

# Atchugarry.

## Hacia el futuro

**April 25 – October 13, 2024**

Following the great success of Igor Mitoraj's monumental works in 2022, this year it will be the sculptures by Uruguayan artist Pablo Atchugarry to be exhibited at the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències located in Valencia, Spain, from 25 April until 13 October 2024.

The exhibition *Atchugarry. Hacia el futuro*, will bring together seven large-format works in bronze and in marble in the outdoor spaces of one of the most important scientific and cultural centres in Europe, from the Museu to the Palau via the Hemisfèric.

Curated by Kosme de Barañano, Professor of Art History at the University of Elche and organised in collaboration with the Fundación Pablo Atchugarry in Punta del Este, Uruguay, and with the Contini Art Gallery in Italy, the exhibition represents the new commitment of the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències towards urban and public art that aims to bring together science, nature and art.

Inspired by Brancusi and Michelangelo, Pablo Atchugarry approaches sculpture as an extension of the materials he uses, with references to the Renaissance and Baroque, classical Greece and older periods, or even extra-European. He makes the most out of the history of art as the foundation of his own poetics, tracing absolute truths and using them in his artistic research, where form and construction mix and interact.

His artistic expression, shaped in accordance with the artist's truth, is built by using every part of his body: hand, mind, body as a whole. It is characterized by the precision with which he tries to sculpt and heal the

material (through his hand and chisel) and with which he tries to follow harmonious proportions, with mathematical and geometric balance (through his mind and his previous visual experience).

The exhibition consists of an imposing vertical steel work: *Hacia el futuro*; three marble sculptures at the entrance of the Museum: *Despertar de la naturaleza*, *Tiempo de vivir*, and *Armonía*; two painted bronze works that emerge from the water: *La Flor and Estrella de luz*; and, finally, *Viaje hacia los sueños*, which completes the exhibition.

With these works, Atchugarry emphasizes the presence of a "regulating force" on one hand, with the dematerialization of the mass (whether stone, bronze or steel) and, on the other, with the implicit order of a formalization, of its almost abstract visualization. The volumes contrast and merge according to a rhythm and sensibility that can be understood as music, until they reach an essential synthesis.

The exhibition takes place in this powerful setting of structural tensions, as large animal skeletons protect huge spaces surrounded by pools or basins of water, producing a beautiful contrast between architecture and sculpture, transforming the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències into a unique place in which messages of power, union and reverie are conveyed.

Consequentially, the exterior of the Ciutat de les Arts i les Ciències becomes a unique place where sculpture and architecture merge, conveying messages of mercy, compassion, and reverie. All these silent figures introduce a lyrical poetry within the framework of the structural epic of Calatrava's great architecture.

Pablo Atchugarry currently lives and works between Lecco (Italy) and Manantiales (Uruguay), where he spends part of his time between his atelier, the Parque Internacional de Esculturas Monumentales and teaching and disseminating art through the Pablo Atchugarry Foundation.

To pay tribute to the artist, the Contini Art Gallery in Venice is exhibiting a wide selection of works in marble, bronze and wood by Pablo Atchugarry until 24 November 2024, in the exhibition titled *The Time of Sculpture*. The exhibition also presents the unprecedented collection of gold jewelry *Los Soles de Atchugarry*, small wearable works of art that encapsulate the essence of his poetics.

### *Biography*

*Pablo Atchugarry (Montevideo, 1954) has shown a strong inclination for the arts since childhood, so much so that he exhibited for the first time at eleven years old. Fascinated by Europe, in 1977 he began to travel the continent, drawing inspiration for his art.*

*In 1982 he created his first monumental sculpture in Carrara marble commissioned by the city of Lecco. On this occasion, the artist decides to settle permanently in Lecco, where he opens his own studio.*

*In 2002 he was awarded the Michelangelo Prize in Carrara and, the following year, participated in the 50th Venice Biennale with an installation consisting of eight large sculptures in Carrara marble and Bardiglio gray marble of Garfagnana.*

*In 2007 he founded the Fundación Pablo Atchugarry in Manantiales (Uruguay), intending to create a place for the dissemination of art, meetings, and teaching: since then every year receives thousands of students. In 2018 he opened a second office in Miami.*

*Since 2019 the artist has been represented in Italy by the Contini Art Gallery, through which he has collaborated in the realization of numerous important exhibitions, including: "The Movement of Light" in Venice and "The Evolution of a Dream", with monumental sculptures in the historic center of Pietrasanta (Lucca), both in 2019; "Vita della Materia" at Palazzo Reale in Milan, in 2021; "Il Suono dell'Anima" in Forte dei Marmi and "Il Risveglio della Natura" at the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Lucca, both in 2022; finally, in 2023 "Mariposas de la Vida" for the Teatro del Silenzio in Lajatic (Pisa), in 2024 "The Time of Sculpture" in Venice and "Hacia El Futuro" at the Ciutat de Les Arts i les Ciències in Valencia (Spain). Today the artist lives and works between Lecco and Manantiales (Uruguay).*

Opening: April 25 - at 11 am – attended by the artist  
Curated by: Kosme de Barañano

Information:

[www.cac.e](http://www.cac.e)

[www.fundacionpabloatchugarry.org](http://www.fundacionpabloatchugarry.org)

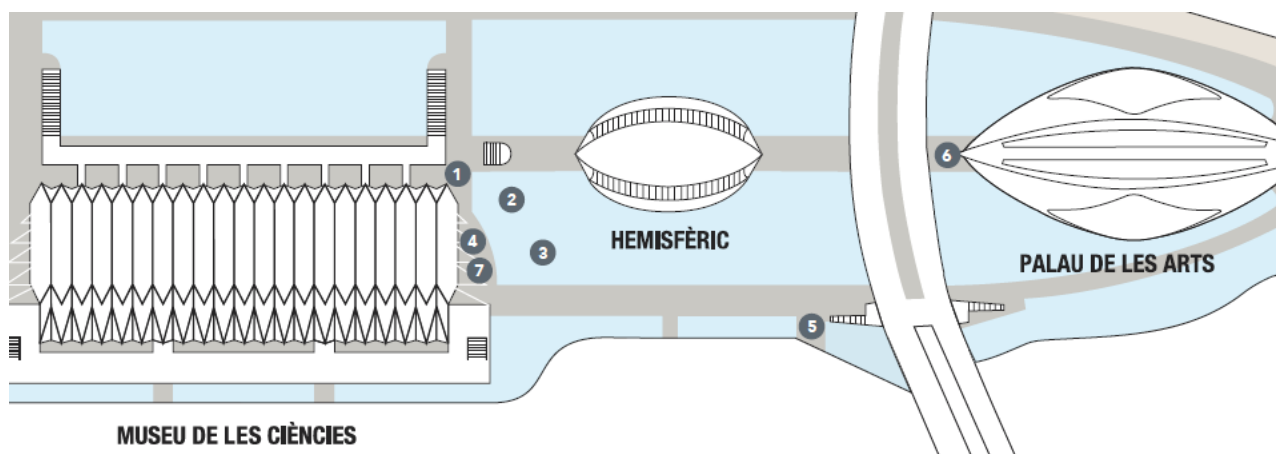
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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>1. Armonía</b>                    | <b>5. Viaje hacia los sueños</b> |
| <b>2. La Flor</b>                    | <b>6. Hacia el futuro</b>        |
| <b>3. Estrella de luz</b>            | <b>7. Tiempo de vivir</b>        |
| <b>4. Despertar de la naturaleza</b> |                                  |



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