Rech** (*Brussels; through July 23*). The tallest 'bird' is referring to a voyage of **Pliny the Younger**, hence the title of the exhibition: **Pliny's Sorrow**. Black, eroded sculptures... nice coincidence: Pliny is known for documenting the eruption of the Vesuvius, during which his uncle **Pliny the Elder** died. But anyway, it is fascinating to see these sculptures change shape, when you walk around them. And they fit nicely in that huge exhibition space, that is sometimes so difficult to 'fill' for artists. PS: Do watch this **video** documenting 'the making of' of this exhibition. (*all pictures: courtesy Almine Rech Gallery*)