

THE WALL Gallery Miami to present DEREDIA and the COSMIC MYSTERY OF CREATION

MIAMI, November 10, 2022 - The Wall Gallery is pleased to announce its inaugural exhibition entitled *Deredia and the Cosmic Mystery of Creation*. The thirteen sculptures in bronze and marble on display enable an intimate encounter with Deredia's work and provide the artist's response to the universal questions of creation and meaning.

Deredia's work handles the omnipresent mysteries of creation - where do we come from? what are we doing? where are we going? - and offers the viewers symbols and forms with which to consider the answers. In this exhibit, Deredia proposes that human beings share in the legacy of the formation of the universe. He shows how the creation that erupted out of nothingness at the moment of the Big Bang persists as human beings continue to be born of the material produced in the universe's genesis. "We are stardust in transmutation," Deredia emphasizes, and privileged to participate in the great cosmic process.

Deredia's sculptures have been crafted with grace and care and reveal a deep respect for both the materials and the creative process. Notable works such as *Inicio Cosmico* and *Energía Atávica* embody Deredia's iconic sculptural language and harmonize the modern and the primitive, the gentle and the bold.

Born Jorge Enrique Jiménez Martínez on October 4, 1954 in Heredia, Costa Rica, he later adapted the surname Deredia from his native city. Deredia's deep connection to his place of birth drives his work and is apparent in his spherical forms reminiscent of Costa Rica's Boruca stones. Deredia discovered sculpture as an adolescent. His early engagement with local studios led to a scholarship to the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara, Italy, an opportunity that enabled both his exposure to the works of Italian masters and his access to the beautiful stone found in Carrara's quarries. With the mind of a philosopher, the strength of a construction worker, and the artistic pragmatism of an architect, Deredia forged a distinct style infused with an unmistakable connection to his Costa Rican heritage.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II commissioned a statue of Saint Marcellin Champagnat for Saint Peter's Basilica, the first work by a Latin American artist acquired by the Vatican. Deredia has also shown his art at the Venice Biennial and has won numerous awards including a nomination of "Academic Correspondent of the Class of Sculpture" from the Academy of Florentine Design Arts, an honor associated with Galileo Galilei, Michelangelo, Palladio, and Titian. Deredia's work has been displayed throughout Latin America and Europe: in Guatemala and Mexico, in Italy, France, Spain, Germany, and Holland; in China and Peru; and across the United States. He has a special bond with Miami and received the keys to the city in 2022.

The Wall Gallery's solo exhibition coincides with *Deredia, A Bridge of Light*, a collection of sculpture presently displayed in Miami's Maurice A. Ferré Park. Although many of the pieces have been previously shown in cities across Latin America and Europe, this is the first outdoor exhibition of Deredia's work in the United States. A gift from the artist to the city of Miami, the sculptures provide the viewer with archetypes and symbols to guide them along the journey of life. *A Bridge of Light* is open through March 2023.

The exhibition at The Wall Gallery will open on November 10 and run through the end of the month. A fully illustrated catalog will be available.