

## Juan Asensio. *Contra natura*

February 15th - April 2020

*The idea is to try a better understanding of the world through the observation of nature and its patterns. More intuitively than scientifically and after a deep aesthetic analysis, show my conclusions through my work.*



Juan Asensio, untitled, 2019. 36 x 85 x 84 cm. | 14,1 x 33,4 x 33 in. Iran Red Travertine

**Galería Elvira González** is pleased to announce the opening of the ninth solo exhibition of the sculptor Juan Asensio, who has been represented by the gallery since 1996. The show will open on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 11a.m.

The evolution of Asensio as an artist has been a complex process, result of an experience of more than forty years of work in which each period has been of vital importance. His first contacts with stone, a material that has always accompanied him, together with the discovery and influence of the work of artists that we could place around constructivism and minimalism like Constantin Brancusi and Jorge Oteiza, laid the foundations for a progressive transformation of his artistic practice. This is how, his figurative works of youth soon gave rise to a stage where formal simplicity and geometric abstraction are situated as the central axis of his work. Asensio himself clarifies:

"Soon I became interested in the fact that the geometry with which I was working was so present in nature. This is fascinating to me as geometry orders, regulates and brings beauty to us. I was also attracted by the fact that nature always seeks the simplest solution, conveying

the greatest efficiency with the least possible energy. Something similar to what I tried to achieve with my work. I was looking for a greater emotional intensity through minimal expressive resources". This first approach to nature since geometric abstraction has given way to a work in which the world of the organic has become more and more evident, as its main reference and starting point.

This exhibition includes a selection of his most recent works, in which we will find both simple and more complex structures of different shapes, textures and colors. "A kind of Baroque postminimalism, where I show an inert and silent nature, paradoxically, a sort of exercise *contra natura*".

**Juan Asensio** (Cuenca, 1959) is a self-taught artist. His growth in sculpture took place in direct contact with artists such as Jorge Oteiza, Martín Chirino, Manolo Valdés or Juan Bordes. He has been awarded with prizes such as the first prize at the XX Caja Madrid Plastic Arts Contest in 1996, when he had his first exhibition at the Elvira González Gallery. In that year he also received the award of the program The Critical Eye of National Radio in the category of Fine Arts.

His work is present in the collections of museums and foundations, as well as in private collections around the world. Juan Asensio has made public sculptures in places such as Leganés, Madrid in 1999 and 2003; Torrelavega, Santander in 2001; the New Court Building in Salamanca in 2004; Ciudad Banco Santander, Boadilla del Monte, Madrid in 2005; Plaza de Vizcaya in Bilbao, 2008 and the Palacio de Justicia in Burgos in 2011.