

PELIGRO AMARILLO / SANTURCE



RODRIGO NAVA
Fuerzas Visibles

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2016

PELIGRO AMARILLO / SANTURCE

CALLE CERRA 627 | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | +1 787 402 9271 | www.peligroamarillo.com



RODRIGO NAVA

Fuerzas Visibles

Early sculptures in Rodrigo Nava’s *Expansions* series were created by hydroforming – injecting water under pressure into welded steel sculptures. “The “soft” form of the water reshaped the “hard” steel from the inside out, transforming a two-dimensional plane into a three-dimensional object,” Nava explains. “Weight, gravity, and the spontaneous element of chance played large parts in those early pieces.”

As his work progressed, Nava experimented with alternative methods of shaping “hard” sculptures, eventually settling on combustible gas. The resulting shapes created from these forays into combustibles are reminiscent of animal skins, canteens, pillows and toy inflatable tops.

“While the objects remain robust, muscular, and strong, the slight softening of their outlines creates a new dynamic in interpretation,” notes Mara Williams, Chief Curator, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, where Nava presented *Expanded Forms* in 2015. “The physical “experience” of each piece is manifest in the changes we see in its body. Allusions abound, from the deflation of a child’s blow-up toy to the sagging of a once-young physique.”

At Peligro Amarillo, Nava is presenting small-scale studies of his expanded forms, a series of collagraph prints and frescos inspired by textures and shapes of vessels and other objects of his home and studio. Nava sees the collagraphs “as much a part of my oeuvre as the sculptures themselves” and values both their relic-like qualities of uncertainty and imperfection as remnants of his processes and experiences and the sculptural qualities of way the collagraph plate is prepared.

Las esculturas tempranas de Rodrigo Nava de la serie "Expansiones" fueron hidroformadas, inyectando agua de alta presión dentro de las esculturas soldadas en acero. "La forma "suave" del agua reconfigura el acero "duro" desde el interior, transformando un plano bidimensional en un objeto tridimensional", explica Nava. "El peso, la gravedad, y el elemento de azar espontáneo jugó un gran papel en aquellas primeras piezas."

A medida que su trabajo progresaba, Nava experimentó con métodos alternativos de formación para la dureza de sus esculturas, eventualmente utilizando el gas combustible. Las formas resultantes creadas a partir de estas incursiones en los combustibles tienen reminiscencia de las pieles de animales, los comedores, las almohadas y los topes de juguetes inflables.

"Mientras los objetos permanecen, musculoso, robustos y fuertes, el ligero ablandamiento de sus contornos crea una nueva dinámica en su interpretación", señala Mara Williams, Curador en jefe del Museo y Centro de Arte de Brattleboro, y donde Nava presentó las formas expandidas en 2015. "La "experiencia" física de cada pieza se manifiesta en los cambios que vemos en su cuerpo. Abundan las alusiones, del desinflado del juguete inflable de un niño, al colgar de la piel del una vez joven cuerpo."

En Peligro Amarillo, Nava presenta estudios de pequeña escala en su forma ampliada, una serie de collagráficas imprime y frescos inspirados por texturas y formas de vasijas y otros objetos de su casa y estudio. Nava ve las "collagráficas tanto como parte de mi obra, como las esculturas" y que valora tanto sus cualidades reliquarias de incertidumbre, y la imperfección como vestigios de sus procesos y experiencias, y las cualidades escultóricas de las placas de las collagráficas y cómo se preparan.



P R E S S R E L E A S E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / JULY 26, 2016

RODRIGO NAVA *Visible Forces*



RODRIGO NAVA, *Expansions* (2014-2016) expanded steel, dimensions variable

RODRIGO NAVA *Visible Forces* August – September 2016

OPENING RECEPTION
Saturday, August 13, 7PM – 10PM

PELIGRO AMARILLO / SANTURCE
Calle Cerra 627 | San Juan | 00907 | PUERTO RICO
+1 787 402 9271 / + 1 401 861 1535 | www.peligroamarillo.com

GALLERY HOURS
By Appointment Only

PELIGRO AMARILLO / SANTURCE

CALLE CERRA 627 | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | +1 787 402 9271 | www.peligroamarillo.com

SAN JUAN, PR – Peligro Amarillo / Santurce is pleased to present *Visible Forces* by Rodrigo Nava, featuring a series of sculptures derived from explosive-forming techniques that create a narrative of conversation between artist and process, from August – September 2016. The opening reception is Saturday, August 13, at Calle Cerra 627 in Santurce, the arts district of San Juan, Puerto Rico, from 7PM – 10PM.

