

ORDOVAS

29 OCTOBER 2015
PRESS RELEASE

488 Madison Avenue
New York NY 10022
T. +1 212 756 8870

Gallery Hours:
Tue-Sat 10am-6pm



CHILLIDA

Rhythm-Time-Silence

30 October–19 December 2015

This fall, London gallery Ordovas will debut in the United States with ***Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence***, the first exhibition dedicated to the artist in New York City in twenty-six years. A central figure in European Post-war sculpture, Eduardo Chillida (1924-2002) produced an extraordinary body of work over a five decade-long career, establishing himself amongst Spain's most distinctive and internationally acclaimed artists. ***Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence*** will open to the public at Ordovas' pop-up exhibition space on 488 Madison Avenue in New York from 30 October until 19 December.

"It is a great honor to represent the estate of Eduardo Chillida and to inaugurate the Ordovas pop-up space in New York with his work," says Pilar Ordovas. "This marks our third exhibition devoted to Chillida and the first monographic presentation of his work in New York since the 1980 Guggenheim exhibition. A long overdue survey, it will surely increase awareness of his major innovations in the field of sculpture and serve to introduce his work to a new generation of American 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 to bring this exhibition of my father's work to New York City. Together we have selected a group of works that are iconic and representative of Chillida's *oeuvre*, and reflect the intimate and universal themes that characterized his vision. We are grateful to Ordovas for promoting Chillida's work and presenting it to new audiences and collectors in the Americas and beyond."

Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence delves into Chillida's longtime exploration of space as material, as well as his philosophical investigations into the relationships between sculpture, architecture, nature and site. Organized in collaboration with the artist's estate and featuring rarely seen works from the artist's estate in San Sebastián, Spain, ***Chillida: Rhythm-Time-Silence*** showcases a focused selection of eight monumental works in corten steel, granite and alabaster.

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Among them, a large-scale sculpture entitled *Arco de la libertad*, executed in 1993, which will be shown alongside an iconic *Peine del viento*. Created in 1999, *Peine del viento XIX* derives from the famous Wind Comb series – one of Chillida’s most recognizable outdoor works; a series of giant steel forceps that extend from the cliffs of San Sebastián, emblemizing man’s connection with nature.

His departure from corteen steel and exploration of light are exemplified in the two smaller stone sculptures present in the exhibition: a carved granite work from 1998, *Lo profundo es el aire XVIII*, and an alabaster work *Arquitectura heterodoxa IV*, executed in 2000. The title *Lo profundo es el aire* (*Deep as the Air*) was inspired by a phrase from the Spanish poet Jorge Guillén, with whom Chillida would form a lifelong friendship after meeting in 1971 during a visiting professorship at Harvard University. Chillida’s project to make a sculpture inside the mountain of Tindaya on Fuerteventura was inextricably linked to these alabaster works.

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 early on sculpture and its relationship to nature and time, questioning the boundary between matter and space, and anticipating some of the explorations of artists like Richard Serra and Robert Smithson. Renovations of the sleek 10,000 sq ft Ordovas space at 488 Madison were made by architects Thomas Croft and David Hotson.

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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 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 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.

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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.
2. This is the third exhibition of works by Chillida that Ordovas has organized in collaboration with the artist's estate. *Chillida on Miro*, 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.
3. For the full works and titles, please refer to list of works that accompany the press release.
4. To join the accredited list for press events please contact Milena Sales +1 646 283 5689 milena@ordovasart.com