



Feb 13, 2012

JULIO GONZÁLEZ, FIRST MASTER OF THE TORCH

Tomorrow starts a new exhibition at Ordovas in London, dedicated to Julio González (1876-1942) which includes a strong group of irons by González with highlights from the Institut Valencia d'Art Modern collection



Julio González is today regarded alongside Constantin Brancusi, Pablo Picasso and Alberto Giacometti as one of the foremost pioneers of modern sculpture and the father of the tradition of welded iron sculpture that extends from the early 1930s to the present day.

In the last ten years of his life, González produced an unprecedented run of constructed iron masterpieces that radically transformed the entire nature of modern sculpture and opened a new path for a younger generation of sculptors.

The catalyst for this dramatic transformation of González's art was a celebrated collaboration with Picasso between 1928 and 1932 that liberated both artists' creative potential and produced some of the most revolutionary and exciting sculptures of the twentieth century.

Because of the radical impact this collaboration had on both men's work, and the effects that González and Picasso's sculptures were also to have on a generation of younger sculptors such as David Smith, Eduardo Chillida and Anthony Caro, this collaboration between the two Spanish artists who had been friends since first meeting in Barcelona at the turn of the century, has taken on a legendary status.

The resulting metal wire-like constructions that Picasso and González made together completely transformed both men's work, for, by recreating the lines from Picasso's drawings in three dimensions with real tangible elements, they came to realise how, for the first time, both interior and exterior space could be articulated into a very real and integral part of sculpture itself.

The exhibition shows The Woman Bandit, 1956-1958, by David Smith; Oyarax I, 1954, by Eduardo Chillida; and Table Piece XLVII, 1968, by Anthony Caro. Also some highlights from the Institut Valencia d'Art Modern collection such as Monsieur cactus (Homme cactus I -1939), Les amoureux, (1932-33), and Tete aux grands yeux (1930) from Lehmbruck Museum, amongst others.

Julio González, First Master of the Torch, 14 February – 2 April

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