

# GALERIE MITTERRAND

**AGUSTÍN CÁRDENAS**

07 SEPT > 03 NOV 2018

PRESS KIT

OPENING THURSDAY 06 SEPT 2018

6 PM > 9 PM

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## AGUSTÍN CÁRDENAS

07 SEPT > 03 NOV 2018

PRESS KIT

Galerie Mitterrand is delighted to present a new solo exhibition of the works of Cuban artist Agustín Cárdenas. For this event, the gallery has decided to focus primarily on a selection of unique works completed from the late 1950s to the late 1970s.

Agustín Cárdenas was born in Matanzas, Cuba in 1927. He began modeling forms in clay and then sculpture at the San Alejandro National Academy of Fine Arts in Havana, where he studied from 1943 to 1949. He quickly broke from the classical codes taught there and joined the Group of 11, which was comprised of Cuban painters and sculptors who rejected conventional art. It was also then that Cárdenas discovered the work of Hans Arp, Constantin Brancusi, and Henry Moore. In 1955, he moved to France, settling in Paris' Montparnasse district. He quickly made friends with André Breton and the surrealists, and exhibited his work alongside theirs the following year. Working with wood, marble, and bronze, he developed poetic, curved, and sensual works in which organic generosity, elongated silhouettes, and abstract forms all mix together. Cárdenas' work is characterized by a skillful mixture of abstraction and figuration. The abstract nature of his volumes is almost always counterbalanced by a figurative representation, which is suggested by his chosen titles. Totems, shells, women, couples, horses, doors, stele: Cárdenas worked with an array of highly symbolic subjects wrested from subconscious memory, providing him with the pretext to explore many facets of creation across various different forms.

Dedicated to Agustín Cárdenas' work as a sculptor, this exhibition presents a selection of his pieces in wood and marble carved and shaped by the artist's own hand. Some of these unique works were subsequently recast in bronze, such as *L'Histoire n'est pas finie* [*History Is Not Over*](1958). The wood in which he sculpted his elongated silhouettes and totems, such as in *Forme Verticale* [*Vertical Form*](1968) is a 'raw' material par excellence. His choice of wood as a medium, and the way he works with it, allude to his ancestral origins, referencing primitive sculpture and African statue making. Pieces made with different types of wood are featured in the exhibition such as *Katanga* (1959) in mahogany, and *Repos* [*Rest*](1960) in oak. Some other wooden sculptures are painted or event burned. In contrast, marble, a noble material, has been used since Antiquity to reproduce the ideal forms of human beauty. His marble sculptures remind us of the influence of modern sculpture on his work, notably *Reclining Figure* by Henry Moore. We see the reappearance of these idealized feminine forms in *Sculpture de forme sensuelle* [*Sensually Shaped Sculpture*](1969-1970), *Fleur éveillée* [*Flower In Bloom*](1975), and *Dompteuse* [*Tamer*](1972). Their smooth, polished surfaces are in stark contrast with the deliberately crude look of his wooden sculptures.

Agustín Cárdenas has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions, such as at the Cuba Palacio de Bellas Artes in Havana (1955); the Galerie de la Cour d'Ingres in Paris (presented by André Breton in 1959); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (1959); the Paris Biennale, where he won first prize for sculpture (1961); the Tokyo Biennale (1965); the National Museum of Bellas Artes in Havana (1993); or more recently, at Biron Castle and in the gardens of the Manoir d'Eyrignac (2012). His works can be found in numerous public and museum collections, including the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, the Museo d'Arte moderna in Rome, the Museo d'Arte Moderno in Caracas, the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the Museo Nacional in Cuba, the Modern Art Museum in Tel Aviv, and the Hakone open-air Museum in Japan. While ill in 1994, he decided to return to Cuba, where he died in 2001. He is buried in the Montparnasse cemetery in Paris.

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# GALERIEMITTERRAND

## Practical information:

Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris

T 33 1 43 26 12 05 - F 33 1 46 33 44 83 - [www.galeriemitterrand.com](http://www.galeriemitterrand.com)

## Opening hours:

From Tuesday to Saturday 11 am > 7 pm and on Monday by appointment

## Press contact:

Alice Pointet - Galerie Mitterrand - 79 rue du Temple - 75003 Paris

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**Agustin Cárdenas**

*Katanga*, 1959

Acajou - Mahogany

H 50 x 14 x 9,8 cm / H 20 x 5.5 x 4 in

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**Agustin Cárdenas**

*Repos*, 1960

Chêne brûlé / burnt oak

H 48 x 7,6 x 7,6 cm / H 19 x 3 x 3 in

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Photo : Martine Franck

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

## ARTIST

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AGUSTÍN CÁRDENAS  
Born in Cuba, April 10th 1927.  
Died in 2001 in Havana

## EDUCATION

-

San Alejandro Academy of Fine Arts from 1943 to 1949

## SOLO SHOWS

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2018  
Galerie Mitterrand, Paris, France  
Almine Rech Gallery, Londres, UK

