



LA LLEUGERESA DE LA CENDRA VICENT CARDA

1 March – 26 April 2025
Opening 12pm

The Lightness of Ashes (*La lleugeresa de la cendra*) is a project by artist Vicent Carda (Burriana, 1962) that revolves around the ashes generated during the burning of orange tree pruning waste. The current project is in fact a continuation of his previous work *The Landscape's Archaeology* which dealt with the loss of rural land in vast areas of our territory. Then, the artist focused especially on the citrus exploitations in Burriana (Castellón) and the building of the ephemeral architecture, the wood burners used after the pruning of the trees.

In his current project, Vicent Carda takes a step forward and places himself on the margins of agricultural tasks. He decontextualizes and alters the usual account of work in the field, using the ashes as a tool for drawing and not as a waste or a poorly qualified material. It is quite the opposite as the ashes are recovered for a new use, the visual, the artistic, from a conceptual idea of narrating the time and memory that the artist himself has experienced. The project aims to open new lines of reflection on current issues such as the transformation of the rural world, the memory and the agrarian cultural identity. The artist has created, through drawings and three-dimensional pieces, a unique installation for the Cànem Gallery.

The project is called *The Lightness of Ashes* (*La lleugeresa de la cendra*), generating with this title an allegory of collapse, the end of agriculture understood as a nearby space for cultivation and farming, of the distress of our world and particularly of the rural world.

The drawings and interventions are not intended to make a copy of what we see when we cross the Valencian region from north to south, quite the opposite. What Vicent Carda seeks in his work is to transfer to paper the lightness of ashes as a tool and material for drawing. The artist Marcel Duchamp invented the concept of inframince which he used to measure the almost imperceptible energy that was wasted in small actions.

The Lightness of Ashes project also brings us closer to a sociological perspective, of that which is not present, the absence, of that which is perceived as empty, lacking, vanished.

The Lightness of Ashes tells us about this absence, about a not-so-distant past, which the artist with his work has managed to maintain until our time.