

ORDOVAS

9 FEBRUARY 2016
PRESS RELEASE

25 Savile Row
London W1S 2ER
T. +44 (0) 20 7287 5013

Gallery Hours:
Tue-Fri: 10:00-18:00
Sat: 11:00-15:00



CHILLIDA

Rhythm-Time-Silence

9 February – 23 April 2016

Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence will go on public display at Ordovas in London from 9 February to 23 April 2016. This follows the exhibition's recent showing to inaugurate the gallery's presence in the U.S.; on display from 30 October 2015 - 7 January 2016, it was the first exhibition to be dedicated to the work of Eduardo Chillida (1924-2002) in New York in twenty-six years. A central figure in European Post-war sculpture, Chillida produced an extraordinary body of work over a five decade-long career, and established himself amongst Spain's most distinctive and internationally acclaimed artists. This is the third Ordovas exhibition devoted to Eduardo Chillida and the monumental works to be shown in the gallery at 25 Savile Row reflect the intimate and universal themes that characterised his vision.

"It is a great honour to represent the estate of Eduardo Chillida and, having inaugurated the Ordovas pop-up space in New York with his work, to now see this show travel to London," says Pilar Ordovas. "My intention is to continue to increase international awareness of his major innovations in the field of sculpture and serve to introduce his work to new generations of audiences, scholars and collectors."

Ignacio Chillida, son of the artist, says, "On behalf of the Chillida Estate, we are thrilled to be working with Pilar Ordovas again, firstly in bringing this exhibition of my father's work to New York City for the first time since the Guggenheim exhibition in 1980, and now to see it travelling to London."

Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence delves into Chillida's long-time exploration of space as material, as well as his philosophical investigations into the relationships between sculpture, architecture, nature and site. Organised in collaboration with the artist's estate and featuring rarely seen works that have travelled from San Sebastián, Spain, **Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence** will showcase monumental works made from corten steel and granite. Among them are *Elogio del vacío VI*, 2000, and an iconic *Peine del viento*, both executed in corten steel. Created in 1999, *Peine del viento XIX* derives from the famous Wind Comb series – one of Chillida's most recognisable

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outdoor works, a series of giant steel forceps that extend from the cliffs of San Sebastián, emblemising man's connection with nature. A carved granite work entitled *Lo profundo es el aire XVIII*, dating from 1998, will also be shown. The title of this work (*Deep is the Air XVIII*) is inspired by a phrase from a poem entitled *Más Allá*, published in 1928 as part of *Cantico*, a book of verse by the celebrated Spanish poet Jorge Guillén, with whom Chillida would form a lifelong friendship after meeting in 1971 during a visiting professorship at Harvard University.

Trained in architecture, Chillida turned his attention to drawing before settling on sculpture and quickly began experimenting with the art form, creating works out of iron, steel, wood, alabaster, cement and paper during his formative years. Chillida is, however, best known for his monumental works in corten steel, a medium deeply rooted in the blacksmithing traditions of his native Basque Country, a region already known in Roman times for its iron mines and forges. A pioneer in the use of industrial fabrication techniques and large-scale, site-specific works, Chillida investigated sculpture and its relationship to nature and time early on in his career, questioning the boundary between matter and space, and anticipating some of the explorations of artists like Richard Serra and Robert Smithson.

Selected Biography:

Chillida exhibited his early work in 1949 in the Salon de Mai at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, and the next year took part in *Les mains éblouies*, a show of post-war art at the Galerie Maeght. After a first solo exhibition at Galeria Clan in Madrid in 1954, Chillida's work became the subject of over 100 solo exhibitions at museums internationally, including major retrospectives at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (1966), the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. (1979), the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York (1980), Hayward Gallery in London (1990), Palacio de Miramar in San Sebastián (1992), the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid (1999) and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain (1999). He participated in numerous international exhibitions, including the Venice Biennale (1958, 1988 and 1990), where he received the

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International Grand Prize for Sculpture in 1958; the Pittsburgh International, where he received the Carnegie Prize for sculpture in 1964 and, in 1978, shared the Andrew W. Mellon Prize with Willem de Kooning; and Documenta II, IV and VI. His body of work is displayed in cities throughout the world and includes over forty-seven public sculptures installed in site-specific locations, most notably Chillida's tribute to German reunification, *Berlin*, 1999, which consists of two colossal corten steel structures in front of the new German Chancellery, and *Peine del viento XV (Wind Comb XV)*, 1977, in San Sebastián, Spain.

Editor's Notes:

1. The exhibition's title, ***Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence***, derives from the artist's own words found in a book of his collected writings. The exhibition was first staged at a pop-up gallery space at 488 Madison Avenue, New York, from 30 October 2015 - 7 January 2016.

2. This is the third dedicated exhibition of works by Chillida that Ordovas has organised in collaboration with the artist's estate. *Chillida on Miró*, an exhibition inspired by their lifelong friendship, was presented at Ordovas Gallery in Savile Row, London in June and July 2014 and *Chillida: From Iron to Light*, presented in June and July 2013. The 2013 Chillida show at Ordovas was the first dedicated exhibition of Chillida's sculpture to take place in London for almost 20 years. Additionally, Ordovas presented a sculpture by Eduardo Chillida alongside a number of works by Julio González in Spring 2012 as part of the exhibition *Julio González, First Master of the Torch*.

3. For the full list of works and titles please refer to the separate illustrated checklist.

4. To join the accredited list for press events please contact Clare Roberts +44 7899 065 088 communications@ordovasart.com