2016  
Almine Rech Gallery, Frieze Masters, Londres, UK

2015  
Aktis Gallery, Londres, UK  
Carrara, Cárdenas and Negriure, Galleria Duomo, Carrara, Italie

2012  
Château de Biron, Dordogne, France

2008  
Cárdenas, Galerie Vallois, Paris, France

2006  
Oriol Galeria d'Art Barcelona, Espagne

2004  
Lorenzelli Arte, Milano, Italie

2003  
Trois galeries un artiste, Cárdenas 1927 - 2001, Paris, France

2002  
Haim Chanin Fine Arts, Desire and Grace, New York, USA

1999  
Gary Nader Fine Arts, Coral Gables, USA

1998  
Festival international du cinéma, Biarritz, France

1997  
Galleria delle Stelline, Milan. Couvent des Cordeliers, Paris, France

1992  
Galerie Durbán, Caracas. JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

Le Point Cardinal, Paris. Galerie de l'Échaudé, Paris. Galerie du Château, Genève, Suisse

1991

International Art Exhibition, Miami, USA  
Art Exhibition, Tokyo, Japon

1990

JGM. Galerie, Paris, France  
International Gallery, Chicago. Galerie Durbán, Caracas, Venezuela

1988

JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

1984

FIAC, Paris, France

1982

Galerie Théo, Madrid et Barcelone, Espagne

1981

Le Point Cardinal, Paris, France  
Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques et Plastiques, Paris, France

1980

Fuji Television Gallery, Tokyo, Japon

1979

Le Point Cardinal, Paris, France  
Galerie Théo, Madrid et Barcelone, Espagne  
FIAC, Paris, France

1977

Galerie de France et du Benelux, Bruxelles, Belgique

1975

Le Point Cardinal, Paris, France  
Galerie Jacques Benador, Genève, Suisse  
Maison des Arts et des Loisirs, Montbéliard, France

1974

Galerie de France et du Benelux, Bruxelles, Belgique

1973

Le Point Cardinal, Paris, France

1972

Musée Galliera, Paris, France

1971

Galerie Boulakia, Paris, France  
Galerie Lorenzelli, Bergame, Italie

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# GALERIE MITTERRAND

1969

Galerie La Bussola, Turin, Italie

1968

Galerie Arcanes, Bruxelles, Belgique

1965

Galerie du Dragon, Paris, France

1962

Galerie Richard Feigen, Chicago, USA

1961

Galerie du Dragon, Paris, France

Galerie Schwarz, Milan, Italie

1959

Galerie de La Cour d'Ingres, Paris, France

1955

Palais des Beaux-Arts, La Havane, Cuba

## GROUP SHOWS

-

2018

Imaginary Ancestors, Almine Rech Gallery, New York, USA

9 Sculptors, Forms of Abstraction, Durban Segnini Art, Geneve, Suisse

2017

Hidden Art, Simon Student Art, Genève, Swiss

2014

Tridimensional Dialogue, Durban Segnini Gallery, Miami, USA

Dr Albert Delucq, Galerie Mathias Coullaud, Paris, France

2012

Modern Art, Aktis Gallery, Londres, UK

Masterpiece Fair, 101 Aktis Gallery, Londres, UK

2011-2012,

Aktis Gallery, Bruxelles, Belgique.

2011

Works from the Aktis Gallery collection, Aktis Gallery, Londres, UK

2002

FIAC, JGM. Galerie, Paris.

Through the Black Atlantic, Tate Liverpool, UK

Centro Gallego de Arte contemporaneo, Saint-Jacques de Compostelle, France

1999 - 2000

Kunst-Welten in Dialog, von Gauguin zur globalen Gegenwart, Ludwig Museum,

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Cologne, Allemagne

1997

The Art Show, New-York. Autour de José Pierre, Galerie Claude Lemand, Paris, France

Le surréalisme et l'amour, Pavillon des Arts, Paris. Cuba, siglo XX, Palma de Majorca, Barcelone, Espagne

1996

The Art Show, New-York.

Biennale internazionale di scultura, Carrare. La Magia del volumen. Casa de las Americas, La Havane, Cuba

1995

Hommage à Denys Chevalier, Musée de Meudon, France

Concorso Internazionale del Bronzetto, Padova, Italie

1993

Lateinamerika und der Surrealismus, Musée de Bochum, Allemagne

1992

Feria Ibero Americana de Arte, Caracas, Venezuela

International Art, Miami, USA

Blanco y negro, Galerie Durbán, Caracas, Venezuela

Trente sculpteurs latino- américains, Centre culturel du Mexique, Paris, France

JGM. Galerie, Paris, France

1991

Belvédère d'André Pierre de Mandiargues, Art curial, Paris, France

FIART, Bogotá, Colombie

Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France

André Breton, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Esenciales de la Epoca, Galerie Durbán, Caracas, Venezuela

1990

FIAC, Paris, France

Figuración, Fabulación, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela.

Artcurial, Paris, France

Salon de Mars, Galerie JGM., Paris, France

1989

Salon de Mars, Paris, France

Scolpire, Pietrasanta, Carrare, Italie

Galerie Durbán, Caracas, Venezuela

1988

Autour d'Édouard Glissant, Galerie du Dragon, Paris, France

Galerie Durbán, Caracas, Venezuela

1987

Open Air Museum, Yorkshire, UK.

