

Enrique Martínez Celaya at Museo Marino Marini

Guardare e aspettare: Sculture selezionate 2005-2023

From March 31 to June 5, 2023, the Marino Marini Museum in Florence presents "Guardare e aspettare: Enrique Martínez Celaya Selected Sculptures 2005-2023," the first exhibition in Italy by the Cuban-born, Los Angeles-based artist Enrique Martínez Celaya. Trained as a painter, Martínez Celaya has explored sculpture, photography, video, and writing over more than thirty years of artistic practice. His figurative language is deeply rooted in nature, starting from common and familiar images. However, the initial simplicity of this imagery gives way to a deeper, more opaque, and unstable experience that lies beneath the surface. Curated by Giorgio Verzotti, "Guardare e aspettare" (Watching and Waiting) specifically focuses on Martínez Celaya's sculpture, in dialogue with the rooms that host it. For the first time, the artist transforms the flickering images of his paintings into concrete objects made of bronze, cement, wax, or wood, sharing the space with the viewer and intensifying personal engagement. Sculpture thus becomes a powerful medium through which



The Enchantment of Owning Nothing (or The Bear Fur Along the Spine), 2022. Burnt wood and bear fur. 48 x 18 x 24 in.

Martínez Celaya explores highly personal and intimate concepts that characterize the emotional journey of life, such as memory, loss, vulnerability, state of mind, the ephemeral, and hope. Martínez Celaya's sculptures seem to be a permanent version of what is usually a fleeting act: crying, sitting, raising an arm, sheltering. They act as witnesses, intensified by their immobility. This immobility is not intended to be impassiveness but rather resistance, determination, waiting, and patience, as emphasized by the exhibition's title, "Guardare e aspettare" (Watching and Waiting).