

Whether trying to document the social milieu or tracking, with seismographic accuracy, the shifting grounds of the art environment, the Image Factory has always been committed to present to the public the idea, the practice and the consumption of the artistic vanguards. And so it is that we come to know the mysterious mappings and the startling invention of artist Santiago Cal. Sculpture is his primary medium and the works here presented reflect his dexterity with this format. But dexterity is a tag too loosely made to collar a man whose work seems to set the ordered environment askew, as if bending to hear an answer.

Milk Clouds, Cal's first exhibition in Belize is a collection of the artist's most recent works involving objects he calls "Heads" and "Ticks." Conceived and presented as an installation, Cal's sculptures call upon various media including wood and plaster casts, drawn together in a process he refers to as, "making tangible the emission of thoughts." Meticulously crafted the collected sculptures seem to hold space hostage, confounding interpretation, and inciting tyranny against convention.

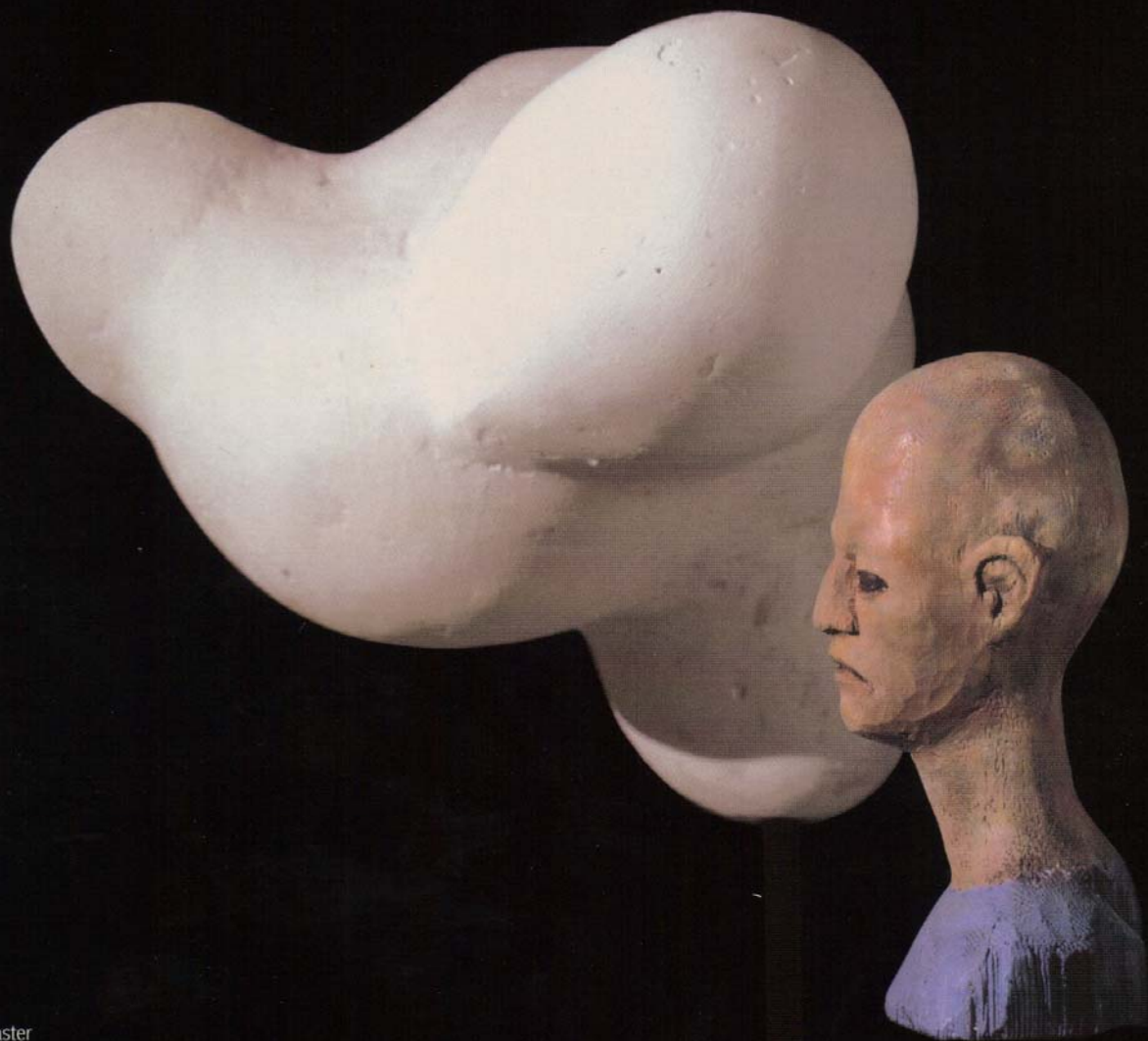
The "heads" in *Milk Clouds* can be read as a grouping of similar objects straddling several spaces and meeting at an intersection of the physical and metaphysical. First they occupy a physical sculptural space that is comprehensible because it exists in a tangible and workable realm. The artist uses this physical space as a framework from which to communicate his intentions. Secondly there is an averse metaphysical space, which forces a concentrated contemplation. This space thrusts the viewer into the vast entropy of white clouds where the once solid landscape seems fleeting and nebulous. And below, as if in counterpoint, each head is encased with eyes locking in the viewer, attempting to engage him in a thick plot pointing to a hidden narrative. The merging of these two spaces, forces a conceptual conclusion, where the ultimate consideration is what Cal calls, "The weight of a thought."

As an installation the combination of "heads" demarcates a psychological terrain where collectively the pieces act as characters in an interplay about the force of physical assertion provoking the weight of a thought. This architectonic construct charts a subconscious map where inert but eternal matter is imbued with the illusion of material formation.

Yasser Musa



milky # 2, 2000
painted wood and plaster
24" x 25" x 18" (H x W x D)



milky # 3, 2000
painted wood and plaster
24" x 32" x 21" (H x W x D)

santiago cal
Milk Clouds

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art foundation

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Monday to Friday: 9 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 12 noon

The Image Factory Art Foundation is a non-profit art institution dedicated to the documentation, promotion and exhibition of culture in Belize. Focused on contemporary art locally and internationally the Image Factory also presents exhibitions and displays of a wider range involving social history, archaeology and anthropology.

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