

Imagining and seeing

The Art of Fernando Suarez

Fascination with movement has a long history inside of sculptural practice, notably in the work of Auguste Rodin whose sculptures are some of the most intense studies of the human body in the rapture of movement. Speaking of the difference between art and photography in one of his conversations with a fellow sculptor Paul Gsell, Rodin once remarked about how art captures the “gradual unfolding of gesture” without reproducing a position in mid-air that appears frozen in time¹. While looking at the works of Spanish sculptor Fernando Suarez, it seemed as though they had come very close to illustrating this particular remark of Rodin. In their surprising agility, the bodies in Suarez’s works are in movement and deceptively alive.

The subjects of his art are, not so surprisingly, often horses. These creatures, one of the most stunning when seen in motion and endowed with bodily elegance, fascinate the artist who presents them almost obsessively even in his two dimensional works. His use of acrylic concave bases gives the illusion of three-dimensionality in these horse paintings, enhancing the lines and accentuating movement. Also seen often in his oeuvre are bulls, depicted in all their power and glory. The sculpture *Infinite Bull* or *Toro al Infinito* is a case in point, wherein fluent lines and the fluid form result in an imaginative and telling representation of this rebellious animal.

Fernando also presents human figures in his sculptures. The most famous of these is the publicly installed, significantly large sculpture, *Juanita Fortuna* that has a special place in artist’s heart. Speaking of how the work came about in one of his interviews, he had remarked that it was a tryst of love, from one of those labyrinths of perception and necessity. The finished work is alluring, even eccentric. Fernando has also created dancers in motion, capturing the entirety of their movement very delicately.

Art for Fernando is a contemplative act, one in which he appears to be steeped in. The results that combine impulse, imagination and observation are, both, ingenious and perceptive..

Written by Usha M. Nathan



Juanita.



Toro al Infinito.



Caballo azul.

Fernando’s works can be seen at the Mulan Gallery in Singapore. More details on www.mulangallery.com.sg. Pictures courtesy of Mulan Gallery

¹ Quoted from “The Vision Machine” by Paul Virilio.