

GALERÍA ELVIRA GONZÁLEZ

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Juan Asensio

November 5th, 2015 – January 9th, 2016

The curvature patterns that follow the leaves when they dry forced by the tension generated by their own structures.



Exhibition view, 2015. Galería Elvira González

Galería Elvira González is pleased to announce the solo exhibition of work by Juan Asensio, opening on November 5th, and marking the artist's seventh solo show at the gallery. "The works in this exhibition are for the most part the result of my observation of nature in my immediate environment around my studio in the Sierra de Guadarrama," according to Asensio. The exhibition consists of 14 sculptures in which Asensio uses geometry as a starting point to approach organic and natural themes via various materials, textures and colors.

With their twisting forms and references to nature, Asensio's sculptures result from his fascination with "models and limitations of growth as seen in certain plants," as well as his interest "in understanding the patterns of curvature followed by leaves when they dry, driven by the tension generated by their own structures." Nature itself is the starting point, according to Asensio: "I have worked with models of flowers and leaves that I scan digitally, from the simple structure of a leaf to more complex structures of fractal geometry."

Asensio's work displays clear references to that of sculptors such as Constantin Brancusi, Isamu Noguchi and Anish Kapoor, artists frequently associated with Asensio. As Francisco Calvo Serraller has written: "Asensio's work is anchored in a higher degree of abstraction, primarily addressing spatial and geometric issues... Asensio is interested in the curvature of space via flat-surfaced objects, which is a greater challenge when working in stone than when working

with cast materials (although he has also experimented with bronze and, more successfully, with stainless steel).”

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Galería Elvira González will publish a book about Juan Asensio’s work, financed by the Fundación Arte y Mecenazgo Prize which was awarded to the gallery’s founder Elvira González in 2014. For the past five years the Fundación Arte y Mecenazgo has recognized an artist, a gallery and a collection in the Spanish art world. Overseen by the La Caixa Obra Social, the foundation’s prizes are recognition of the work of key players throughout the processes of creating and promoting art: artists, dealers and collectors.

The book will include a text by Francisco Calvo Serraller and will offer an overview of the artist’s works from the 80’s to the most recent works on view in the exhibition. Juan Asensio (Cuenca, 1959) is a self-taught artist whose artistic development took place in direct contact with artists such as Jorge Oteiza, Martín Chirino, Manolo Valdés and Juan Bordes. Among the awards he has received are first prize in the 20th Caja Madrid Fine Arts Competition and El Ojo Crítico Fine Arts Award from Radio Nacional, both in 1996, which was also the year of Asensio’s first exhibition at the Galería Elvira González.

Asensio’s work is included in private collections in the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Europe, as well as in various collections in Spain. He has created numerous public sculptures, including in Leganés (Madrid) in 1999 and 2003; Torrelavega (Santander) in 2001; the Nuevo Edificio de Juzgados in Salamanca in 2004; Ciudad Banco Santander in Boadilla del Monte (Madrid) in 2005; Plaza de Vizcaya in Bilbao, 2008; and the Palacio de Justicia in Burgos in 2011.