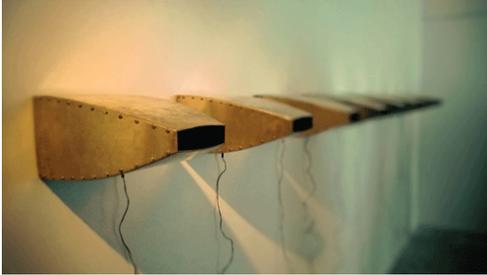


Galleries and Sculptures: A Relationship in Conflict

By Maria Carolina Baulo



The sculpture gained space over time; it took the streets by surprise and also public spaces, overflowing its usual continent: primarily museums and art galleries. In fact, sculpture has incorporated the ability to manifest in large proportions and combined with installations, it reached a certain place in the “everyday visual arts environment”. We just need to think of any metropolis on the planet to find vast examples of individual sculptures or groups, interacting with the casual spectators, blurring the interest off those places that used to show art exclusively. Nevertheless, it is something interesting to analyze, how such phenomenon compromises the relationship between sculptures and its exhibition spaces, issues such as legitimacy and consecration, and also how these spaces become part of a larger group of many other where sculptures are rarely placed before. But also the importance of its commercialization and how they are not as easy to deal with as paint. That is why often the galleries decided to privilege the role of painting when selecting artists. Questions pile up: Is still painting leading the contemporary art scene?; Do galleries prefer two-dimensional works when it comes to representing their artists?; Is it an aesthetic or economic choice?; Why sculpture appears to be associated with spaces such as museums -now also the public space and in monumental scale- and there are few galleries who dare to work with them?; What kind of problems and challenges a gallery must face when dealing with exhibitions, commercialization, transportation, among others?. Analyzing the local artistic field in Argentina and having a conversation with artists and gallery’s directors, the answer seems to hover shyly. In an informal chat with two directors of well known galleries in the art circuit in Argentina, they wisely highlight some situations that are becoming increasingly evident regarding the sculpture-gallery relationship.

(excerpt from article posted in Business Art, Web Special - ISC Web Specials features articles on Business of Art, Process & Technique, Technology, Education and Law in the field of Sculpture. These are not featured in the magazine and are posted each month in the online member area and are searchable by keywords, tags or authors.)