

JOSE DÁVILA MASTER OF FRAGILITY AND MINIMALISM

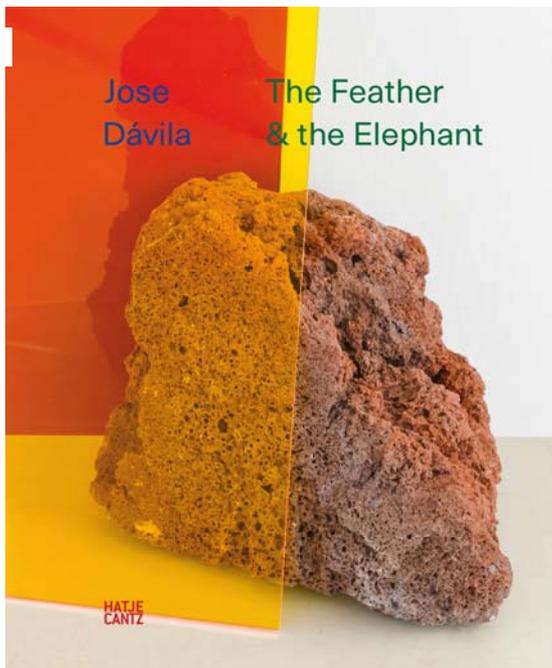
What do an elephant and a feather have in common? Through his minimalist, often three-dimensional sculptures, the Mexican artist Jose Dávila investigates the delicate interdependencies of individual elements.

Berlin, June 20, 2018 — What stands, what falls, what supports, what holds? In Jose Dávila's works of art, different materials and objects interact: stone, glass, steel beams, marble, rocks. However, it is not about how many different materials he can use, but the deliberate combination of recurring individual items.

"I like to have all these elements around to build things as I go along. All the simple necessities that I face during the process I try to solve with what I have at hand ... but this "at hand" has already been selected by whatever materials are around. So I find solutions I might not have thought of or sketched, but rather are the result of an open process of playing with the materials and elements I like to work with and which help clarify my intuitive practice," Dávila explains in an interview with the curator and author Sacha Craddock.

Jose Dávila, born in 1974 in Guadalajara, Mexico, produces strongly conceptual art in the tradition of Minimal Art or Arte Povera. And he does so successfully. His sculptures have been shown in such places as MoMA Ps1 in New York, the Kunstwerke in Berlin, and the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid. In his art Dávila emphasizes the interplay of lightness and heaviness, the mutual interdependence of contradictions, and, repeatedly, the process of wrestling with gravity.

Thus, the title of his show at the Hamburger Kunsthalle in 2018, *The Feather and the Elephant*, alludes to an experiment by the astronaut David Randolph Scott, who proved inside a space without aerodynamic drag that all bodies fall at the same pace in a vacuum, regardless of their mass, as do feathers and elephants, rubble, glass, tension belts, and concrete. Produced in cooperation with the exhibition, the eponymous publication presents Dávila's sculptures from 2014-17, impressively displaying his constant experimentation with fragility and strength, balance and imbalance.



JOSE DÁVILA
THE FEATHER AND THE ELEPHANT

Texts by Sacha Craddock, Valentina Jager, Brigitte Kölle

German, English

2018. 224 pp., 150 ill.

softcover with dustjacket

24.00 x 29.00 cm

ISBN 978-3-7757-4422-5

35,00 EUR

ABOUT HATJE CANTZ

Hatje Cantz is a groundbreaking international publishing company specializing in art, architecture, and photography. Since 1945 Hatje Cantz has been using its profound expertise and enthusiasm for craftsmanship to produce and publish books of the highest quality. We currently release around two hundred new titles annually.

Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

www.hatjecantz.de

www.editiongerdhatje.com

PRESS CONTACT

Jennifer Berndt

PR Manager

presse@hatjecantz.de

Tel. +49 30 3464678-23

**HATJE
CANTZ**