

The Corner of the Arts | October 2017

Elisa Pritzker presents Rimer Cardillo

From the Jungles and Pampas del Sur to the Hudson River Valley



Rimer Cardillo was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1944. Graduated from the National School of Fine Arts in Uruguay in 1968, he studied postgraduate studies in Germany at the School of Art and Architecture Weissenhof in Berlin and at the School of Graphic Art in Leipzig between 1969 and 1971. In 1997, he was awarded the Guggenheim Scholarship. In 2001, he represented Uruguay at the Venice Biennale. In 2002, he received the Figari Prize in recognition of his career. Three times he was awarded the New York Arts Foundation Scholarship among many other awards. Website: www.rimercardillo.com

1. When and where did you start your career in the plastic arts?

In the 60's, I entered the School of Fine Arts of Uruguay, where I began to investigate in the different disciplines that were given to the moment. In a plan that included the rotations by different workshops I learn of the different techniques used in the arts of the moment.

There, I focused mainly on engraving, making a series of very large woodcuts in full color, which I expose before graduating in that

school in the gallery Amigos del Arte.

2. Do your Uruguayan roots influence your work of art?

My work is linked to my country of origin and the rest of Latin America, I have traveled a lot taking contact with ancestral cultures. Among them are the Amazon rainforest, the Pantanal, the Pampas and other parts of the continent.

3. Tell me about your work and the means you use to achieve it?

I am interested in working on different specific topics, specific concepts to which I use different technical means. I can mention sculpture in metal, ceramics, engraving, drawing. I always have an automatic fascination for the use of photography, as a means of documenting situations and different experiences that I then apply in my creations.

4. You are a teacher and teach recorded in SUNY New Paltz, as you coordinate time between teaching and your art?

I have always been very organized in compartmentalizing my times of teaching and creation. I have been teaching in SUNY for more than 20 years, I work a lot with students that I integrate in different projects of my work. Teaching and taking ideas from students is also one of the natural forms of teaching work.

5. What project (s) do you have in the near future?

I am currently working on a series of works on handmade paper. But also in aluminum sculptures of small and large size. A large retrospective exhibition is planned at the National Museum of Visual Arts in

Montevideo, Uruguay, for the month of June next year. It will cover 13,270 square feet, three floors complete with my works from the late sixties to the present day.

Photographer: Robert Capozzi

Elisa Pritzker, is an artist and independent curator. His column "The Corner of the Arts" is currently published in *La Voz-Bard College* and *ABClatino Bilingual Magazine* / www.elisapritzker.com