Early sculptures in Rodrigo Nava's *Expansions* series were created by hydroforming—injecting water under pressure into welded steel sculptures. “The “soft” form of the water reshaped the “hard” steel from the inside out, transforming a two-dimensional plane into a three-dimensional object,” Nava explains. “Weight, gravity, and the spontaneous element of chance played large parts in those early pieces.”

As his work progressed, Nava experimented with alternative methods of shaping “hard” sculptures, eventually settling on combustible gas. The resulting shapes created from these forays into combustibles are reminiscent of animal skins, canteens, pillows and toy inflatable tops.

“While the objects remain robust, muscular, and strong, the slight softening of their outlines creates a new dynamic in interpretation,” notes Mara Williams, Chief Curator, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, where Nava presented *Expanded Forms* in 2015. “The physical “experience” of each piece is manifest in the changes we see in its body. Allusions abound, from the deflation of a child’s blow-up toy to the sagging of a once-young physique.”

At Peligro Amarillo, Nava will present small-scale studies of his expanded forms, a series of collagraph prints and frescos inspired by textures and shapes of vessels and other objects of his home and studio. Nava sees the collagraphs “as much a part of my oeuvre as the sculptures themselves” and values both their relic-like qualities of uncertainty and imperfection as remnants of his processes and experiences and the sculptural qualities of way the collagraph plate is prepared.

The opening reception for *Visible Forces* is Saturday, August 13, from 7PM – 10PM. The exhibition will conclude at the end of September. This is Nava’s first solo exhibition at Peligro Amarillo / Santurce. Most recently, he presented sculptures at Yellow Peril in 2012 and ArtHamptons 2015 in Easthampton, NY.

About Rodrigo Nava

RODRIGO NAVA (b. 1978, Mexico City) is a Mexican/American Artist whose sculpture explores the relationship between material and process. His work can be found in private and public collections throughout the country and abroad. A Collection of his work is currently on view at the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center. Nava maintains a residence in Putney, VT where he is the head of the sculpture program at The Putney School. He regularly frequents New York City to gain new inspiration and continues his exploration of process-oriented art using steel and explosive-forming techniques. He is represented by Yellow Peril Gallery, RI. For more info about Rodrigo Nava, visit rodrigonava.com.

* * * * *

If you'd like more information about this press release, or to schedule an interview with RODRIGO NAVA, please contact Vanphouthon Souvannasane via e-mail at van@yellowperilgallery.com.

PELIGRO AMARILLO  SANTURCE

CALLE CERRA 627 | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | +1 787 402 9271 | www.peligroamarillo.com

RODRIGO NAVA

BIO

b. 1978, Mexico City, MX

Rodrigo Nava was born in Mexico City, Mexico in 1978. His earliest forays into sculpture in adolescence were clay figurative works done in the studio of Edgar Guzman. He attended school in both Tepozlan, Morelos and Washington D.C. and attended high school at The Putney School in Vermont. It was at the Putney School where his early interest in sculpture flourished. Under the tutelage of Joseph Fichter, Nava worked in various mediums of stone, ironwork and mixed media. Nava's inspiration would continue into college in Paris where he studied art history, and worked with found materials. Back in New York after school Rodrigo attended numerous art shows and exhibitions while under the close mentor ship of the painter Franco Ciarlo. Opportunity would present itself in the form of a full-time position as the head of the sculpture department at The Putney School filling in Fichter who was on sabbatical. It was during this time Nava's focus returned to stone sculpture incorporating new materials such as wax, brass and poured tin. Today Nava maintains a residence in Putney, VT where he has continued to teach part-time, regularly frequents New York City to gain new inspiration and continues his exploration of process-oriented art using steel and explosive-forming techniques.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I created the early sculptures in my *Expansions* series by hydroforming—injecting water under pressure into welded steel sculptures. The “soft” form of the water reshaped the “hard” steel from the inside out, transforming a two-dimensional plane into a three-dimensional object. Weight, gravity, and the spontaneous element of chance played large parts in those early pieces.

