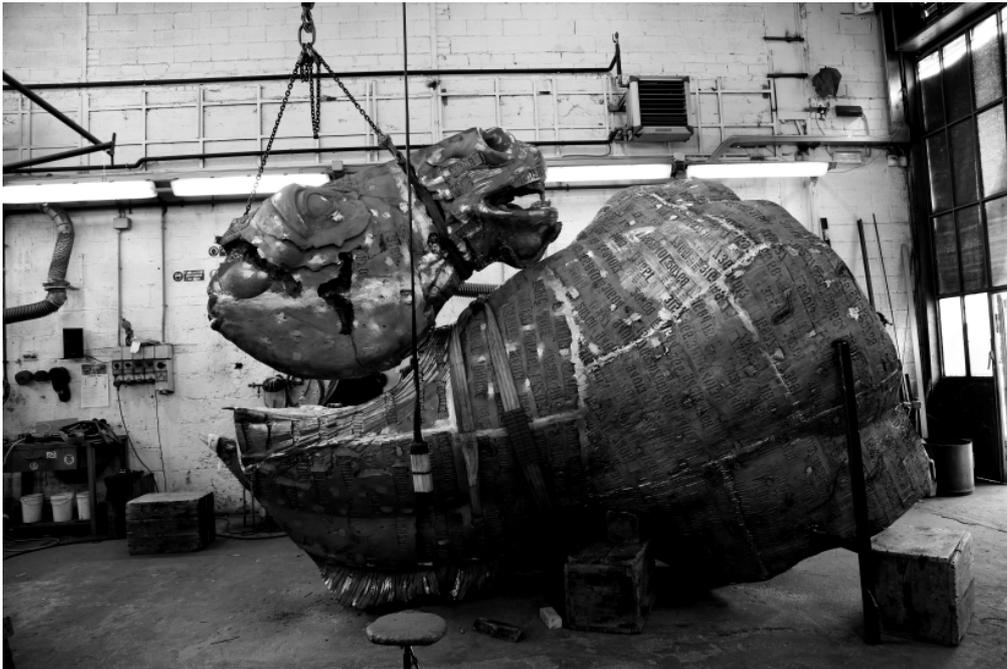


GUSTAVO ACEVES

lapidarium

Brandenburg Gate | Pariser Platz
Berlin, 2 – 10 May 2015



Gustavo Aceves, *Lapidarium*, 2009 - 2015, Courtesy the artist, Photo by Gabriela Malvido

Lapidarium is a sculpture exhibition by Mexican artist Gustavo Aceves consisting of large-scale horses that offer a unique perspective on one of the most salient and controversial issues in human history: migration. As a Mexican who has lived around the world in various continents, the artist uses his own personal circumstance as a point of departure.

First exhibited in Pietrasanta in 2014, the touring exhibition continues to Berlin's Brandenburg Gate in the Pariser Platz where multiple horses are presented to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II (2 – 10 May 2015). The exhibition is organised in collaboration with Kulturprojekte Berlin, Jarmuschek + Partner and The Embassy of Mexico, Berlin. *Lapidarium* will continue to further cities around the world during 2015 – 17 including Venice, London, Beijing and Mexico City, evolving each time it is presented.

Sculpted in marble, bronze, granite, iron and resin, the project has been six-years in the making. Aceves has used a myriad of sources - personal, historical, social, and political – to create his own visual language. The works are layered with cultural references and symbolism, notably the boat of Charon from Hades' Underworld and the Trojan Horse from Greek mythology, to convey the movement of people that began with the first human groups from their origins in East Africa to their current locations around world. The horse itself is a symbol of migration, originally brought to the Americas by the Spaniards in 1493.

In Berlin, two monumental sculptures each with low hanging heads face each other at the Brandenburg Gate. One is in bronze horse joined together by skeletal spine covered in serial numbers. The other is sculpted in granite and is more abstract in its appearance; the form of a horse is made up of human skulls and on its neck stands a man chiselled in the style of African tribal sculpture. 18 further horses sized at 3x3 meters created in bronze and marble are exhibited in a procession through the Pariser Platz.

Each horse has distinct cracks on its surface to portray a fractured form, often at times appearing skeletal or containing human skulls within them, to emphasise the tragedy, struggle and barbarism migration is historically associated with. The horses represent fragments from our shared past but also the ever evolving nature of humanity characterised by hope and life, signified by a horse's heart sometimes visible within the works.

All of the works for *Lapidarium* have been created in Italy. Aceves moved to Pietrasanta - a town in the Tuscan countryside once home to sculptors such as Igor Mitoraj - for its world-renowned marble and bronze foundries. Michelangelo sourced marble from Pietrasanta and ever since, artists such as Giambologna, Vasari, Joan Miró, Henry Moore and more recently Damien Hirst and Marc Quinn have made work there. Aceves has worked with foundries in Pietrasanta including Carlo Barsi as well as with studios in Florence and Bologna.

About the artist

Gustavo Aceves (b. 1957, Mexico City) currently lives and works in Pietrasanta, Italy. Aceves is self-taught artist who quickly built up a reputation as an influential painter working in Latin America. His paintings and works on paper focussing on the human figure draw upon Western pictorial traditions whilst using the large-scales common in Mexican murals. Aceves' work has been exhibited around the world since the late 1970s including in the Museo del Palacio Bellas Artes in Mexico City, the Venice Biennale and the Beijing Biennale and is part of the permanent

collections of Museo Memoria y Tolerancia, Mexico City and the Vatican Museum, Rome. He was one of the youngest artists in Christie's and Sotheby's new Latin American sales in New York in the early 1990s. His work is collected around the world by museums, galleries and private individuals. In 2014, Aceves participated in Bianca Jagger's Paddle8 benefit auction, Arts for Human Rights.

For press information and images please contact:

Sophie Campos or Tefkros Christou at Pelham Communications

sophie@pelhamcommunications.com or tefkros@pelhamcommunications.com

+44 (0) 208 969 3959

Social media hashtags:

#gustavoaceves #lapidarium

Instagram: @Gustavo_Aceves

Press Conference and Photo Call:

Wednesday, 29 April 2015, 11am

Press conference at The Embassy of Mexico (Klingelhöferstraße 3, 10785 Berlin) followed by a photo call at the Brandenburg Gate in the Pariser Platz with the artist

RSVP required to sophie@pelhamcommunications.com +44 (0) 208 969 3959

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