

CARDI GALLERY PROJECTS



Ignacio Bahna, *Suspended again*, 2017
3000 volcanic rocks and transparent nylon 400 x 400 cm (157 1/2 x 157 1/2 in)

IGNACIO BAHNA

SUSPENDED AGAIN | VOLVER A SUSPENDER

Curated by Mariagrazia Muscatello

Ignacio Bahna (Santiago, Chile, 1980) lives and works in Santiago.

The work of **Ignacio Bahna** is based on the observation and living experience of the artist with his natural environment. Chile is well known for its landscapes, the Andes, the glaciers and the volcanoes that surround the whole territory. This sublime immensity is a cultural heritage for Chilean people, and it's a prominent part of the reflection of the artistic circle. **Ignacio's** work reflects this strict relation and impossible division between human life and nature, a bond that indigenous communities know very well and that nowadays is challenged and at high risk of extinction for climate change. All the materials of his installations and works of art are recollected from his personal trekkings and excursion discoveries in the south of Chile, where he has an Observatory center near the Villarrica volcano.

This recycling methodology is a form of sustainable art and a way of creating a natural archive of his land. The process that involves the search of the material is an important part of the art pieces, that are based on the investigation of the original trees and woods of the environment and the geological properties of the volcanic rocks in order to create a living memory present in each work. He mixes the natural elements with technological facilities to recreate with lights and installations the unique sensation of his personal experience of nature to the public.

His work continually defies gravity, such as the Suspended Again installation, exhibited for the 13th Media Arts Biennial in Santiago, 2017. The theme of physicality, space and time are recurring in his creative development, as well as the rigorous study of light. He subtly mixes previously collected natural elements with technology, balancing the organic and the artificial.

Each research that is carried out involves different actors depending on the project, often including geologists or glaciologists, in others biologists, as well as architects.

In 2005 he began to build his Observatory project, located in the Araucanía Region in the south of Chile, between the Rukapillan (Villarica), Lanín and Quetrupillán volcanoes, contiguous to the Villarrica National Park and the border with Argentina. This is a territory of native flora and fauna dedicated to conservation. There he built, through a sustainable architectural language resistant to extreme weather, a platform for observation and investigation of the various phenomena that occur in this environment. The diverse natural actions experienced by the artist include the eruption of the Rukapillan volcano, the partial disappearance of the Pichillancahue glacier, solar eclipses, earthquakes, forest fires, deforestation, among others. Each of these phenomena have been transformed into artistic projects along with scientists and researchers who have visited the place.

Mariagrazia Muscatello

PRESS

Edoardo Osculati
edoardo@cardigallery.com