As my work progressed, I experimented with alternative methods of shaping “hard” sculptures, eventually settling on combustible gas. The forms created by my forays into combustibles are reminiscent of animal skins, canteens, pillows, and inflatable tops.

We are used to seeing steel that has been arced and torqued by machines, or seamless objects that have retained steel's rigid nature throughout the fabrication process. But what are we to make of steel objects that billow at their extremities and bulge at their seams? My sculptures—inflated yet impregnable—seek to expand our everyday notions of the character of steel. Straightforward yet obtuse, they are packages of events that have yet to be opened.

RODRIGO NAVA

CV

EDUCATION

- American University of Paris, Paris, FRANCE

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 *Visible Forces*, Peligro Amarillo / Santurce, San Juan, PUERTO RICO
2015 *Expanded Forms*, Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, Brattleboro, VT
Exposed, Helen Day Art Center, Stowe, VT
Collagraphs for Sculpture, CX Silver Gallery, Brattleboro, VT
2013 *Visible Force*, Yellow Peril Gallery, Providence, RI
2012 *New Prints*, COLO COLO Gallery New Bedford, MA
Expanded Forms, Catherine Dianich Gallery Brattleboro, VT
2011 *Expansions*, Partners & Spade New York, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 Catherine Dianich Gallery, Brattleboro, VT
2014 Michael S. Currier Gallery and Art Center, Putney, VT.
2014 New Bedford Art Museum, New Bedford, MA
2013 LightSpace, Brooklyn, NY
2012 Yellow Peril Gallery, Providence, RI
2011 Catherine Dianich Gallery, Brattleboro, VT
2009 Sears Peyton Gallery, New York, NY
Catherine Dianich Gallery, Brattleboro, VT
2008 Michael S. Currier Gallery and Art Center, Putney, VT.
Catherine Dianich Gallery, Brattleboro, VT

ART FAIRS

- 2016 Portal Art Fair, New York, NY
2015 ArtHamptons, Bridgehampton, NY
Governors Island Art Fair, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, NY
2014 SCOPE New York, NY
Governors Island Art Fair, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, NY
2013 Governors Island Art Fair, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, New York, NY
Scope Miami, FL

PELIGRO AMARILLO / SANTURCE

CALLE CERRA 627 | SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO | +1 787 402 9271 | www.peligroamarillo.com

RESIDENCIES

- 2009 The Putney School, Putney, VT
- 2006 The Carving Studio & Sculpture Center, Rutland, VT
- 2004 El Taller, Tepoztlán, MEXICO

AWARDS

- 2016 Vermont Arts Council
- 2013 Vermont Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts
- 2014 Vermont Arts Council and National Endowment for the Art

SELECTED PRESS

- “George Washington’s Former Stomping Grounds Host Art Made of Trash” *The Observer*, May 7, 2016
- “Sprawling Art Shows in Brooklyn Bridge Park and on Governors Island” *The New York Times*, Sept 10, 2015
- McVay, Marcel, “Marcel Mcvay Interviews Rodrigo Nava” *Collect Magazine*, June 2012
- Volmer, Suzanne, “Rodrigo Nava: Metal Mania at Yellow Peril” *ArtScope Magazine*, July 2012
- “Authentic New York – Partners & Spade” *Pen with Attitude Magazine*, October 2011

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- Berg Family Collection, Miami, FL
- De Ponton D'Amecourt Family Collection, Paris, France
- Krugar Family Collection, Greenwich, CT
- The Putney School, Putney, VT



RODRIGO NAVA, *Expansions* (2014-2016) expanded steel, dimensions variable



Slit Cone Form (2014)



Split Cone Form B (2014)



Trapezohedron Form (2014)



Expanded Form #1 (2014)



RODRIGO NAVA
Collagraphs (2007 – 2015)
collagraphs on paper
18" x 24"



RODRIGO NAVA
Frescoes
mixed media works on paper
dimensions variable