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1986

Exposition Internationale de sculpture contemporaine, Collioure, France

1985

Hommage à Alica Penalba, Tarbes, France

1984

Diomi della scultura contemporanea, Vérone, Italie

1978

Festival de Lyon, France

1977

Espace-lumière dans les sculptures du Cubisme à aujourd'hui, Ratilly, France  
Huit sculpteurs, Galerie Française Tournié, Paris, France

1976

Formas en el espacio, Galerie Théo, Madrid, Espagne

1973

Biennale Internationale de la Petite Sculpture, Budapest, Hongrie  
Sculptures en montagne, Plateau d'Assy, Passy, France  
Collection fantôme, Galerie de Seine, Paris, France

1972

Musée Galliera, Paris, France

1971

Sept artistes latino-américains, Galerie des Beaux-Arts, Bordeaux, France  
Grands et jeunes d'aujourd'hui, Galerie du Dragon, Paris, France  
Galerie La Roue, Paris, France  
Art latino-américain en Scandinavie, Musée de Oslo, Norvège  
Nuit du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, sculpture monumentale, Paris, France  
25 sculpteurs contemporains, Galerie Saint-Germain, Paris, France  
Exposition Internationale de Surréalisme, Baukunst, Cologne, Allemagne

1970

Sculpture dans la cité, Rouen.  
Sculptures à ciel ouvert, Mâcon. Présence européenne, Galerie Vercamer, Paris, France

1969

Biennale de Carrare. Festival d'Avignon. Biennale de sculpture, Anvers. Exposition internationale, Port-Barcares, France  
Depuis Rodin, Musée de Saint-Germain-en-Laye, France

1968

Exposition Ancy-le-Franc, Yonne, France  
Exposition surréaliste, "Princip slasti", Tchécoslovaquie.  
Trois sculpteurs, Galerie Europe, Paris, France

1967

Le Jardin de la Sculpture, Relais de Vaux-de-Cernay, Yvelines, France

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Biennale de Carrare, Italie

1966

Un sculpteur et neuf peintres cubains, Galerie Saint-Germain, Paris, France

École de Francfort, Allemagne

Grands et Jeunes d'aujourd'hui, Paris, France

Sculpture et Bijoux, Eva Eyquem et Galerie Maywald, Paris, France

1965

Babel 65, Musée Galliera, Paris.

Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, "l'Écart absolu", Galerie de l'œil, Paris, France

Biennale Internationale, Tokyo, Japon

La main, Galerie Claude Bernard, Paris, France

Biennale de sculpture, Anvers, Belgique

1964

Galerie Margarete Lauter, Mannheim, Allemagne

1963

Actualité de la sculpture, Galerie Creuze, Paris, France

1962 et 1965

Exposition de l'Art latino-américain, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France

1962

Hannover Gallery, Londres, UK

Sculpteurs d'aujourd'hui, Galerie Blumenthal, Paris, France

Sculpture contemporaine, Maison de la Culture, Le Havre, Paris

L'objet, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

Un demi-siècle de sculpture, Galerie du Cercle, Paris, France

1961

Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, Arcy's Galleries, New-York., USA

Biennale de Paris, France

Festival di Spoleto, Italie.

Dessins de jeunes sculpteurs, Galerie de Varenne, Paris, France

1960-71

Salon de Mai, Paris, France

1960

Cent sculpteurs de Daumier à nos jours, Musée de Saint-Étienne, France

1959

Cinq jeunes sculpteurs de l'École de Paris, Galerie Saint-Augustin, France

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA

Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, Galerie Daniel Cordier, Paris, USA

1957-1965

Réalités Nouvelles, Paris, France

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1957

Hommage de la sculpture à Brancusi, Suzanne de Connink, Paris, France

1956-71

Salon de la jeune sculpture, Paris, France

1956

Étoile Scellée, Paris. Suzanne de Connink, Paris, France

1954

Plastica Cubana contemporánea, La Havane, Cuba

## COLLECTIONS PUBLIQUES

-

Fonds National d'Art Contemporain, Paris

Museum CAP, Carrara, IT

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris

Musée de Sculpture en plein air de la Ville de Paris, Paris Musée d'Art et d'Industrie,  
Saint Etienne, FR

Museo d'Arte moderna, Roma

Museo d'Arte Moderno, Caracas

Musée Georges Pompidou, Paris

Museo National, Cuba

Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Brussels Musée d'Ixelles, Brussels

Musée d'Art Contemporain, Alger

Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal, CA

Modern Art Museum, Tel Aviv

The Hakone open-air Museum, Hakone, Japan

The Utsukushi-ga-hara open air Museum, Ueda City, Japan Olympiades des Arts,  
Seoul

C.E.S, Auxerre, FR

Lycée technique, Redon, FR

C.E.S, Les Minguettes, Venissieux, FR

Ensemble universitaire, Saint Denis, FR

Lycée classique, moderne et technique, Creutzwald, FR

C.E.S, Nogent-sur-Marne, FR

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