Off the Beaten Track: Eduardo Chillida at Ordovas

Before my summer break at the end of June, I will focus my attention on smaller or non-commercial exhibitions, which are slightly off the beaten track of London’s well-known galleries and museums, but definitely worthwhile a visit. This is the first post of my three-week series.

Chillida: From Iron to Light, Ordovas, 25 Savile Row, until 27 July
At Ordovas, Eduardo Chillida’s sculptures speak for themselves: wrought iron rises against the whitewashed walls. Although the works on display tend to be on a small or medium scale, Chillida (1924-2002) imbued these sculptures with a monumental presence, which is accentuated by the minimalist set-up of the gallery’s display - there are no wall labels or gimmicks to distract from the works.

The artist is perhaps best known for his large-scale forged metal sculptures, such as the Wind's Comb in San Sebastián, but the works on show downstairs present a different and more intimate side of the artist. His delicately constructed ‘flat’ sculptures made out of paper are as visually rewarding as his experiments with alabaster. In particular Arquitecturas Heterodoxas III, executed in 2000 and illustrated above, illustrates beautifully the artist’s search of the stone’s inherent light, structure, and, ultimately, its poetry.

A review of the artist's sculptural legacy has been long overdue: although his works appear regularly at auction, it has been nearly 20 years since the artist's oeuvre was last shown in the UK. Crucially, the artist's museum in Zabalaga, Basque Country, is now only open to researchers. So if you are a fan as I am, I would strongly recommend visiting this small but very fine selection of works.

Rating (max 5 stars):
- Interest: ***
- Quality and relevance of the works on display: ****
- Memorability: ***

Admission free. For opening times as well as additional information on the exhibition and Pilar Ordovás’s gallery click here.

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